

BEAR LAKE LAKE BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

Friday July 15, 2016

9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: 9:06 am

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

ROLL CALL:

- **Present:** Brenda Moore, Kim Arter, Terry Sabo, Darrell VanFossan and Sam Janson
- **Absent:** None
- **Also:** Recording Secretary Veronica West, and several citizens

REPORTS:

- **Draft Outline of Lake Management Plan:** Brenda Moore compiled this draft outline of topics to cover in the lake plan. She requested that members review it and get back to her by next Friday 07/22/2016 with any comments/suggestions etc. She will then submit it to area experts like Kathy Evans of West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission and the Conservation District for their comments before moving on to write the complete plan document. Darrell VanFossan had several questions regarding some of the bullet items under "issues" in the outline, such as the oil slicks on Fenner's Ditch and keyholing. One concern expressed was that of how much this Lake Board may be getting involved in as some of these items are quite large. There was extensive discussion on these items and how they are included in the plan to acknowledge them but the plan would qualify them and note that some of these topics would be too large for this Board to take on and State and Federal assistance would be sought, most likely in the form of grants. There was additional discussion on grants and how they typically work. Sam Janson noted when explaining it to the current Bear Lake Association and other property owners and the public, it needs to be stressed that the issues would be tackled one at a time in steps over a long period of time, not everything all at once. The issues need to be prioritized and then attack the first and foremost concerns like invasive species and water quality. Darrell VanFossan also asked about some of the terms, for example "nearshore", does in mean in water or out of water etc. Brenda Moore noted to add a glossary of terms to the plan. Terry Sabo commented that he has been approached by a few people that they are completely unaware of what this board is doing. Both Sam Janson and Kim Arter replied that the meetings have been posted at the municipalities and online as well as the Bear Lake Association being notified. Brenda Moore commented that while not required by law, it is a good idea that once the final draft of the plan is completed it should be made available at the municipalities and online and a letter should go out to all property owners letting them know where and how to obtain the draft. Other discussion covered meeting times, locations and setting a regular meeting schedule in the near future to make it easier for the public to know when the meetings are.

COMMUNICATION: None

PUBLIC COMMENT (On an Agenda Item):

- Richard Vandenberg of 1617 Mulder Dr – Expressed thanks for forming the lake board as Bear Lake is such a wonderful natural resource and one of the big reasons they moved here from Grand Rapids.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Item 2016-03: Proposal to Appoint an Attorney: Brenda Moore received a letter from Clifford H Bloom of Bloom Suggett Morgan giving a brief synopsis of their charges and billing practices, one item of note is that they would not require a retainer. It was discussed to get other quotes and other recommendations, the consensus was to not use an attorney from either municipality or the county, but perhaps a firm more specialized in environmental/lake/water law. Terry Sabo commented he definitely wants more than one firm to choose from when making this decision. Sam Janson moved to table this item. Brenda Moore supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote.

Item 2016-04: Proposal to put out an RFP for an engineering firm: Brenda Moore and Darrell VanFossan worked together on drafting the proposal language for the RFP. Darrell did note that he would like to add some preamble language and some summary language at the end that he has seen on other RFP proposals to clarify the proposal. There were questions and discussion of how a firm is chosen from the bids once they are received. It was noted that price is not the only consideration, but qualifications are taken into consideration as well. There were questions on some items on the proposal. Item #3, what does “minor assistance” mean? It was decided to add the additional language “A water quality monitoring plan and aquatic plan survey protocol to be provided by the consultant”. Discussion also led to adding the following requirements to item #1 of the RFP: water temperatures and bathymetric survey. It was suggested by Sam Janson to look into what information USGS and Muskegon County GIS may already have on lake depths etc that may be useful in the plan and that can be shared with property owners, residents and other lake users. Terry Sabo asked about the list of just four (4) companies attached to the RFP . Brenda Moore noted that in her search these were the only 4 local, West Michigan firms she could find to send the RFP to. She added that there are more from the Detroit area and out of state but stated it might be best to stay local. There was agreement that local id the goal, but that it might result in a better proposal if there are more options. Discussion continued covering several ideas of ways to get the RFP out and posting it in a variety of places online to get as many bids a possible. Darrell VanFossan commented that it might also be a good idea to send it to the company that has been treating the lake for the past few years. Sam Janson moved to approve the RFP, with the edits discussed; add water temperature, bathymetric survey to item #1 and clarify item #3 by adding the sentence “A water quality monitoring plan and aquatic plan survey protocol to be provided by the consultant”. Terry Sabo supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote. Brenda Moore asked the board to decide on a deadline for the RFP proposals. Timelines were discussed and the consensus was the RFP proposal deadline should be in mid-August and this Board would meet again in September, an exact date to be determined.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

ADJOURN: Sam Janson moved to adjourn the meeting. Brenda Moore supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:43 am.

Respectfully Submitted:

Veronica West
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Bear Lake Lake Board on October 12, 2016.

Signed:_____.