

# THE KLINGER LAKE ASSOCIATION



## **KLA July Board Meeting Minutes Klinger Lake Country Club & Conference Call May 14, 2018**

**Attended in person:** Barbara Montgomery Nelson, Mike Needham, Don Riach, Doug VanMeter, Julie Stutesman, Sharon Snyder, Allison Kirsch, Warren English

**Attended via phone:** Edgar Reihl Andy Rieth,

**Absent:** Debbie Doe, Julie Lavidge

**Guests Present:** Lake residents: Mark Waszak, John Nelson; Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development: Jim Johnson, Ben Tirrell, Laura Doud, Matt Blakely, Heath Bergmann; Representing Sturgis Farms LLC: Dave Sturgis, Ed Schlabach, Heather Myers, Joe Myers

President Barbara Montgomery Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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### **President-Welcome and President's Remarks**

Barb Nelson welcomed members and thanked them for their time and dedication to KLA and also introduced and welcomed guests.

### **Discussion Regarding Right To Farm Act**

First item on the agenda was a discussion regarding the Right to Farm Act and other information regarding the approved Livestock Facility (CAFO) just off Shimmel Rd in Sherman Township. Jim Johnson circulated a presentation regarding Livestock Facility Site Selection, which gave some background on the Right to Farm act and other selection factors. Mike Needham provided an overview of how the KLA became aware of the development of the site and what questions most people had been asking. He expressed concern that the operation was approved before most of the people in the area had even learned of the plan. This is because, in his opinion, the MIWaters web site operated by MDEQ does not provide adequate public notice.

Jim Johnson provided an overview of GAAMPs as applied for Site Suitability. There was some discussion regarding the quality of the concrete tank / emptying of the manure tanks / distribution of the manure / capacity to distribute. There was a discussion regarding odors incurred in the spreading of manure in the spring and fall. There was a brief discussion regarding economies of scale for efficiency for the CAFO industry (why CAFOs are coming). Dave Sturgis commented that one of the driving forces for the use of manure for fertilization is the burgeoning organic foods movement.

After approximately 90 minutes of discussion, the presentation concluded with Aaron Miller taking some actions to engage MDEQ in talks about the adequacy (or lack thereof) of the public notice regarding CAFOs. John Nelson expressed the need for more education of the public on CAFOs.

Given the length of the discussion with the MDARD & Sturgis Farms folks and Aaron Miller, the KLA Board then had a brief meeting to quickly cover other topics.

### **Treasurer's report**

Don Riach presented the report. After brief discussion, **Warren English moved for approval of report; Sharon Snyder seconded it, all members approved, and the motion carried.**

### **Fireworks**

Warren English led a brief talk about the Fireworks display for 2018. Warren feels there should be 4 people who understand all aspects of how to run the fireworks for Klinger Lake. With the possible exception of Bob Puckett, Warren is the only person who knows how everything works. In 2018, Charlie Stutesman will become the second person on the lake who understands the 'operation' but we're still seeking additional people who can understand the operation. It would be best if we have 2 more. Barbara brought up two issues: 1) We should continue to explore 'outsourcing' the operation of the fireworks rather than relying solely on volunteers. This isn't possible for 2018 but should be discussed for future years. 2) She is concerned about the availability of the public launch during/after the fireworks program for emergency vehicles. Warren reported that the entire public launch area is very congested and it would be hard if not impossible for an emergency vehicle to reach the launch area. While we are concerned as a board about this, we have little recourse since the DNR manages the public launch site. In 2018, this concern is heightened because the Klinger Lake Fireworks display is listed with date and time in the latest issue of Shoreline Magazine.

There had been some past discussions regarding fireworks funding, including establishing a 'tiered recognition' program (i.e. Red sponsor, White sponsor, Blue sponsor). Given limited time, the recognition program will be delayed until at least 2019. The 'suggested donation' per family will be raised to \$50 in 2018 and the fireworks flyer will be produced and sent with that information.

### **Dam**

Warren English reported that due to recent rainy weather, the lake level is a little higher than normal. However, we are not in a position to 'release' more water now because of downstream flooding issues. If we get some dry weather, the lake will return to normal levels.

Also, as previously discussed, a 'colony' of beavers built a 'lodge' in the area of the Klinger Lake water control dam. The beavers have been removed, but they did significant damage to the area of the dam. While the operation and maintenance of the dam structure is the responsibility of the St Joseph County Drain Commission, there is a high likelihood that their funding will not be sufficient to complete the needed repairs. We will need to monitor the situation going forward.

### **Board Member Positions**

As discussed at a previous meeting, Julie Lavidge and Edgar Reihl have elected to step down from the Board this year. The nominating committee identified two candidates for the Board, who will be presented at the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. They are Ashley Vercler and Chris Bowers.

**Doug VanMeter moved that we accept the nominations; Warren English seconded it; all members approved and the motion carried to accept the nominations for Ashley Vercler and Chris Bowers as two candidates for the Board.**

### **Upstream Water Testing**

Mike Needham presented a proposal for 'upstream' water testing. It was decided that for 2018, we'll check for conductivity, pH, ammonia, phosphorus, nitrates, and suspended solids in three locations at the Thompson Lake outlet, the Tamarack Lake outlet, and in the middle of Klinger Lake. We'll perform these samples once in 2018. The cost estimate for this will be \$465.

At 9:22pm, Mike Needham moved we adjourn; Don Riach seconded the motion; all members approved and the meeting was adjourned..

The next Board meeting will be after the KLA Beach Rep Picnic, at Terry and Sara Lee's on Monday, June 4, 2018, 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Doe, Secretary KLA

