

Lake Manuka Association, Inc.
Annual Meeting
May 27, 2006
The United Way Building
Gaylord, Michigan

In Attendance: Terry Mullen, Harold Neuharth, Dave Ambrose, William Kurlik, Bob Schramski, Phil & Phyllis Wineland, Karen Gurchiek, Gene Fedorowicz, Dan Slota, Bill & Joyceann Braisted, Dennis Dennerill, Lowell & Janet Ferguson, Bill & Margaret Scheuber, Dan & Teresa Oldham, Jeff Drukker, Phillip & Margaret Pilibosian, Jean Claude & Elizabeth Elie, Don D'Orazio, Lee Paquette, Wally & Chris Zarichney, Chuck & Kay Winger, Vince Caruso, Ken Lombardo, Denny Behen, Terry Jans, Jim Leib, Jack Crusoe, Wayne & Zana Jaycox, Ernie Bourdage, Bob Gurchiek, Larry Patriitto, Bob Leser, Jim Straith, Henry Weber, Ken Hunt, and Al & Suzie Inza

Unable to Attend: Board member, Marv Priami, was unable to attend.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by the Association President, Chuck Winger, at 10 a.m.

Opening Presentation: President, Chuck Winger, provided a narrated PowerPoint presentation about Lake Manuka while the Annual Meeting Agenda was distributed to the membership, a constituted quorum.

Minutes: The minutes of the May 28, 2005 Annual Meeting as recorded by Interim Secretary, Chris Zarichney, were read by the Secretary, Jack Crusoe, and were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Jack Crusoe, read the Association Treasurer's Report with a General Account balance as of May 27, 2006 of \$5,631.78 and with a Lake Study Account balance as of May 27, 2006 of \$12,999.63. It was noted that 90 members had paid their dues so far in 2006 as compared with 115 total members in 2005. **It was moved, seconded, and approved that both reports be accepted.**

Proposed Budgets for 2006-2007: The President asked the Treasurer, Jack Crusoe, to read the proposed budgets for the coming year. For the General Account, Jack reported Planned Revenue of \$6,300 and Planned Expenditures of \$1,600, leaving a year-end Budget Reserve of \$4,700. The budget was amended to increase the amount for Terry Mullen to attend more professional sessions of the April, 2007 Michigan Lakes & Streams Conference, an increase from \$75.00 to \$400 and also to provide \$400 to support Gaylord High School students who will conduct scientific monitoring of the lake. Terry will coordinate this monitoring project with the high school on behalf of the association.

It was moved, seconded, and approved that the Proposed General Account Budget with amended Planned Expenditures of \$2,400 and a year-end Budget Reserve of \$3,900.

Officers Reports:

President

Introduction of the Board: Chuck introduced the members of the Board and said that we currently have a Board of eleven members that could be as large as twelve members. This past year the board met five times with only one that did not have a quorum. Additionally, as provided in the Association By-Laws, a number of meetings were held by email.

- **Fiduciary Bonding for Chuck, Kay, and Jack** – A bonding policy was purchased for the three officers who handle association money.
- **Lake Improvement Board** – Last summer, the Hayes Township Board was asked to form a Lake Manuka Improvement Board. After consideration of the written proposal the Association provided, the Hayes Township Board, showing much sympathy to our cause, said no. They suggested that our Association organize a lake improvement plan, accumulate signatures of support from the Lake Manuka Community, and then come back to the Hayes Township Board with our request. There are issues to be addressed, such as dealing with township liability to Lake Manuka Assoc. Inc activities.
- **Lake Study** -As a result the Lake Study was proposed to the membership and a great amount of support was shown by 88 members who have so far contributed \$20,625. An Open Forum was held at the Hayes Township Hall during Labor Day weekend 2005, attended by about 60 members. Tony Groves, from Progressive A.E., the firm selected to conduct the Lake Study, spoke about his firm's study plans and the proposed time-line. He will present the final report during another Open Forum, during the Labor Day weekend, 2006.
- **Lake Preservation Committee** – The President noted that the Association Board of Directors provides active direction to the lake Preservation Committee.
- **Kolke Creek, Merit Energy Hazardous Cleanup Site** – The issue of where Merit Energy might dispose of 1.5 million gallons per day of cleaned-up water extracted from a well site in southern Hayes Township has come before the Association Board three times. The suggestion being that Merit Energy might want to pump the clean water into Manuka Lake if Kolke Creek or other disposal sites are unavailable. The matter was referred to Tony Groves, Progressive A.E., who noted that Lake Manuka is a basin lake and you can't turn off 1.5 million gallons per day. Chuck stated that we are out of the running for this source of water and there are concerns over pollution

from technology failure during the cleaning process that could damage Lake Manuka.

- **2006 Michigan Lakes & Streams Assoc. Meeting** - Chuck and Terry Mullen recently attended this meeting in Big Rapids. From his discussion with those from other lake associations, Chuck believes that we have a good association with over one half of the riparian owners as members. Not many other associations are that fortunate. Many were interested in what we have done so far and want to continue participating with us.
- **Association Website** – You might look at the picture with Purtell’s dock that is bent. Maybe increased water in the lake this spring helped this to happen. Also, we are looking for someone who is missing a section of dock.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

Wequas lake Committee - Terry Jans reported that the ponds between Wequas Lake and Lake Manuka are up to the level of when they were dug many years ago. The President acknowledged the excellent work Joe Walker and Terry Jans did on their historical report of Wequas Lake and its relationship to Manuka Lake. The report is on the Association website.

Standing Committee Reports:

Communications Committee – Janet Ferguson reported that she had Lake Manuka aerial photographs available for a donation of \$10. She also noted that the website has been up and running for the past few months <http://www.lakemanukaassociation.com/> . She noted that Ken Kruger wrote an excellent history for the site. She asked that the attending members review the membership binder that is being circulated to add or correct their information.

Government Committee – Bob Gurchiec reported that a written proposal to create a Lake Manuka Improvement Board was given to the Hayes Township board on June 14, 2005. Action on the proposal was tabled until their July 15, 2005, meeting to provide time for review. At that meeting the proposal was not supported but referred back to the association for lake improvement recommendations, costs, and signatures of riparian and Lake Manuka community property owners. They wanted a list of prioritized improvements that are supported by property owners.

A Lake Improvement Board, for our type of lake, is generally composed of two representatives of the township, the County Drain Commissioner, and a property owner. It does not include a representative from the DNR or DEQ, but there still needs to be a relationship with them. The Township takes over projects recommended by the Lake Improvement Board and handles the funding by creating an Assessment District. There must be public hearings and there can

be appeals regarding the recommendations of the Lake Improvement Board. Twenty-five percent can be paid up front for projects and the rest can be borrowed. The township can guarantee to the contractor that taxes will be collected to pay for the project. Bonding can be arranged to secure immediate funds. The Lake Improvement Board determines who are included and how much will be paid in the Assessment District. Lake Manuka Association, Inc. becomes a cheerleader in the process.

To establish all of this the members must tell the Board what to do. All of this begins at the Open Forum on Labor Day weekend, 2006, when the Progressive A.E. Report provides us with professional input. A signature sheet will be taken around for interested owners to either support or not support the proposed lake improvement recommendations.

- **Public Boat Launch** – The Township is responsible for the public boat launch. There was no money available last year for improvements. Bob Deising, a member of the association, has been monitoring the site. No action has been taken by the Association Board at this time, but the Board may support some action at a later date.

Lake Preservation – Larry Patritto & Terry Mullen reported that the committee's mission was to deal with muck, weeds, lake levels, and water quality. Tony Groves provides us with invaluable input regarding his experience with similar situations, especially the political ramifications. The study is looking at the water levels, quality, watershed, sediment, aquatic vegetation (see attached May 23, 2006, letter for a more detailed update).

- **Date for Open Forum** - Members suggested that the Open Forum be held on Saturday, September 2, 2006 if Tony Groves is available. A morning meeting, i.e. 10 a.m., would be preferable to an afternoon or evening meeting. Concern was expressed that many would not be able to attend on Friday evening. The Board agreed to follow this advice.
- **Water Sampling** – Terry reported that he spent 2.5 days at the Michigan Lakes and Streams Conference. He said that those attending were just like us, lake riparian owners. He said there are a lot of scientific, environmental, legal, and governmental tie-ins. His experience will allow him to continue to take measurements after the study is completed. He will be studying water clarity, oxygen level, phosphorus levels, and conduct aquatic mapping. He noted that Lake Manuka is a soft water lake and that is unusual. What is relevant is what constitutes a healthy lake.

He noted that there are over 11,000 lakes in Michigan and the state government can't handle them all, so we lake owners must forge a stewardship.

Also covered at the meeting were riparian rights, Lake Improvement Boards, and Lake Association Board liability insurance. Boards can be liable for problems that might arise from sponsored or organized events, i.e., picnics, parades, and fireworks. Insurance costs are about \$400 per year for a Board. There are six to eight other organizations, besides ML&S Assoc. that we may want to become involved in.

Locally, he is working with the Gaylord High School Science department to have them help with some of the lake monitoring. This helps create a community tie-in as students conduct testing in a real outside lab each spring and fall.

Unfinished Business:

- **Lake Walk-Around** – Chuck reported that a Lake Walk-Around will occur this year to visually identify property, owners, and dwellings.

New Business:

- **Boating Laws** – Bob Gurchiec suggested that it would be good to make those who boat on the lake aware of the state Boating Laws. **It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to drop off copies door to door of the Boating Rules. It was also moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to publish and display copies of the rules at the public access site with a special emphasis on personal watercraft rules.**
- **Sheriff Patrols of the Lake** – It was noted that with this year's available resources the Otsego Sheriff's Department may visit Manuka Lake this summer.
- **Open Forum** – It was suggested that a nice room of sufficient size be rented with Lake Study budget for the Labor Day Open Forum. Chuck indicated that he plans to invite county, township, and Gaylord officials, and senators, representatives, DNR, DEQ, the Governor, the President of the U.S.A., and the press. We want a big crowd he stated. Suggested sites were the Otsego Club, Treetops, and Eagles. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved for the Board to spend up to \$200 for a meeting site.
- **Board Member Liability Insurance** – **It was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to purchase a liability policy of one million dollars for Directors and Officers of the Lake Manuka Association, Inc.** Concern was expressed by a member that the insurance cover individual members.
- **Board Member Elections** – Chris Zarichney and Janet Ferguson stepped down from continued service on the Board of Directors. They were thanked by both by the Board and by the membership for their outstanding service. Russ Lesser was nominated for a three year term. With no other

nominations from the floor, the President declared that nominations were closed. Russ Leser received unanimous acclamation from the membership and was elected for a three year term on the Board of Directors.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Winger at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jack Crusoe
Secretary