

MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Board members present in person: Phil Dast, Jeanne Ballor, Rita Lewis, Richard West, Tami Johanson, Mike Szuch and Gregory Scharf. Membership attended in person and via Zoom. Guests in attendance were Joel Vernier (Gladwin County Commissioner), Tony Marshall (Bourret Township Supervisor), Fred Shafer (Secord Township Fire Chief), Mike Szuch (Gladwin County Commissioner) and a representative from Clement Township Fire Department.

**BUSINESS:**

Minutes from May 15, 2021 were approved. There was no further secretary's report.

Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$17,001.06 in the general fund as of June 22. Balance in the dam fund was \$4690.42. There were no new bills presented for payment.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Membership: Rita reported that there are currently 239 paid members in the SLA. She reminded members that 2021 dues must be paid by July 31 in order to vote in the August election. Payment can be made on the website or by mailing a check or giving cash or check to SLA board member.

Election: Jeanne reported that the Annual Membership meeting on August 14, 2021 will, as always, include election of directors. There are three directors elected or re-elected each year. This year there are 2 directors running for re-election, Tami Johanson and Gregory Scharf. Current director Richard West will not be running, so there will be an open position. Nominations to fill that position must be made on or before July 31, and can be made by emailing the SLA website or by presenting a written nomination to any board member. Both the nominator and nominee must be members in good standing when the nomination is made, meaning that both must have paid 2021 dues prior to the nomination. She repeated Rita's reminder that dues must be paid by July 31 to vote. SLA hopes that the meeting and the election in August will be in person, but details are not finalized yet. More information will be available at the July meeting and on our website.

Fundraising: Jeanette Houser and Jenny Combs reported on the upcoming golf tournament that will be held on September 25. All funds raised will go to SLA for the purpose of bringing back our lake. Forms for players and sponsors with all information are available on our website. There will be an auction that will include great items, such as a Chevy Blazer and a full beer refrigerator. Anyone wanting to help out can contact Jennifer or Jenny or any board member.

Promotions: Rita reported that we have SLA merchandise such as t-shirts, sweatshirts and blankets available. Anyone with ideas for other merchandise can contact Rita or other members of the committee.

Communications: Three members of the committee, Jeff Sorensen, Ken Wells and Tami Johanson, presented a slide show with great information about RestoreTheLakes.org. This campaign began about 30 days ago and now involves all four lakes. The web site includes suggested letters to send to local, state and federal legislators and other officials, urging action on behalf of the lakes. The website also includes names, email addresses and physical addresses for these

officials. The letters will change as the path forward evolves, so regular review of the website is important. Participation in this campaign is something everyone can do to help our lake.

**GUEST COMMENTS:**

Joel Vernier spoke in support of the RestoreTheLakes campaign. He presented information about how Secord Township is working to control weeds that have become a real problem in the water along the shorelines. A survey was conducted, and weed control is taking place now. Clement Township is also participating in weed control. A request has been made to also treat the terrestrial weeds.

Mike Szuch emphasized his pride in the accomplishments and enthusiasm of both SLA and RestoreTheLakes.

**PROGRAM:**

Fred Schafer spoke about the Secord Township ordinances and State laws relating to fireworks. It is legal to discharge fireworks from June 29 through July 4 from 10:00 am – 11:45 pm. Discharge any other time may result in a \$1000 fine, plus if alcohol is involved, the sheriff can impose another fine. Similar restrictions also apply to Labor Day weekend. Burning in ditches is prohibited and can also result in township and state fines. Fred talked about the problems fighting fires with the water level so low (or even non-existent in places). The township has purchased a new firetruck with a large water holding tank. This truck will arrive in November. A grant has been applied for to dig a well that would be used to fill that tank. Fred concluded by noting that when our water is restored, there will be many new rules.

There was no similar information from the other two townships, as their fire chiefs were not available for this meeting.

**FLTF UPDATE:**

Phil brought us up to date with a summary of the progress being made. Final engineering has begun for Secord and Smallwood. There are monthly meetings lasting 4-5 hours on these issues. Attending these meetings are about 40 representatives from federal, state and local agencies. Once the engineering is completed, then permitting begins. Finalizing all of this is dependent on completion of the forensic study and obtaining funding. The forensic study is being done by an independent group so not much can be done to hurry the process. Funding and finalization of the SAD is on hold because of the legislation that could appropriate millions of dollars to help in the repair and rebuilding of the 4 dams. The current letter writing campaign can help this process move forward. Only after funding, permitting and bidding are complete can construction begin.

Motion to adjourn made and seconded. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:00.