

BEAR LAKE LAKE BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday 1/12/2017

6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Kim Arter at 6:04 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

ROLL CALL:

Present: Sam Janson, Darrell VanFossan, Kim Arter and I. John Snider

Absent: Brenda Moore w/notice, excused

Also: Recording Secretary Veronica West, and several area residents/citizens.

MINUTES: Darrell VanFossan noted that there had been discussion of the possibility of a page being added to the Laketon Township website for this board, but no official determination had been made. Sam Janson moved to accept the minutes December 1, 2016. Darrell VanFossan supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote. The minutes will be placed on file.

REPORTS:

Management Plan – progress update: Due to the absence of Brenda Moore, who is writing the plan, the update will take place at the next meeting.

COMMUNICATION:

- Presentations from Environmental Consultant RFP Bidders:
 - **Kieser & Associates, LLC** – Mark S. Kieser and Patty Hoch-Melluish introduced themselves. Mr. Kieser noted he has been doing this kind of work in Michigan since 1984 and in Kalamazoo since 1992. He reviewed a list of typical tasks they do for their lake partners and showed examples of projects they've worked on, noting they are more than "plants and sample bottles" and they've worked on the Muskegon River Initiative project as well as the Kalamazoo River and Paw Paw River watershed projects. They've worked on designing treatment wetlands, shoreline restoration and monitoring of beach bacteria, BMP's, agriculture and stormwater runoff. He provided a list of lakes he's worked on in West Michigan. He added they work both in the United States and internationally. Ms. Hoch-Melluish covered the 6 (six) tasks requested in the RFP, most notably talking about the aquatic plant survey, water quality monitoring & sediments and the shoreline invasive species monitoring, noting the timeframes when these activities would occur. She covered optional tasks they recommend along with costs as well as the need to interface with various entities on this project. A brief question and answer period took place. The consultants were asked if they felt the RFP covered everything or if they felt anything else should have been included. Ms. Hoch-Melluish stated she felt the RFP was quite comprehensive but noted that she feels it is critical to be consistent year to year with treatment and monitoring. There was also discussion between the board and the consultants with regard to costs noting that each task was give a cost and some of them on the presentation were not the same as in the proposal received. Ms. Hoch-Melluish apologized for the error, stating the costs in the proposal are the accurate figures. Mr. Kieser stated they keep in good contact with the board and will meet the time and cost w/materials as outlined in the proposal. He also noted that if there are any items over and above the proposal needed they will come back to the board for approval on the tasks and costs.

- **Restorative Lake Sciences** – Jennifer L. Jermalowicz-Jones introduced herself, noting she owns this company and the company consists of 7 lake scientists, including herself, each with their own specialty. She stated they have worked on over 70 lakes around the state of Michigan and also in Florida and California. She added they are locally based, being right here in Spring Lake, Michigan. She commented on her proposal price of \$9550.00 with any extra items to be discussed as needed. She added that she felt the best way to approach this presentation would be to give the board a look at a lake project they had already completed. Ms. Jermalowicz-Jones went on to give an very in dept presentation on their Houghton Lake Improvement Feasibility Study which she added was most similar to what is needed for Bear Lake. She covered a detailed history of the lake, depth contouring, bottom hardness, weed growth, immediate watershed and soils around the lake etc. She discussed holistic approaches are available to treat without chemicals. She discussed goals and objectives and covered detailed tables and graphs of the lake and the sampling done. She also talked about the various types of plant life, emergents vs submergents, chemical treatment, mechanical controls and holistic/natural control methods being available. In addition she noted she and her company are scientists and do not perform the treatment, but bid out those services to other applicators/contractors and then she and her team oversee the work performed by those contractors. Some of the treatment methods mentioned were: chemical herbicides, mechanical harvesting, DASH boat/week removal for small areas that is nearly permanent, weed rollers, boat wash stations, biological controls (beetles), aeration methods and sediment filters to reduce nutrient and sediment loads. After their study they would produce primary and secondary goals and proposed budgets. A brief question and answer period took place. I. John Snider asked about assistance with goals of the residents after the study and Ms. Jermalowicz-Jones noted that she feels public input is very important. Darrell VanFossan noted that the lake has been treated for years with copper sulfate for weeds and asked how she felt about that as a treatment. Ms. Jermalowicz-Jones stated she wont use it as she feels it can exacerbate the issue as it kills some weeds but then allows other things like blue-green algae to take over. She also noted it is an elemental and binds to and stays in the sediment. Darrell VanFossan stated he likes the idea of barriers to limit the phosphorus loads etc. There was discussion of the various weeds, types and invasives as well. I. John Snider asked if Ms. Jermalowicz-Jones is familiar with the GVSU and Conservation District information and remediation projects going on in Bear Lake. She answered that she is aware, but if the contract is gained by Restorative Lake Sciences for Bear Lake, they would look into more of the details. Sam Janson thanked Ms. Jermalowicz-Jones for her very easy to understand presentation. Ms. Jermalowicz-Jones urged the board to contact her references.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Next Meeting:** Discussed interviews of the remaining environmental consultants and choosing a date/time for that to occur. The board determined the meeting to interview the remaining consultants would be scheduled for Wednesday January 18, 2017 at 6:00 PM at Laketon Township Hall.
- **Bear Lake Association Update:** Darrell VanFossan noted he has been keeping the Bear Lake Association up to date and has a current list of emails for residents. He also discussed getting a web presence for the Bear Lake Lake Board and it has been talked about but not officially agreed upon or directed to be accomplished. Sam Janson moved to approve the creation of a Bear Lake Lake Board webpage on the Laketon Township website that should include meeting dates/times/locations as well as meeting agendas and approved minutes. I. John Snider supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.
- **Timeline:** Darrell VanFossan distributed a spreadsheet he created as a timeline of tasks to accomplish and suggested everyone review it for discussion at a future meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Kim Arter thanked the consultants for their presentations and the public for coming and participating.
- Debra Shields of 154 N Bear Lake Rd asked what other consultants would be heard at the upcoming meeting next week. Kim Arter responded that there were 4 total proposals received, two of which presented tonight and a third was not able to make it so would be heard at the meeting next week – that consultant is PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. It was noted that PLM Lake and Land Management Corp is the company that has been treating the lake for the past few years under the Bear Lake Association’s weed treatment program.

ADJOURN: Sam Janson moved to adjourn. Darrell VanFossan supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:
Veronica West
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Bear Lake Lake Board on _____.

Signed: _____.