

MANISTEE LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD

Mike Neubecker Chairman Coldsprings Twp	Francis Kelly Co Drain Comm	Wayne Jonker Sec/Treas
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Norm Groner Excelsior Twp	Stuart McKinnon Kalkaska Co Comm
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MLIB Public Hearing minutes 8/18/2012

The Hearing of Practicability of the MLIB was held on August 18, 2012 at the CETA Hall on CoRd 571 Kalkaska County Michigan. The meeting was called to order by Norm G at 10:04am.

Roll call for board members indicated Mike N absent, Norm G, Stuart M, Francis K, and Wayne J present.

Also present was Tony Groves from Progressive AE and 15 guests.

Norm G read the Notice of Hearing of Practicability and Review of the Manistee Lake Special Assessment Roll. Norm G then asked for any questions or comments.

Robert Steinbrecher made comments on how he felt the MLIB could stop everything but the stocking of the weevils. If all other expenses were gone there would be a savings of \$19,000.00 a year and the assessment could be lowered. Robert S feels what the AuSable Institute does fill the gap for the rest of the programs. Robert S also stated that the original 3 years at \$39,000.00 a year and now a 5 year program at \$39,000.00 a year was some kind of taxation trick. Norm G responded the first assessment was an actual tax for 3 years, but the money actually got spread out over a 5 year program. Wayne J also responded the AuSable Institute goes out twice a year to only 2 or 3 spots and take water samples along with a few weed samples to use in the classroom. They do share those findings but it is limited to those spots and doesn't give a good picture of the entire lake. Tony G also responded that it is not a duplication of effort. The Institute is structured for what they want the students to study in the classroom. They don't look at the weeds or monitor the weeds, but take samples for the classroom. Progressive AE monitors the entire lake and takes water and weed samples at 149 places around the lake plus 4 places for water quality. Then puts all that information into a database which is shared with the weevil people so they know where the weevils need to be stocked in the lake. The MLIB program has worked very well. Every thing has been done that was set out to do on a 3 year program that lasted 5 years and there is only about \$200.00 left at the end of this year.

Tony G also went on to report on the success of Fish Improvement Team, (FIT), especially with the sucker removal program and the building of a relationship with the MDNR.

Robert S also asked about what the \$5,000.00 for fisheries management was for. Tony G responded that what the MLIB and the FIT are looking to do is broaden or expand what has been done in the past. For not only the population of the Walleye, but to create a better fish habitat for all fish in the lake to live and spawn. To make it so all fish eggs can incubate and survive. Wayne J said the estimates for this project were just over \$20,000.00. Norm G added that putting this money in the fisheries management would

show the MDNR that we are serious about this project. We already know the MDNR is happy with the hard work and success of the fisheries program, that is why we were the first lake in Michigan to get restocked with Walleye last year. Robert S responded that he approved of all the programs of the MLIB.

Dan Sharpe asked because he was new to the lake how would the tax be paid? Norm G answered it would be added to his property tax bill. Dan S asked how this board and all came about being established? Norm G explained the process and why the MLIB was formed. Dan S said from what he has heard it sounds like a good program and he is in total support.

Joanne Eastman asked when was the last time weevils were stocked in the canal? Joanne E stated, never, but we pay the taxes and get no benefit. Our canal is full of milfoil, where and when are the weevils stocked. Tony G responded that weevils are planted out in the lake in the spring in heavy milfoil beds because they need that to live. Then the weevils spread out very prolifically around the whole lake. They are not stocked specifically in front of someones property. Tony G went on to say that in the spring survey he would have his people check the canal. Joanne E did state she was in favor of the MLIB programs.

Robert Stein stated he has been on this lake for 17 years and basically hasn't seen any difference in the lake in those 17 years. He is against the MLIB budget because he doesn't feel these programs are beneficial to everyone and that the lake level is the main problem. The lake is so low that he or his neighbors cannot get their boats off the boat docks. Robert S feels that lake level should be the only concern. Francis K responded that Kalkaska County will not approve or spend the money on lake level control. Tony G responded that this board has no authority to do lake level control with out the counties approval. Wayne J commented that the lake level control with the upstream and downstream as well as maintaining the lake level liabilities, along with permitting fees, maintenance fees and possible augmentation fees, make lake level control cost prohibitive even over a lot of years. Robert S stated he is against the assessment.

Seth Phillips supports continuing the programs because of the successes and the knowledge learned. Seth P strongly feels the programs have to continue to maintain the quality of the lake which also maintains property values.

Tom Kamanski stated he has been on the lake for 21 years and he is in full support of the boards programs. The problems he has seen on the lake have improved, such as weeds in the propeller. Tom K wants the board to continue.

Richard and Lisa Delaney stated they are in support of all programs. Richard D compared the assessment to an insurance policy. What is paid each year in assessment \$130.00 and the return received for it. To buy an insurance policy for the same would be way more money to protect our property.

Earl and Jeanine Roe approves and supports all programs of the MLIB. Also agrees with R&L Delaney's comments.

Harvey and Rosemary Brow feel if you want service you have to pay for it. H&R Brow support the MLIB programs and feel it is a great value.

Robert Steinbecker stated he approves the assessment and the programs, especially the weevil program though he did not understand. Tony G responded and explained how the weevil population survives over winter and natural factors like fish predication can effect the life cycle of the weevils.

Ray Osak who lives on the canal asked for a definite answer if someone was going to come out and look at the canal. Tony G answered yes. Ray O knowing someone was going to come out and survey the canal, supported and approved all programs.

Burt Applebaum stated he was all for the programs since the start and every property owner on the lake should be. Burt A thanked everyone involved for their hard work and efforts. Norm G thanked Burt A and also commented that he was also in support of all programs since the start .

Wayne J brought out a letter from Dennis M Baryj of E Shore Dr. objecting to the special assessment. Dennis B claims that none of the programs work and that the lake should be sprayed, which is a chemical treatment. Dennis B feels the MLIB continues to destroy the property values and the lakes economy. Tony G responded that the MLA and the MLIB have supported a biological approach to the treatment of the lake. The jury is still out on this approach, but we have seen the milfoil suppressed, we will continue to monitor and document that. Norm G stated, how can we tell if we hadn't done this what the lake would be like now? Nobody knows.

Norm G asked if anyone else had any questions or comments? No reponse.

Francis K made a resolution to close this meeting. Wayne J seconded and approved. Norm G closed the meeting at 11:04am.

Wayne R Jonker  
MLIB sec/trea

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MLIB Public Hearing Minutes 8/18/2012

The hearing of the Special Assessment Roll of the MLIB was held at the CETA Hall CoRd 571 Kalkaska County Michigan following the Hearing of Practicability. The meeting was called to order by Norm G at 11:20AM.

Roll call for board members indicated Mike N absent, Norm G, Francis K, Stuart M, and Wayne J present.

Also present was Tony G from Progressive AE

Norm G stated that the purpose of this hearing is the review of the Special Assessment Roll. Norm G asked if there were any objections to the special assessment roll. Wayne J responded only one by letter from Dennis Baryj. There were no other objections.

Norm G asked for any other public comments. None noted.

Stuart M wanted it noted that after the first hearing that all property owner guests had left and none were present at this hearing. Stuart M wanted recorded from the first meeting how the people responded. Wayne J reported

Non-property owners that were present but in total support  
Norm G, Stuart M, Francis K, and Tony G

Property owners that were present in total support  
Wayne Jonker, Robert Steinbrecher, Dan Sharpe, Joanne Eastman, Seth & Carol Phillips, Tom Kamanski, Richard & Lisa Delaney, Earl & Jeanine Roe, Harvey & Rosemary Brow, Ray Osak, Burt Applebaum,

Property owners who were present but not in support  
Robert Stein

Property owners not present but included in letter of support by the MLA  
Shug Brandell, Keith Gancer, Chuck Vernon, John Schiller, Norm LaCroix, Bill Brandell, Pam Gancer, Gerald Gancer.

Property owner not present but sent letter of non support  
Dennis M Baryj

23 property owners support 2 property owners do not support. 4 non property owners support.

Stuart M stated he was looking at the improvement program for the next 5 years. Stuart M went over the annual cost for each improvement and asked how the money would be used and with what results? Tony G responded to each with a full explanation of the purpose for each and how it would be done, and the results that are expected.

Tony G presented the bill from Morningstar Publishing for posting notices in the newspaper totaling \$161.20.

Norm G moved to approve the resolution of collecting special assessment. Seconded by Francis K. all ayes and approved.

Stuart M noted the board did not have the list. Tony G responded that the list is unchanged. The properties are the same only a few names on some properties has changed. Tony G went on that by law the borders cannot change, so the properties on the roll are the same and remains unchanged.

Stuart M made a motion to affirm the assessment roll. Seconded by Francis K all ayes and approved.

Norm G asked when do we want to have the next meeting? Discussion on when to have the meeting in a timely enough fashion to get assessment on tax notices and when is everyone available. The next meeting date was set for September 13, 2012 at the Excelsior Township Hall CoRd 612 Kalkaska County Michigan.

Stuart M made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Norm G seconded all ayes and approved. Norm G closed the meeting at 11:50am.

Wayne R Jonker  
MLIB sec/treas