

**ELTA Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 11, 2018**  
**7:30 PM**  
Amy's House

## **Agenda**

- Roll Call
- President Report
- Treasurer's Report
- High Water
  - Updates
  - Legal Lake Level Petition
- Aeration Compressors
  - Updates/Issues w/ compressors
  - Winter Storage discussion
- Committee Review/Reports
  - Lake Quality
  - Communication
  - Area Rep/Membership
  - Safety/Legal
- Round Table
- Adjournment

## **Roll Call**

Board Members Present: Len Bosma, Brett Cummings, Amy Coon, Frank Loedeman, Ken Toy, Kasi Casterline, Neil Harris, Phil DeYoung

Board Members Absent: Jim Caporale

## **President's Report**

Amy explained that she is still getting a lot of questions about the petition for the legal lake level and the possibility of a FEMA grant. Len, Ken, and Amy attended a few meetings related to the Township involvement since our last meeting. Everyone believes the solution is going to involve a drain, so VanBelle again stressed that it's important we establish a legal lake level to associate the drain with this lake. The Township is now more involved than it was, which is promising. The Township has implemented a task force – Len and Amy are on it. Other residents have expressed concern about how rushed this seems and are hesitant about the possible ramifications.

Kasi, Len, and Ken have all done interviews with the news in the past couple weeks, which is great because it keeps the issue in the forefront.

The short-term plan Crooked Lake came up with was to pump water from Crooked Lake into Bass Lake that allegedly feeds into other natural watersheds. There are various

approvals and procedures they will need to obtain before we know if this is a viable option or not. Presently, we don't have any further information on the status of this plan. If their plan proves successful, they have said they may be willing to allow Eagle to pump into Crooked. Some people remain skeptical about the plan.

A few lake residents have expressed concern about getting a FEMA grant and then possibly being declared a flood zone, requiring very expensive flood insurance going forward. Another wide-spread concern was the ability for the drain commissioner to continually assess for improvements and maintenance once a legal lake level is established. In other words, there would be virtually no check on their power to assess once the level is established.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Jim was not present so we skipped the Treasurer's Report this month.

### **High Water**

There was discussion on whether we should collect petitions and hold them until the hydrologist report is complete due to the concerns raised about the legal lake level. We discussed potential problems with the board exercising control over the petitions and being the decision makers on if/when to submit the petitions.

There were discussions about looking into FEMA flood plains and re-zoning or reclassification.

We discussed the Township survey on damages and the fact that the Township wanted everyone to claim everything they could because FEMA will evaluate it in their cost/benefit analysis. There are people around the lake that are hesitant to fill out the survey. It is unclear at this time what percentage of residents will send in the Township survey.

The board discussed what would happen if Eagle Lake did nothing and waited to see what transpires with Crooked Lake and their legal lake level.

There were questions about our policy for turning our pump on. We currently try to keep the lake level somewhere a little below the ordinary high-water mark (roughly 5" or so), but we don't have a policy set-in-stone. Instead, the past boards thought it prudent to remain flexible to meet the lake needs at any given time.

Amy mentioned that Mattawan is currently being sued by MDOT related to flooding issues, so they have hired a hydrologist to try and get to the bottom of the high-water as well.

There are so many unknowns at this time that many people on the board thought it would be best to start the petition process but give a longer period of time for a deadline and provide the lack of information at this time as the reason for the longer period of time.

We discussed making information available to the residents about the concerns raised and information we are seeking before making a recommendation:

- 1) Results of the hydrologist study (employed by the Township) and all available data;
- 2) Potential for future assessments from drain commissioner with little control;
- 3) FEMA flood plain and possible required insurance (with or without the grant);
- 4) Giving control of our pump to the drain commissioner;
- 5) Possible reasons for the problem as identified by any one of the many hydrologists that are working in the area (Township, Mattawan, attorney rumor?)
- 6) Unknown cost;

Some of the pro's:

- 1) A drain is probably the only realistic way to solve the issue (comprehensive and long-term solution);
- 2) Having a drain will help folks sell their home in the future;
- 3) Certainty of maximum water level;
- 4) Pushing responsibility off on the drain commissioner instead of the lake;

After extensive discussions, the board decided it would be best to send a letter to the residents explaining that the board wants to wait until we have more information before doing a petition push. The letter will explain why we are delaying and stating some of the concerns with the proposals as well as some of the pro's with moving forward. In addition, we will explain what the board has been doing about all of this and all of the joint efforts involved. The expense for the mailing was duly approved.

## **Aeration**

Len and Phil recommended pulling the compressors for the winter due to the potential ice and water damage. There are 5 compressors currently not working (due to water or electrical concerns). PLM will be out tomorrow, and Len is going to ask them to pull those non-working compressors. It's \$100 per unit to pull and store for the winter, so that will be \$1600 for all of them. The caps for the airlines have been ordered and will be placed on the airlines.

We discussed the adequacy of the dog houses and the current size for ventilation and insulation of noise. This may need to be addressed in the future.

There are a few sites where the electrical hookups are likely to be damaged by the ice. At this time it doesn't appear that much could be done to prevent it. Phil and Len have interviewed another electrician and his rates are better than Kerwin's.

## **Meter Reading**

N/A

## **Lake Quality**

See above re compressors.

## **Communications**

Ken reported we have 51% of resident emails. They are making great progress with the email blasts and Facebook updates.

## **Legal/Safety**

N/A

## **Membership**

We believe we have exceeded our goal, but Jim was not here to confirm. Neil stated that there are some on the lake that have asked whether they needed to pay their dues this year since they didn't get to use the lake. He had a great explanation for those who asked him that it was more important now than ever.

## **Next Board Meeting**

The next meeting will be October 16th at Amy's at 7:30 PM.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm**