

Lake Habitat, Water Quality, Fish and Fishing Committee Meeting

February 14, 2004

Present: Dale Gittings, Gene Ploskonka, Art Lukowicz, Bob Gaftman

Chairman Dale Gittings called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM at the Twin Lakes City Hall.

A motion to approve the minutes of the 11/3/03 meeting was made by Gene Ploskonka and seconded by Bob Gaftman. Motion passed.

Treasurers Report: A discussion was held on the necessity of having a committee treasurer. The committee has a budget of \$2000.00. Expenditures are not expected to be very frequent. All expenditures must be submitted to the Steering Committee for approval and then forwarded to the Village for payment. It was decided that a treasurer was not necessary. The committee would handle expenditures and Dale Gittings would then submit them to the Steering Committee.

Old Business:

Dale Gittings gave a report on the business conducted at the Steering Committee meeting.

The Steering Committee approved an expenditure of \$3000.00 to install six calibrated lake water level gauges, three on each lake to monitor the water levels. At present there is one gauge, not calibrated, on private property on each lake. A general discussion of lake levels over the years followed. McHenry County pays a lot of attention to the lake level at the south end of Lake Elizabeth because of conservation and protection of endangered species such as the black tern which nests there. No one could remember any problems in the past with flooding or erosion because of high water levels. The consensus of the committee was to maintain the lake levels as high as possible.

Two fishing piers are being proposed. One in the area of Musial Beach where the old bridge was located and the other in the vicinity of Lance Park. A discussion followed, but no specific consensus was evident.

New Business:

Public Boat Launch: The Steering Committee asked Dale to talk to Jim Hughes at Mad Dan's about converting his boat launch to DNR standards. During the discussion he expressed concern about the salability of his property in the future if there was a long-term agreement with the DNR. He was still receptive to further discussion but would prefer if the site were elsewhere.

The committee was asked for suggestions on possible sites for a public boat launch on Lake Elizabeth. A discussion followed on other possible sites for a boat launch including the use of fire lanes. No location was immediately evident. A total of 18 parking spaces for a car and trailer are required, including room for a handicap space. The matter will be taken up at future committee meetings.

Water Quality: Every day about 800,000 gallons of water evaporate from the two lakes. The question of using the effluent from the water treatment plant was addressed. This effluent is below existing standards for discharge into the lake. The cost of improving the quality could be in excess of \$10,000,000. This is not an option at present.

Water quality is monitored at Lance Park beach approximately monthly by Kenosha County. More frequent checks are going to be requested.

Fish Stocking: The Sportsman's Club is planning to stock small mouth bass in both lakes. These are in the 5" to 7" range. Any help from the DNR is a year or two away. This year, Doug Welch from the DNR will conduct two studies on Lake Mary. After these studies are completed, there could be help from the state with stocking on Lake Mary only. The DNR introduces fingerlings in substantially larger quantities. It would take a few years for the fingerling to reach the same size that the Sportsman's Club introduces. If the DNR stocking is accepted, the Sportsman's Club could not do the same. It's an either/or situation.

Half Logs: A permit is required for placing half logs into the lakes. They must be built and placed in the lake with local efforts and Doug Welsh or someone from his department must be present. This could be done after his lake survey is completed later this year. It was moved by Lukowicz and seconded by Ploskonka to file for the necessary permit. Passed. Dale will take care of filing.

The Sportsman's Club Fishing Derby will take place on Saturday, February 21.

A motion for adjournment was made by Lukowicz and seconded by Ploskonka. Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Next Meeting tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 27, 2004, at 9:00 AM.

Respectively submitted,

Art Lukowicz