

**Austin Lake Riparian Board of Directors**  
**Draft of Minutes of September 16, 2013**

**Wightman & Associates - 9835 Portage Rd. Portage, MI**

Present: Kirk Wolf, Gary Hahn, Jim Pearson, Pat Guilford, Larry Pio, Steve Higgins, Brian Johnson, Win Larsen, Dan Peacock, Scott Gignac

Absent: Norm Young (Website/Newsletter Editor)

Also present: Dani Kinder (Social Committee Chair)

1. Open

The business meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. in the conference room of Wightman & Associates by Board President Kirk Wolf. President Wolf welcomed new member, Scott Gignac.

2. Minutes from the May 22, 2013 meeting were discussed and approved.

3. Election of Officers

The first order of business for the first meeting after the Annual meeting is to elect officers for the next year from the Board Members who were elected at the Annual meeting. After a brief discussion, President Wolf proposed that we keep the same officers as last year. This motion was seconded by Jim Pearson and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report

There was no financial statement presented at the meeting, but ALR Treasurer, Larry Pio, reported that we have spent over \$1000 on our newsletter and purple loosestrife beetles.

5. Newsletter/Website Report

Our Editor, Norm Young, was not able to attend this evening, but he sent word that we have had an inquiry about advertising on our website.

6. Social Committee Report:

a. Dani Kinder reported that ALR received a nice thank-you letter from Pretty Lake Camp for the generous donation of \$2017 earned by the raffle at the boat parade party.

b. The last event of the season was a casual boat tie-up. 14 to 15 boats participated and it was a great deal of fun.

c. Social events that were proposed included a winter bon fire around the Holidays and a volleyball tournament at the Lakeview Park in the spring or summer.

d. Event liability insurance to cover the ALR Board was discussed. Members Brian Johnson and Dan Peacock will look into the cost of such insurance.

## 7. Old business

a. Lake safety sign: Win Larsen reported that there is already a lake safety sign present at the public landing so there is no need for ALR to duplicate this.

b. Review pontoon trailer agreement: Dani Kinder reported that our arrangement is in place and that she has all the necessary liability insurance.

c. Right Way rental funds. We have not received any rental funds from Right Way although members have seen the pontoon trailer being used.

d. Riparian communication—neighborhood system: Pat Guilford reported that we do not have all 20 neighborhood email lists complete at this time. We will try to finish this project by the next meeting.

e. Governmental Lake Board (GLB):

(1) Brian Johnson reported that the GLB Board approved an expenditure of \$3772.00 for extensive landscaping to be completed around all 3 compressors. Stat Brothers was hired to do this project.

(2) The President of the GLB, Ed Sackley, may not be heading up the GLB next year. If not, it will be a great loss to the Board as Brian Johnson, our lake representative on the GLB, said Mr. Sackley has been very helpful and cost conscious. He often does a lot of the work himself to save money for the lake residents paying for this project.

(3) The company who installed this project comes once a month to check on the equipment. To date, only one bubbler has been disturbed by a boater. No damage was reported.

(4) Jennifer Jermalowicz-Jones's contract has been renewed with GLB for next year although she is now with a different company. The yearly measurement of lake depth will take place in October after having a full season of operation. She is going to be using a new measurement method that is considered be more accurate.

## 8. New Business

a. Jim Pearson reported that many lake residents complain about anglers hooking boats moored at their own docks. Dani Kinder said that many fishermen are also distressed by how hostile some lake residents can be when they fish close by. There is no enforcement entity that will take on handling such disputes. However, Jim shared two photos of simple solutions that have worked for him or neighbors--tying floats or flags from the dock to the rear of the moored boat. This discourages anglers from fishing too close.

b. DNR planting muskies in the lake. It is thought that the DNR planted these predator fish to control the overabundance of bluegill in hopes of increasing bluegill size. No member voiced concern about this.

c. Watershed management plan-Little Portage Creek and Portage River: President Wolf asked for a volunteer to participate in this planning project. Pat Guilford agreed to be involved with this group.

d. Clifford Bloom - Riparian legal discussion. Attorney Bloom charges \$200 an hour for counsel regarding riparian concerns. The ALR can only suggest that lake residents contact him regarding their legal matters as the ALR Board has no jurisdiction or powers over lake owners. On a related note, Steve Higgins reminded us that the right to walk at the water's edge on the Great Lakes does not apply to inland lakes and those doing so are committing trespass.

e. There is a permanent dock on an empty lot that was installed after getting DNR permission. Dan Peacock brought up the point that the City of Portage says it is a violation of ordinance to have a dock on a lake unless there is a residence on the lot. It is uncertain whose jurisdiction would apply in this matter.

f. Bob Sealy, former President of the ALR, gave our current President, Kirk Wolf, several boxes of very old files which may be of historical interest. Larry Pio offered to take the files to scan for our records before offering them to the City, a library, or a museum.

9. Date/Time/Place of next meeting: The next meeting will be Monday, January 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the offices of Wightman & Associates, 9835 Portage Rd., Portage, MI

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia M. Guilford, Secretary