

# THE KLINGER LAKE ASSOCIATION



## **KLA Annual Meeting**

August 10, 2014

6 pm, KLCC

President Doug VanMeter called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, and welcomed the 37 people in attendance. All twelve board members were present. Also present were Bill Smith of the St. Joseph County Marine Patrol and Brad Brewer, St. Joseph County Conservation Officer from the DNR.

Doug introduced all 12 board members and gave an overview of their responsibilities on the board. Barb Montgomery introduced the beach representatives that were present. She reported that all beaches except Breezy Beach had current assigned representatives.

Andy Rieth, our board member who is the liaison with the DNR and Marine Patrol, arranged to have representatives from both organizations attend our meeting. Our new DNR director Drew Montgomery was unable to attend. Andy reported that his interaction with the DNR has been very positive. Andy worked closely with Drew and the DNR regarding the creation and placement of the new KLA sign at the public access. Andy thanked Doug VanMeter for his help with the installation of the sign. The sign, paid for by KLA is made of processed milk jugs and will need no maintenance.

Brad Brewer was introduced and spoke to the members about his role as Conservation Officer and his interaction with lake communities.

- Brad stated that his role in the DNR is to enforce laws regarding natural resources and recreational safety. Aside from his summer work on lakes, he deals with hunters in the fall and fishing year round. He has a winter presence on the lake regarding ice fishing.
- He reported that his only current concern is the prevalence of buoys on lakes in the county, including Klinger Lake. He stated that any buoy placed in a lake requires a state permit from the DNR. Generally they are only to be used for designating non-private swim areas or to mark underwater obstructions. Private resident placement of buoys in the lake is illegal. At this time he is not requiring removal of the buoys or issuing tickets, but he wants residents to know the law.
- Rafts do not have to be permitted, but must not be in the navigational (counterclockwise) portion of the lake. There is no set distance regulation for raft placement, and concerns are dealt with case by case. Residents placing rafts in the lake need to realize they face possible liability issues.
- Brad reminded residents that any vessel may travel in any direction and anywhere on the lake if they are going at a 'no wake' speed. This includes fishing boats. Although there is no set speed for 'no wake' qualification, his guideline is that if a crest on the 2nd wave exists, or if there is any white water behind the motor, the boat is exceeding a 'no wake' limit.
- DEQ regulates any structures put on the bottom lands of a lake, and if the DNR sees any violation, they will contact the DEQ.

- The regional director of the DNR that oversees our lake does not currently require permits for fishing tournaments. Consequently the DNR has no direct involvement of regulating fishing tournaments at Klinger. Brad was asked if he could be at the access site at the beginning of tournaments to make sure the rules are being followed. Brad also said he would look into revisiting the current policy of not requiring permits for these tournaments.
- In response to a question regarding possible paving of the road to the public access, he stated that the county, not the DNR has the responsibility of road maintenance. DNR maintains only the access site.
- The Plainwell office of the DNR has a 24 hour hotline number: 1-800-292-7800.

Bill Smith of the St. Joseph County Marine Patrol was introduced. He said that he normally is on Klinger one day during the week, and regularly on the weekends. He said the lake had very little traffic M-F. He summarized the patrol activity May through July.

- Hours 75.5
- Contacts 334
- Tickets 9 (3 careless/reckless; 4 registration/boater certificate, 1 rules, 1 mandatory PFD)
- Warnings 8
- Complaints 2

Bill also asked if anyone had been at the public access on Saturday Aug 9th between 1-4 pm. During that time someone stole a Ford 350 truck that was parked there, and he is hoping someone may have witnessed the theft.

**Approval of last year's annual meeting minutes:** Joyce Sterrett made a motion to approve last year's minutes. It was seconded by Suzi Puckett and the motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Don Riach, KLA Treasurer distributed copies of the treasurer's report for 2013 and the report for 2014 through July 31. In 2013 KLA had 324 members, and to date in 2014 we have 332. Suzi Puckett made a motion to accept these reports. Barb Montgomery seconded and the motion carried.

**Presentation of slate of new board members:** Suzi Puckett of the nominating committee presented the following slate for approval by the membership:

Doug VanMeter  
 Carol Preble  
 Barb Montgomery  
 Allision Kirsch

Suzi asked for any nominations from the floor. There were none, and the slate was approved unanimously.

## **SELECTED COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Water Testing and Treatment:** Mike Needham brought a Secchi Disk for members to see firsthand the instrument used to test the transparency of the water. He described how the testing is done. He also talked about the chlorophyll and phosphorus testing done at Klinger. He said that it is only the invasive weeds that we worry about and treat. Mike reported that the aquatic weed treatment was done on the lake July 28th. He reported that weed infestation is really down this year, with a ¾ acre of Eurasian Milfoil near Don Frost's property being the only area of concern. Because of our active participation in the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association and not because we had any problems, Klinger Lake was one of the lakes chosen for a special study with the DEQ and US Forest Service. Results of this June 26th meander survey of the lake

will be shared at a later date. Between 20 and 30 samples, both plant and animal, were taken and will be analyzed.

**Directory:** Carol Preble thanked those who helped her on the directory; Trudy Harnell, Barb Evert, Merry Krzmienski, Noreen Orczarak. She reported that the advertising in the directory helps pay for both the directory and the newsletter costs and asked members to thank those who advertise when they use their services. Edgar Reihl has placed the ads on the website.

**Dam:** Warren English reported that he checks on the dam approximately once a week, and that Jamie Kasey is working with him. The level of the lake is court mandated and levels are reset in December and April. Debris remains the primary problem and residents were reminded to keep grass clippings and leaves out of the lake.

**Real Estate:** Allison Kirsch distributed copies of the current market conditions for lake property. There are currently 15 homes on the market, with one pending sale. Six have sold this year. She reported that most sell at 90% of the list price and she hasn't seen anything recently sell higher than \$695,000. She feels there has been a 20-30% correction in the market and that it has just about bottomed out. She also encouraged those buying or selling property on the lake to consider using local real estate agents and banks as they are most familiar with the area and trends.

**Fireworks:** Suzi Puckett of the Klinger Lake Fireworks committee reported that she and her husband Bob will be stepping down from coordinating the fireworks. She thanked all those who helped them over the years especially committee members Carol Preble and Dan and Barb Evert. She also recognized the help of Andy Reith, Warren English, and Denny Blodgett on this year's display. She assured the KLA members that she will do everything possible to keep this tradition alive on Klinger Lake and keep the membership updated during the transition.

### **MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS**

- Door prizes of KLA tote bags were awarded to 5 members in attendance.
- Hard cover KLA History books are now available for purchase and Shelley Connors was thanked for her work getting these books ordered.
- John Nelson made flyers available for those interested in the St Jo Co Conservation Fundraiser Golf Scramble at KLCC August 28th. The Conservation Club is a non-profit organization whose only funding comes from donations and fundraising activities.
- Mary Vogt would like to see KLA purchase aerial photographs of the lake and have them available for members to purchase direct. She would be willing to coordinate this. The board will look into this and get back to Mary.
- A member asked for advice regarding Canadian Geese and how to keep them off their property. One suggestion was to use blue trimmer line strung from poles and another recommended using small garden fences. Use of the blue string around the perimeter of canopies was also recommended to keep Sea Gulls away.

At 7:45 pm, Don Riach made a motion to adjourn. Barb Montgomery seconded and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Puckett, Secretary