

SECORD LAKE ASSOCIATION INC.

Public Board Meeting

May 15, 2021

MINUTES

Secord Lake Association (SLA) Public Board meeting was called to order via Zoom at 10:00 A.M by Phil Dast. Board members present: Phil Dast, Chuck Secora, Sue Morgan, Jeanne Ballor, Rita Lewis, Richard West, Tami Johanson, Mike Szuch and Gregory Scharf.

Secretary's report: Motion to approve minutes from April Public Board meeting was made, seconded and passed. Jeanne thanked Sue and Tami for their assistance during the past month. No further report.

Treasurer's report: Current General Fund balance is \$17,226.17. Current Secord Dam Fund balance is \$4,690.42. Monthly service fee for dam fund was \$17.00; this amount was transferred from the general fund account to the dam fund account. Motion to approve report made, seconded and passed.

Bills presented were \$53.00 for Zoom usage and \$214.80 for Golf Tournament expenses incurred by Jeanette Houser/Fundraising Committee. Motion made, seconded and passed to pay these bills.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS: Phil began the meeting by introducing our new Board members, Mike Szuch and Gregory Scharf. Each introduced themselves to membership with a brief statement. Guest speakers were also introduced: Mike Szuch and Bob North.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Phil reminded our members that committees are open to all members. The following reports were made.

Membership: Sue reported that SLA currently has 233 members. Dues are paid annually by calendar year and are payable now. Sandy is working on an update to our website that would show a member's dues status when payment is being made online.

Election: Jeanne talked about the upcoming August election of Board members. It is uncertain if in-person meetings will be permitted under Covid guidelines, so it is likely to be a Zoom meeting. However, it would be ideal to have an in-person meeting if permissible. The committee will be meeting to discuss how to hold an election both in-person and via Zoom. A further report will be made next month.

Promotions: A meeting is scheduled for this week, and a report will be made next month.

Fundraising: The Golf Scramble is set for September 25, 2021 at Gladwin Heights Golf Course. Flyers regarding auction donations and hole sponsors are being distributed as well as registration forms for golfers and teams. Information is on the website. The cost is \$75 per person or \$300 per team.

Communications: Chuck presented a slide show and information about the new Restore the Lakes campaign. This arose from the perceived need by members to communicate with our elected officials in support of the FLTF plan to bring back Secord Lake, a goal shared by SLA and the majority of Lake residents and local businesses. Writing letters and sending emails keeps these officials aware of our support and our desire to bring back the lake as soon as possible. It is through these communications that we can obtain as much financial support from federal, state and local governments to help pay for the dam repairs and lower the special assessment amounts. It is easy to write to these officials, as forms are posted on the SLA website. Most of the officials prefer emails, but snail mail works too. There is power in numbers; the more letters that are sent, the more the officials stay aware of the issue and our support. SLA is working with the other 3 lake associations to achieve this goal. Chuck talked about one couple who between them sent out 32 emails last

week; they have heard back from 3 of our officials: John Moolenaar, US Representative; Debbie Stabenow, US Senator from Michigan; and Jason Wentworth, Michigan House of Representatives. More information is available at RestoreTheLakes.org.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

Phil introduced Mike Szuch, who in addition to serving on SLA Board is also a newly appointed Gladwin County Commissioner. Mike spoke briefly about how he hopes to be able to keep SLA members up to date on County matters that specifically affect our membership.

Phil then introduced Bob North, Gladwin County Emergency Manager. Bob presented information and maps of the Tittabawassee River watershed in Gladwin, which is fed by run-off from Ogemaw and Roscommon Counties. This geographic reality is why the flooding was so bad last year. There are 35 dams in Gladwin County alone. Everyone who lives in Gladwin County should be prepared in the event of a dam failure or other emergency. An emergency kit should have enough supplies for 7 days including food, water, medications, pet food and the like. For more detailed information about preparing an emergency kit, check out the information at FEMA.gov or Ready.gov.

Bob then discussed the current lack of rain and fire safety. The County website has information about current burn bans. Individuals can be held financially responsible for the costs of putting out a fire if it was not safely tended, even if there was a permit for the fire.

Bob discussed lake bottom vegetation. Under current guidelines, property owners cannot remove anything from the lake bottoms, nor can the soil be disturbed. Although weed whacking is ok, cutting of stumps is not permissible.

Five hundred wells were affected by the flooding of a year ago; 200 were cleaned and disinfected. Three hundred have been lost as the lake water level has dropped. Out of the 300, 230 new permits have been issued. The new wells are improved as they are deeper. The process for getting FEMA help for flood losses, including wells, requires that the homeowner first exhaust local and state assistance. FEMA assistance is only available for primary homes, not second or vacation homes. Bob suggested that the local and/or state agencies should be considering how to help the secondary home owners, as they pay taxes in both places.

Bob reminded members about NIXEL alert system. It has been improved so there is one system for all types of alerts. To sign up, text 48624 to 888777 from cell phones. Land lines are not currently included, but they are working on this issue.

Phil then presented a FLTF update. The second quarter meeting is June 1. The meeting last Thursday covered the results of the survey showing that the majority want the lakes returned. The issue is who will pay for it. It is very important to participate in the Restore the Lakes campaign. The State of Michigan is looking at all the dams in the state, and essentially if owners do not take care of their dams, they will lose the dams. FLTF this year is not focusing on the dam operation assessment, which would not raise enough money to help very much, but rather is on fund raising so the total assessment can be reduced. Phil closed the meeting by reminding us of all the progress that has been made in the past year. He encouraged positivity about this progress. The negativity of 2020 cost FLTF 3 months and about \$100,000 in attorney fees. SLA members need to step up to keep the construction schedule moving ahead.

The next public meeting is the 3d Saturday in June. Further information about that meeting will be posted. Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed. Meeting was adjourned at 11:00.

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