

Austin Lake Riparian Board of Directors

Minutes from Meeting Held April 16, 2012- Wightman & Associates, Inc.

Present: Kirk Wolf, Brian Johnson, Steve Higgins, Jim Pearson, Win Larsen, Brett Grossman, and Larry Pio.

Also present: Norm Young, Dani Kinder

Absent: Gary Hahn

1. Open.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. by Board President, Kirk Wolf.

2. Approval of minutes from February 23, 2012

The minutes from the February 23, 2012 meeting were approved unanimously and should be posted on the website.

3. Treasurer's Report (Pio)

Treasurer Larry Pio reported that there is a total of \$4,046.64 in the general fund and \$238.70 in the Lake Improvement Fund. At this time there are no remaining funds in the Social Fund.

The Treasurer's Report details activity since the last meeting. It was accepted unanimously upon motion by Kirk Wolf (Johnson seconded) and will be attached to these minutes.

4. Newsletter/Website Report (Young)

As previously set forth in meeting minutes, the newsletter will be improved this year in two major ways. First, it will be sent first-class mail to all lake residents (which will allow for mail forwarding) and, second, it will be in color. Instead of paying a service provider for folding/ mailing the newsletter, the Board will get together and do this **on Monday, April 30, 2012 at 7:00pm** at Wighman & Ward, Inc.

The draft newsletter advertising and content was reviewed at the meeting and was approved unanimously by the Board. Norm Young's efforts in this regard are greatly appreciated by the Board.

5. Social Committee Report (Kinder).

Dani Kinder discussed future social events as follows: Boat brunch in front of the landing - Sunday,

June 10th at 11:00am and Austin Lake Boat Parade on July 28, 2012 at 3pm. A progressive dinner may be scheduled in August.

6. Old Business

- a. Austin Lake Burgees. The burgees are still available for purchase and are being sold at Daane's as well as Double L Bait and Marine. Board members were again encouraged to spread the word about the burgees.
- b. Right-Way Rental Money. Brett Grossman will follow-up with Gary VerMeulen of RWR Rental regarding any balance due to the Board prior to the April 30, 2012 meeting.
- c. Purple Loostrife. Larry Pio reported that the Board has an opportunity to buy an entire "box" of the purple loostrife eating beetles for a cost of \$80.00. This is significantly cheaper than the cost for the ten (10) plants ordered last year. The box will be purchased from the same supplier that provides the "beetle plants" to the Kalamazoo Nature Center. Gary Hahn previously indicated a willingness to spearhead the effort in "planting" the beetles in loostrife heavy areas around the lake. The Board voted unanimously purchase the box (and to have Gary spearhead the effort to plant them).
- d. Education of Stopping Organic Inputs. Kirk Wolf indicated that Jennifer Jones would be asked to speak as to this issue at the annual meeting.
- e. GLB. The GLB has not met since the last Riparian Board meeting. With regard to the aeration project, Brian Johnson indicated that the necessary permit had been applied for from the MDEQ and the GLB was still waiting for feedback in this regard. The placement of the electrical boxes has been determined, including one box which will be located on city property. Brian will provide a brief overview of the status of the project at the annual meeting.

7. New Business

a. Austin Lake Water Level

The Board discussed the current water level of Austin Lake and the Drain Commissioner's ongoing response to certain lake residents' concerns that the level is too low for the spring months. These same residents have also claimed that the Drain Commissioner seems to have no objective mechanism for determining when boards should be removed from the Austin Lake dam (thereby allowing additional water to flow outward toward Sunset Lake in Vicksburg). Discussion also focused on the "legal" high water mark and the significance of the measuring charts posted

at the dam.

The majority of the Board does not feel that the water level is of particular concern (i.e. too low) at this time. Continued monitoring of Pfizer's discharge levels was seen as a larger priority to preserving suitable and usable lake water levels. At this time, the Board supports the Drain Commissioner's current approach to regulating Austin Lake's water level.

b. Permanent Dock at Property off Woodlawn

This issue was previously discussed. It is unclear if this dock is in violation of MDEQ regulations but may require future Board attention and direction.

c. Annual Meeting Date/Time/Location

See above. The Annual Meeting will take place on May 15, 2012 at 7:00pm. The Austin Lake Room will hold the meeting. The Sheriff's Department will also address those in attendance similar to the open forum which was conducted at the 2011 meeting.

d. Trash Receptacle at Public Landing

Norm Young expressed some concern about the amount of trash and refuse at the public landing and inquired about whether a trash container could be located there. This issue has been discussed by the Board in the past and will be revisited after the Annual Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brett Grossman
Secretary