

**Austin Lake Riparian Board of Directors
Draft of Minutes of February 10, 2014**

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

Absent: Norm Young (Website/Newsletter Editor), Dani Kinder (Social Committee Chair), Scott Gignac(Alternate)

1. Open

The business meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. in the conference room of Wightman & Associates by Board President Kirk Wolf.

2. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Larry Pio, reported that we have \$753.01 in the General Fund, \$500 in the Social Fund and \$33.70 in the Lake Improvement Fund for a total balance of \$1,286.71. The only transaction since the Annual meeting was \$80 for the purchase of beetles to help control purple loosestrife. The forms for the annual report have not been received from the state so Larry cannot file that as yet. The income taxes have been filed on line. No trailer rental monies have been received for either 2012 or 2013.

3. Newsletter/Website Report

Norm Young, our Editor, was not present. President Wolf, reporting for Norm, reminded Board members that the ads in our annual newsletter must be ready by the end of April. The newsletter goes to the printer on May 15. The Annual ALR Meeting will be June 10, 2014 at 7 p.m. in the Austin Lake room of the Portage Pubic Library.

4. Social Committee Report

Dani Kinder, our Social committee Chair, was not present. President Wolf reported that a new social event will take place this year. A volleyball tournament is planned for June 21, 2014 at Lakeview Park. Each team of 6 will have 3 men and 3 women; one team member must be a lake resident. The entrance fee of \$30 will be used for expenses and to purchase prizes for the event.

5. Old Business

a. The discussion regarding the volleyball tournament brought up the previously discussed issue of liability for ALR when hosting social events.

Dan Peacock has looked into this type of insurance and reported that an annual fee for such insurance would be in the neighborhood of \$500. The cost is prohibitive at this time. Players may be asked to sign a simple waiver like those used at many athletic events.

b. The limitations of our budget brought up another previously discussed topic of initiating association dues. President Wolf said that the ALR bylaws allow for the collection of dues. All members contributed ideas or examples of other lake associations who collect dues. Secretary Guilford will report at our next meeting on specific examples of how other associations handle this task. Although the collection process may be burdensome, members thought of many ways the monies could be used to benefit the lake residents:

- 1) testing of water quality
- 2) additional lake patrol
- 3) legal advice regarding riparian issues
- 4) purchase of biological controls for invasive species
- 5) subsidizing the costs of the progressive dinner event
- 6) insurance

c. Pat Guilford reported no news regarding Riparian communication at this time.

d. Governmental Lake Board (GLB) Brian Johnson summarized today's meeting of the GLB. Jenifer presented the findings of the aeration project for 2013. There was an overall reduction of an additional 1.9 inches of sediment in the bay area. Core samples will be taken this summer in order to adjust the process to better the reduction rate for 2014. Previous GLB Chair, Ed Sackley, was able to get a refund of approximately \$9,000 from Consumers Power for the GLB bay project. The project's engineering costs were recouped because the electric use qualifies for a rebate.

6. New Business

a. Tim Wenzel of the Environmental Board, City of Portage presented a summary of their effort to help Austin Lake and the surrounding areas. The Environmental Board is supporting a beetle program to control purple loosestrife in and around Austin Lake, Long Lake, and West Lake. The City of Portage contributes \$500 to buy beetles. The insects released at the north side of Mandigo marsh and Lakeview Park directly affect Austin Lake. Tim said that they have seen evidence of damage to the loosestrife every year. The City publishes a purple loosestrife map on their website. Larry Pio motioned that ALR contribute funds (approximately \$150) to the

Environment Board to buy 2 boxes of beetles. Win Larsen seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

b. A new invasive species is phragmites, a very tall reed-like grass that pushes out native species in wetlands. The City has approved a controlled burn in the wetlands near the Sonic restaurant to help control this harmful plant. Eliason Nature Reserve, newly donated to the City of Portage, also has phragmites. There may also be an infestation on Long Lake. The Chair of the Environmental Board will inform us of this environmental issue at our annual meeting in June

c. Jim Pearson updated the Board members on the Lake Center business area along Portage Road. There will be a report out soon. The City plans to encourage businesses in this corridor by building pedestrian islands, improving drainage issues, and addressing zoning statutes regarding set-backs.

7. The next meeting will be in April or May. The exact date has not yet been determined. President Wolf will email members regarding this closer to April.

8. Larry Pio moved to adjourn. Seconded by Gary Hahn. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Guilford, Secretary