

Water Quality, Lake Habitat, Fish and Fishing Committee

Minutes of Meeting

February 8, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.

Present: Bryan Neal-Chairman, Bob Gaftman, Gene Ploskonka, Art Lukowicz, Craig Helker-DNR

Absent: William Draganski, Les Skinner

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2007, meeting was made by Gene Ploskonka, seconded by Bob Gaftman, passed.

Old Business: Bryan Neal has received the minimum requirements for public access from Doug Welch. Will discuss with the Steering Committee and attempt to have in place by the April deadline needed for fish stocking Lake Elizabeth in 2008.

New Business: The meeting centered on Craig Helker, biologist, from the Sturtevant office of the DNR. He specializes in water quality and plant life. His office issues the permits for herbicide application in the lakes. A discussion followed.

Plant life is an indication of the health of the lakes. An assessment of the plant species and population of both lakes was done in 1994, 2001, and 2004 or 2005. The species of plants were constant and the density was good. Milfoil was under control. Rooting depth was about 11 to 12 feet. Soft sand bottom was not conducive to many species of plants. The DNR will repeat the survey in 2010 or 2011.

A very good practice is to keep phosphorus out of the lakes. Both lakes are still good with respect to phosphorus. When lakes are drained and refilled the aim is for levels that we have at present. While phosphorus does not appear to be a problem at present, monitoring the concentration is a good idea. Banning phosphorus fertilizers in Twin Lakes was a good start to keep the levels under control.

Another good practice is to control erosion and prevent drainage of foreign materials into the lake. Craig will prepare a handout on shoreline erosion as a passout at the annual meeting this summer.

Monitoring water temperature at the deepest part of the lake is another good idea. This should be done at a depth of about 6 feet.

A method for measuring water temperature and water quality is by using a VanDorn sampler. The DNR could supply equipment and perform the analysis. Judy Jost and Rita Hill have been doing this on both lakes in the past. They will be contacted to see how the committee can work with them.

A lake management plan is very important. Early detection of problems is very important. When problems occur, more frequent testing should be performed, as often as weekly. Spring fed lakes from shallow aquifers are particularly vulnerable because of limited amounts of fresh water coming in. Tests should be done at least five times a year, preferably twice a month, from March thru October. Tests should include water temperature, dissolved oxygen and phosphorus. The tests should be consistent and in the same location and depth.

A good lake management plan is important for direction. The Steering Committee will meet on February 22 and a management plan will be discussed

Grants are available in varying amounts from year to year. We should look into what is available. If you fail to receive a grant, keep trying, next time more money could be available. It is a good idea to get local representatives involved. They could help a lot in the legislature.

It was a very productive meeting. Craig Helker was very knowledgeable and opened the door for us to get the DNR involved with our water quality testing.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2007, at 7:00 at city hall.

Gene Ploskonka motioned for adjournment, Bob Skinner seconded, passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Arthur F. Lukowicz