

**Murray Lake Spring Meeting
Minutes
May 11, 2010 7:00 PM**

The meeting was opened at 7 PM by Alan Rumbaugh with a pledge of allegiance.

In attendance were Irv Leisman, John Bajama, Bucky Curtis, Steve Ockaskis, Alan Rumbaugh, Gene Beerens, Chuck Foster, Terry Conley. Absent were Mark Bradburn and Mike Beaudry.

The reading of the secretarie's minutes were not available. Our secretary resigned last week and a copy of the minutes from the Fall meeting was not available.

It was decided to have only a Spring meeting and discontinue the Fall meeting for this year. If any major issues develop, we can call another meeting in the fall.

Steve Ockaskis reviewed the treasure's report. As of May 13, 2010, We have a balance of \$11,990 in the treasurer with most, \$9,525 in a Money Market account, and \$2,466 in savings. He has about 120 members with a goal of over 200.

Major expenses were the dumpster, \$530, liability insurance \$484, postage, \$467, Michigan Lakes and Stream \$205.

Gene Beerens nominated Steve Ockaskis for President, Jan Ockaskis for Treasurer, Alan Rumbaugh for Secretary. Bucky Curtis seconded. Voice vote all yeas, no nays. We have a new slate of officers!

Frank Force, our Grattan Township Supervisor, reviewed progress on the upgrade for the Grattan/Vergennes lagoon site. Current estimates are between \$150,000 and \$500,000 with the feeling it will end up somewhere in the middle. There will be a special assessment set up as soon as the real number is known. It will also include \$200,000 for collection upgrades needed. Payment can be made in one lump sum or spread out over 10 years, as in the last one.

A new second generator is needed and could run \$20,000. The oldest one totally died and to prevent SSOs, Infrastructure Alternatives needs at least two generators to power up the lift stations during most of our many power outages. These are expensive in man hours but Consumers Energy takes no responsibility on "acts of nature". They also will not help with repair costs from power surges as they say we don't have the proper surge protection. IA will look at installing that feature with each electrical panel upgrade.

The Sewer Advisory Committee is being asked to assume more responsibility and help guide the township board with sewer issues.

The sewer tour was not as well attended as hoped but those that did attend saw the lagoons and different electrical panels and lift stations. There will be future ones and it is hoped residents will attend and learn more about our system.

Frank then answered questions from the floor.

Lou Kirkbride, Grattan Fire Chief, gave a run down on over \$200,000 in grants the fire department has been awarded. Major items purchased with this money were hoses for the trucks, jaws of life, new air packs, and an air pumper truck to be able to refill air tanks in the field, and a well, able to deliver 800 gallons a minute to fill the pumper trucks.

He explained how much training his team goes through and has developed training to a level where he is being asked to give training sessions at other fire departments in the county.

He then talked about a portable pump mounted on the front of a four wheel drive truck. This can be used to pull water from any lake or pond area and can fill pumpers or hook up hoses to it and fight the fire directly.

This pump can deliver 700 gallons a minute and with mounting, costs \$7,000 and was looking for some help from the lake associations.

Steve presented Lou with a \$1,000 check from the Murray Lake Association toward the cost of this pump.

Bucky Curtis gave a recap on the lake level. It appears when Jim Hall replaced the dam, he put in an extra board and raised the level of the lake about 6 inches. While we have been at this level for about four years, last years wet summer and the addition of more wake board boats with their higher wakes, caused lawns to become wet and beaches to erode much more than at the lower level.

Chuck Foster gave a rational response as to the value of leaving the level at the current height for the channel people. "They" felt the riparian rights of the channel people are being take advantage of and gave very good discussion as to why lowering the level will not work.

Jerry Kropf said at the 20 yards he mows he has found them all to be too wet over the last few years. Even drain tiles have not worked on several.

Brad Riemer read a letter from John and Sandy Otis saying they have spent \$14,000 trying to correct high water levels.

Jim Hall, who owns the dam, gave us the facts of the history of the dam. He said he will be taking out one board and this will drop the level for this year by about 6 inches from previous year's level.

Bucky Curtis will be the point person for the lake level. Please contact him with any questions/comments.

Chuck Foster reviewed environmental ideas and suggestions. The basic stories are to keep "contaminates" out of the lake. This includes sweeping driveways, walks, and streets to keep the drains from carrying the contaminates in the runoff to the lake.

Don't over fertilize your lawns and don't use any containing phosphates. Don't mow grass across the width of your lot all the way to the lake. Plant or grow a buffer zone to keep runoff from the lawn getting to the lake.

Chuck did the Lally roadside clean up and found only two bags of trash, a great improvement over previous year's collections.

Our beetle collection for the fight against Purple Loosestrife has been put on hold until we can locate a site for beetles and find the correct timing.

John Bajama will be doing the oxygen and temperature testing twice a month again this year. He has found the oxygen goes to almost 0% during the summer below the 25 foot level.

Steve Ockaskis and Mark Bradburn will be doing the Secchi disk testing for clarity and chlorophyll and phosphate.

The information is forwarded to Michigan Lake and Stream Association. They work with MSU testing about 180 lakes to provide base information and learn what is happening with our lakes.

Alan Rumbaugh reviewed the information collected at the ML&S meeting earlier this month.

Much of the meetings were dedicated to learning how to take care of our lakes. Much of this has been forwarded to you in previous meetings/memos. We are very fortunate to have as healthy a lake as we do. We must continue to work to keep it as healthy as we can and each of us must do what we can.

The statement they had was: "What can we give up for our lake?"

The ongoing efforts to keep boats from transmitting invasive species from lake to lake with the "Clean Boat" program. Boats should be washed to be certain no hitchhikers are on the boat, trailer or wells. If not washed, they should be dried for at least three days before going into another lake.

The biggest news was a change in the way the DNRE is going to be looking at any shore line changes. There was a national survey of over 1,000 lakes around the country, 50 of these were in Michigan.

Of these 43% were in fair or poor shape with biological health. Of the problem, 36% was found to be from poor lakeshore habitat.. Poor biological health is three times more likely in lakes with poor lakeshore habitat.

To help improve this, they are not going to be issuing any permits for sea walls. (Wisconsin has not issued any for the last 10 years.) Rip Rap is also not the best solution. They are looking to make it a "softscape" instead of a "hardscape". You can go to "shoreline.msu.edu" to learn more about this program.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectively submitted,

Alan Rumbaugh
Secretary