

SECORD LAKE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
August 21, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am on August 21, 2021, at Secord Township Hall. Board members present were Phil Dast, Chuck Sikora, Jeanne Ballor, Rita Lewis, Tami Johanson, Mike Szuch and Greg Scharf. Guest in attendance included Joel Vernier (Secord Township Supervisor); Karen Hoffman (Clement Township Supervisor); Tony Marshall (Bourret Township Supervisor), and Mike Szuch (Gladwin County Commissioner).

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes from the July 17 meeting were approved by motion. The secretary had no further report.

Sandy presented the Treasurer's Report, which showed balances in the General Fund of \$26,493.90 and in the Secord Dam Fund of \$4,912.07. A motion to approve the report was made, seconded and passed. Bills were presented for payment, as follows: Restore the Lake materials \$451; Printing of sponsorship materials for golf outing to Jeanette Houser \$1,600. Discussion was held regarding the expenses being incurred by the volunteers in the RestoreTheLakes campaign. There was consensus that these volunteers should be reimbursed for their out-of-pocket costs of ink, paper, and postage. Motion was made, seconded and passed to pay both of these bills.

NEW BUSINESS

A new suggestion for raising money was to sell SLA car decals. Rita has priced the decals at \$2.50 apiece and proposes that they be sold at \$5 apiece. A motion was made to purchase 100 decals for \$250 for this purpose. Motion was seconded and passed.

Discussion was held regarding the significant balances in SLA bank accounts. A motion was made that SLA donate \$10,000 to FLTF designated for Secord Lake and Dam restoration. A member suggested that the Board ask membership for a non-binding advisory vote to indicate member opinion. Advisory vote was taken, with unanimous approval given. The motion was then seconded and the Board passed the motion. In the context of this discussion, a question was asked about why Secord homeowners should have to pay SLA dues. Board members responses included a brief explanation of SLA purposes as well as recommendations to follow FLTF and participate in webinars offered by FLTF, all at no cost.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Rita reported that there are now 279 members paid at least through 2021.

Promotions: Rita explained the SLA merchandise that will be an ongoing fund-raising effort. Some merchandise was available at the meeting. Orders for other merchandise were taken before and after the meeting.

Fundraising: Committee member Jenny Combs reported on the golf outing to be held Sept. 25. All funds raised will go to SLA for restoration of Secord Dam and Lake. The Committee is still looking for golfers and sponsors. The Gladwin newspaper will publish a list of all sponsors after the event. Information and registration forms can be found on the SLA website, and several committee members have them at the meeting. Raffle tickets are being sold for the beer-filled refrigerator at \$10 each; these too were available at the meeting. Golf is \$300 per team, which includes donuts and coffee; hot dog and chips lunch; and dinner after golf. Donations are being accepted for a silent auction. At the event, raffle tickets will be sold for a gift card basket and a booze basket. Those wanting to support the event but not golf can buy dinner tickets for \$30.

Communications: Other than the RestoreTheLakes presentation later in the meeting, the Comm Team had no further report. Phil reminded members that following today's meeting, letters will be printed for members who want to participate in the letter writing campaign.

Election: Jeanne explained that there are 3 Director positions up for vote. Two current Directors are running for re-election, and there is one open position. She began the process of the annual election of Directors by asking for nominations from the floor. Two nominations were made: Judy Boman and Jenny Combs. Also running are incumbents Tami Johanson and Greg Scharf. Each of the 4 candidates made a brief presentation about their reasons for running and their history with Secord. Ballots were distributed, collected, and counted. Result: Tami: 43; Greg 38; Jenny 35; Judy 9.

GUEST COMMENTS: Each of the 4 guest officials was given the opportunity to make a comment or statement. Tony Marshall expressed his support for RestoreTheLakes and that he is trying to get the word out about the campaign. Karen Hoffman noted that Clement Township has put out signs and cards for RestoreTheLakes and that they have had a good response. Joel Vernier discussed the complicated issues related to weeds on the bottomlands and the shorelines. He asked for volunteers to serve on a lake weed committee. Mike Szuch talked about his experiences on other Michigan lakes and how those experiences have made him appreciate Secord. HE believes that all the volunteer work that is being done through RestoreTheLakes will result in getting our water back. He encouraged everyone to support and to ask questions to move the project forward.

FLTF UPDATE

Phil reported that stabilization of Secord dam is now complete, which means that the water level is where it's going to be and the winterization is mostly complete. There will be booms put up in front of the spillway to prevent anyone from going too close.

Engineering is underway with monthly meetings. Chuck has been invited to attend those meetings. Studies are coming in now for flood control and precipitation. There seems to be no changes in those reports from past ones. Pre-engineering looks good and on schedule. The forensic study is not complete; this is the final study of what happened during the flood. Engineers believe their pre-engineering studies reflect what the forensic study will likely say, but nothing can be finalized until that study is finished. Also ongoing is a CMU study on the endangered snuffbox mussel. If any of these mussels are found, it could set progress back by as much as 6 months.

There is some surveying being done on the west side of the river around the dam. There are some boundary issues with respect to the condemned properties that Boyce wants to keep. If FLTF does not get these properties it will not hold up progress, but the best outcome is to have Boyce completely out of the picture. Our attorneys are working on this in court, so that's what the survey was about. A question was asked about survey on private property; it appears this is a different issue. Mike Szuch will look into it and get back to the member.

Regarding weed growth, Joel mentioned that this is a problem. Phil agreed. Exactly what the weed control plan will look like is not known at this time. Members are encouraged to take manage the weed in front of their property. One possibility is that the SLA could put together teams to help members in this effort. No permit is needed to cut the weeds but a permit is required if chemicals are used.

Members were encouraged to view the FLTF webinar from August 18, which discussed the flood studies and design capacity, and what tasks are required for each lake and dam. The webinar can be viewed at: <https://www.four-lakes-taskforce-mic.com/document-library-21/category/meetings>

Jeff Sorenson and Ken Wells made a presentation on the ongoing efforts of RestoreTheLakes. This included an explanation of how the bill in Lansing will progress through the legislature, to the governor and then be funded. Jeff also reminded us that one of the future waves will include letters to legislators state-wide, in order to get broad support for the bill. Members were invited to stay after the meeting to sign letters going to members of the committees in charge of bringing the dam funding bill in Lansing to the floors of the House and Senate for a vote.

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.