



Magician Lake Improvement Association

July 16, 2007

Minutes of the Magician Lake Improvement Association's Annual Meeting, July 14, 2007

The meeting was held at Silver Creek Township hall and was called to order by President Kay Dukesherer at 9:02 AM EDT. According to the sign in sheet, 54 members were in attendance and 2 guests. Board members present were President Kay Dukesherer, Vice President Craig McCoy, Treasurer Dick Morey, Secretary Bill Boehnlein, Board members Dan Kuruzar and Charlotte Poole.

Kay asked if the attendees had read the prior annual meeting minutes posted on the web site. Only a few indicated they had but Terry Wittorp made a motion that the minutes be approved as posted. Mary Duncan seconded the motion. Following a show of hands, the motion passed.

Kay then discussed the weed identification program conducted with Dowagiac Union High School. She mentioned there was some difficulty coordinating this bi-annual project since school was out for the summer before most people had their pontoons in and again in the fall, most pontoons were already by the time the weed collection was scheduled. She said we will attempt to schedule the fall collection in early September to make more volunteers available with pontoons. She also mentioned that the school was incorporating this project into their science curriculum.

Kay also reported that two invasive weeds are pictured in the latest newsletter and asked that everyone be on the lookout for them and to remind everyone visiting to make sure their boats have been cleaned before bringing them to our lake.

The next topic was water safety. Among the most frequent violations are operating jet skis after dusk, going the wrong direction, violating the 100 foot or no wake rule, and reckless operation. Sgt. Phil Esarey of the Cass County Sheriff's Marine Division was in attendance and addressed the membership. He stated that last year they were patrolling Magician 88 hours, made 422 contacts, and issued 39 citations. Most of the citations were no registration or operating with no boater safety certificate. They also issued 93 warnings and responded to 10 complaints. His department is currently 5 part time patrolmen and himself operating mostly on weekends. He reported that their budget has been significantly cut and that will subsequently reduce the amount of hours they will be able to spend on any lake. He did mention that most of this funding is from boat registrations and federal sales taxes. There is some supplement from the Coast Guard as well. He stated Michigan is always one of the top three in the nation in boater registration and sometimes number one. The other two are California and Florida and they require registering row boats, canoes, etc. He said that the best way to file a complaint is to call Sheriff's dispatch. If you call the Marine Division, he may not get the message in a timely fashion since he's not in the office very much. He further stated that you would have to be willing to appear in court if you do make a complaint to testify about the incident but if you prefer not to appear, you can ask to be anonymous and they can address the party in the complaint and just give them a copy of the rules and explain the purported violation. A question was raised about private funding of additional hours for the Marine Patrol and Sgt. Esarey said that other lake associations do this and it is \$25.00 per hour with a 2 hour minimum except at sunset when the must charge for and have 2 officers present. After some discussion, Mr. Mulvaney made a motion that the lake association fund additional hours to patrol Magician. The motion was seconded by Mr. Willey. Further discussion of this motion prompted an amendment to limit the amount of hours funded to 25 for this season. This amendment was made by Chris Keating and seconded by Dan Kuruzar. Following the vote, both the motion and amendment passed. Dan Kuruzar is to coordinate proposed hours with Sgt. Esarey and get concurrence with the board.

Dick Morey then presented the association budget which is shown below.

**MAGICIAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
BUDGET 2007**

<u>OPENING BALANCE</u>			<u>\$4,484</u>
INCOME	210 Renewals	\$4,200	
	20 new members	400	
	6 Advertisers x \$80	480	
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>			<u>\$5,080</u>
EXPENSES	Recruitment	300	
	4 News Letters	900	
	Michigan Lake/Stream	289	
	Riparian Magazine	1,416	
	Michigan Lake/Stream Conferences		
	Spring and Fall	750	
	DUHS Project	400	
	Monitoring/Water Testing	200	
	MLIA Insurance	1,062	
	Training	300	
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>			<u>\$5,617</u>
<u>ESTIMATED BALANCE</u>			<u>\$3,947</u>

One member asked about the insurance and Dick explained that it was required for liability for all the board members and officers.

Kay Dukesherer then related that there was an opening on the association board due to the resignation of Dick Stauffer. Dick had cited lack of time due to some new responsibilities as his reason for resigning. Kay thanked Dick for the time and effort he had given to the association. Dick Judd nominated Jim Sullivan for this position and Mary McCoy seconded the nomination. The board voted to accept Jim as a Director on the association's board.

Kay then discussed that this was the year for renewal of officers of the board. She related that this was her second 3 year term as President and felt that, while she still wants to contribute as a board member, she would like to step down as President. After some discussion, Craig McCoy motioned that Charlotte Poole be appointed President and Kay Dukesherer appointed Director to replace Charlotte's position. The board accepted this motion, thanked Kay for her hard work and efforts over the terms of her presidency and welcomed Charlotte in her new role.

Kay then introduced Craig Smith from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Craig spoke about conservation and the majority of questions he receives concern weeds and invasive species like zebra mussels. He mentioned a publication titled Conservation guidelines for Michigan lakes and associated natural resources as a great resource for most questions. He stated this publication can be seen at <http://www.michigandnr.com/PUBLICATIONS/PDFS/ifr/ifrilibra/special/reports/SR38.pdf>. It was suggested that this link be posted to our web site. Bill Boehnlein will post it in the very near future. Craig also spoke of the newest fish virus, VHS. He said it's the most deadly virus yet in Michigan. It was transported in ballast waters from the Atlantic Coast and through minnow and bait exposed to it. He stated it results in severe hemorrhaging in fish resulting in death. A pending legislation was mentioned to not allow transfer of any bait from one body of water to another but Craig stated it is still in review.

Howard Poole asked about stocking Magician and Craig responded that they have stopped the stocking planned for this year because of the virus. Normally the DNR stocks Magician with walleye about every other year. They plan to start this again next year pending findings concerning the virus. They normally stock 50 to 60 one inch fingerlings per acre of water.

Another question was asked concerning control of bass tournaments. Craig remarked that this is controlled through the Parks and Recreation Department because they have to register for the access sites. He also mentioned that the number of tournaments is being reduced on Magician from about 45 to 32 per year.

Charlotte Poole mentioned that she had researched the possibility of purchasing fish to stock Magician but found it now very cost effective. Craig Smith mentioned that he felt that was not something an association should do. He did say that an association can partner with the DNR to raise the fish in a pond and provide the food and so on and then the DNR would take the fish and stock the lake with them.

Terry Wittorp asked Craig if he would explain the MEANDR project. Craig said that MEANDR (Meeting Ecological & Agricultural Needs with Dowagiac River) is a project, nearing completion to restore a portion of the Dowagiac River around Dodd Park to a meandering river. He said some time ago this portion of the river was straightened and created a faster moving stream and eliminated the environment conducive to trout spawning in the river.

Howard Poole then asked what could be done to improve the fish and wildlife habitat on Magician. Craig responded that improving the near shore habitat is best for Magician. Rocks, logs and other places for fish to seek refuge and shelter from wave action will improve their habitats.

Kay Dukesherer then thanked Craig for attending our meeting. She then mentioned that, following this meeting, Rick Rasmussen would be available to discuss the book he partnered with Floyd Jerdon to publish. She stated that the book was a history of the Sister Lakes area as depicted on post cards. She also mentioned that he would have copies of the book available for sale.

Kay then asked if there was any new business and if not asked for a call to adjournment. Bill Boehnlein motioned for adjournment, Dick Morey seconded and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:35AM EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Boehnlein
Secretary Magician Lake Improvement Association