

BEAR LAKE LAKE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday MARCH 14, 2019
6:00 p.m.
North Muskegon City Hall
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Kim Arter at 6:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

ROLL CALL:

- **Present:** Darrell VanFossan, Brenda Moore, John Snider, Kim Arter and Steve Johnson
- **Absent:** None
- **Also:** Dr. Jennifer Jermalowiz-Jones of RLS Recording Secretary Veronica West and two(2) area citizens.

MINUTES: John Snider moved to approve the minutes of January 10, 2019 as presented. Darrell VanFossan supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote. The minutes will be placed on file.

REPORTS:

- **Restorative Lake Sciences Bid Specs:** Dr. Jones provided each member with copies of the bid spec documents for a whole lake laminar flow aeration system. She noted specifics for this system are related to the specifics of this lake, namely its serious lack of oxygen and the petroleum issue. She discussed there will be a need to get easements for the compressor locations, the options to purchase the system equipment or lease the system equipment as well as the maintenance options for either a purchase or a lease. She did note that when the equipment is purchased, there is typically resale value on the equipment. She discussed the DEQ permitting, and the permits are typically for 5 year increments and they only allow the systems to run from April 1 to November 30 each year. Steve Johnson asked about freezing issues and winterization of the system as well as any warranty. Dr. Jones noted that is all part of the bid specs that each vendor must address. She did also note that the first whole lake system was installed in Michigan in 2009 and so far the only maintenance needed was annual preventative maintenance on the compressors and the replacement of one of the ceramic diffusers that cracked. This prompted her to discuss two types of diffusers; rubber membrane and ceramic, and she highly recommends the ceramic type. Darrell VanFossan asked about how many compressors could be expected, the bid agreement and payment on the system, and if there are protections from cost increases over the years. Dr. Jones noted typically there are 2 or 3 compressors, but there could be more depending on how the system is designed and will just have to wait and see what the vendors submit. She stated the bid submitted is the basis for any contract entered into and the bid must be adhered to by the vendor. She also added that payment is performance based and once a vendor is selected performance parameters will be drafted with definitive goals and objectives and the contract will spell these all out very specifically. The subject of cost was broached by Brenda Moore with Dr. Jones stating the uniqueness of this lake makes it unknown at this time. She did add that she has seen systems range in cost from \$60,000 to \$200,000 depending on the system and the

components needed. She stated that the airline is the most expensive component, but the need for the oil digesting microbes will increase the costs for this system. Brenda Moore also asked if there would be trouble getting vendors with the appropriate experience and expressed concerned about subcontractors. Dr. Jones stated she could add provisions to the bid for no subcontractors and no third party leasing. There was additional discussion about purchasing versus leasing with some thoughts that leasing may turn out better due to the speed with which technology can change. Dr. Jones noted that the biggest changes in recent years has been to the sound/noise level of compressors and micro bubble technology in ceramic diffusers. Discussion then turned to how soon after implantation that results would be seen. Dr. Jones noted improvements should be seen within 6 months; she went on to discuss the extensive data required by the DEQ listed in the permits; she also added she is hoping to get some of the data sets excused due to Bear Lake being a shallow lake to reduce some of the costs. Dr. Jones stated she will follow all baseline requirements for permit application because if one parameter is missed the DEQ could hold up the permit until next year. Darrell VanFossan noted noise has been a primary concern of residents and asked if a db level could be requested in the bid specs as a baseline. This was discussed with Steve Johnson as well as Dr. Jones noting there are a lot of factors that can affect the sound or noise from a compressor; distance, locations, ambient noise lever etc so a db rating should be taken with "a grain of salt". Brenda Moore also expressed concern about being overly detailed and have vendors increase the costs and she is more worried that the system work properly. There was additional discussion about the noise level and John Snider commented that they are probably not as loud as some of the boats on the lake. Dr. Jones brought up the bid deadline date of April 14, 2019. The board discussed having the bidding vendors present their bids a the meeting after the bid deadline. No decision was made on that topic. John Snider asked if there had been any more information about the potential source of the oil/petroleum. Dr. Jones reminded that the concentrations in most of the samples was very low to non-detect except one area and that is where this year's core samples with be taken from. She also added that Linda Hensel wants to try to create a flow line, noting it could be coming from the land. There was also discussion about the oil digesting microbes and whether they are introduced during or after the aeration. Dr. Jones noted these microbes must have oxygen to live and will therefor be introduced at the same time as the aeration system. Brenda Moore asked if having a pre-application meeting with the DEQ and starting a dialog with them would be helpful in the permitting process. John Snider was in favor of utilizing the good working relationship Brenda Moore has with the DEQ and Dr. Jones felt a pre-application meeting is a good idea and has participated in them on other projects. Darrell VanFossan asked about the types of microbes and Dr. Jones stated there are differs types, brands etc and the bid allows them to submit whatever works for the best cost. John Snider moved to move forward with the bid specs, with the change to request a db range for a location nearest the lakeshore. Brenda Moore supported the motion.

A roll call vote was taken;

Voting in favor of the motion: John Snider, Steve Johnson, Darrell VanFossan, Brenda Moore and Kim Arter.

Voting against the motion: None

Motion Carried.

- **2019 Lake Treatment (invasive species):** Dr. Jones stated they are hoping for a good warm up in April and to get out surveying the 2nd week of May and to get a treatment applied right after that. Darrell VanFossan commented on the algae problems of last summer noting they began in May and he would like to see it treated right away. Brenda Moore expressed concern about heavy chemical treatments, and any treatments need to be under Dr. Jones watch. Dr. Jones stated she will be meeting with PLM and the minute algae is seen, they will

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do a whole shoreline treatment and a repeat treatment for algae if necessary with an enzyme driven product rather than a copper based product. She commented on how sinister a situation it is with the algae present from top to bottom and expressed concerns that it may be too far gone to respond to treatment, but they are going to try. She went on to reinforce what a huge need for oxygen this lake has and getting it oxygenated is critical. She also added that if 2 aggressive treatments do not work, there won't be anything else to do except education the public.

- **Liability Insurance for BLLB:** Kim Arter stated this board was formed by and of the municipalities and asked for opinions on getting liability insurance for this board. Brenda Moore noted some coverage should be provided by the already existing municipality policies. John Snider felt they should have at least one million dollars worth of coverage. Dr. Jones added that she knows many lake boards get a Board of Directors Insurance policy and she also knows of some that have been sued. John Snider suggesting getting quotes for such a policy and Kim Arter expressed agreement.

COMMUNICATION: NONE

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Brenda Moore, Muskegon County Drain Commission: Brenda Moore reported on the status of the Ride Drain project, noting they are ready to go, but Dalton Township has filed a lawsuit trying to stop the project. She added she is concerned about the project being halted due to it's importance as it is the headwaters of Bear Creek and empties into Bear Lake.
- Darrell VanFossan, Bear Lake Preservation Association: Darrell VanFossan reported on the status of the educational brochure the group is working on and thanked Dr. Jones of RLS for her professional input and expertise. He added they are looking into printing companies for costs.
- Bernie Berntson, 12 S. Bear Lake Rd: Mr. Berntson thanked the Board members for their work on repairing Bear Lake. He had questions regarding the "skimming" of the oil seep in Fenner's Ditch and Kim Arter noted the system seems to be working even though there have been a couple of issues. She added the homeowner is in contact with the MDEQ and more information can be provided by the MDEQ. Mr. Berntson also had questions regarding the compressors for the proposed aeration system, 3 phase of single phase electrical power for them and commented on the noise levels from smaller versus larger compressors. Dr. Jones noted that smaller units are not always quieter than large units due to the different types of mechanics used by different types of compressors and what type of housing the unit has. She also noted the units would be contained in some type of locked cabinet or housing.
- Kim Arter, BLLB Chairperson: Kim Arter informed the group that an opportunity to request funding had presented itself and she only had a two day window to turn in her request to an appropriations committee with the state. So she did put in a request for some funding to assist with covering some of the costs related to the oil digesting micro-organisms that are needed for this project. This prompted a brief dialog with Darrell VanFossan asking Dr. Jones about grants

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and how to find out about them. Dr. Jones noted most grants originate from either academia, the State, DEQ and DNR.

ADJOURN: John Snider moved to adjourn the meeting. Brenda Moore supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted:
Veronica West
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Bear Lake Lake Board on_____.

Signed: _____.