

## Horsehead Lake Association Meeting

May 11, 2024

### Present:

Karen Bakewell  
Terry Bakewell  
Dan Carpenter  
Jerry Devenbaugh  
Dave Haywood

Fred Kuebler  
Paul Mercieca  
Bruce Costen  
Mike Munsell

Tracey Thelen  
Dave Haywood  
Charlie Foster  
Donna Rutter

### Excused:

Dom Theodore  
Mike Munsell  
Jade Wilson  
Kathy Battle

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order and the Board welcomed guests Rick and Elli Stanley, Cheryl Haywood, Jacklyn Humphry, Bruce Ratter, Gerald Hind and Chuck Thelen. There were no public comments.

### REVIEW OF MINUTES

April meeting minutes were not reviewed because copies of the minutes were not available. Approval of the minutes will take place at the June meeting.

### REVIEW AND APPROVE TRESURER REPORT

Karen Bakewell reported the balance in the general fund is \$8,739.49 with a reserve fund remaining at \$5,000.00. The Fish Management fund balance is \$4919.13. The Fireworks pass through is \$10,802.50. A motion to add an additional expense to the 2024 HLA Budget: \$300 for 10-year agreement - HLA web URL renewal with GoDaddy to register the actual website address and reserve the website name for the use of the HLA. – motion carried

Motion to approve the treasurer report by Bruce Costen; seconded by Donna Rutter. Unanimous

**Membership** -YTD is 189 up 5 vs L.Y. at this time.

### OLD BUSINESS

1. **Lake Ecology and Fish Management** - Terry Bakewell and Dan Carpenter returned from the MLSA Conference and reported on several topics. Terry reported on property easements and septic tank topics.

Terry attended a breakout with a speaker that discussed property easements. The summary of the discussion is that the original legislation was adopted in 1945 with the intent of defining more precisely who has interest in Michigan properties. The law was modified or amended in 2018, 2020, and 2022. From a layman's perspective, the language of the proposed legislation is vague and confusing. While it seems to primarily impact home owners' associations (HOAs), it could impact individual property owners. If your access to a lake or waterway depends on using another person's property, or if other owners use your property for access there may be a need to look into the potential impact. The bottom line is deed restrictions and covenant agreements that were made prior to 1985 may be unenforceable if not renewed. If you have any concerns about the language of your deed, you may wish to consult with an attorney

Terry also reported on septic systems. Michigan is currently the only state that does not have a unified standard septic code. In most areas in Michigan, septic systems for single residences are only inspected when new systems are constructed, or local permits are issued for repair or replacement. Currently there are 4 proposed bills in committee for review.

Dan Carpenter reported on wake boats and natural lake front solutions. A PowerPoint presentation was reviewed on current ecological damage that wake boats can cause. There is currently legislation in the state committee to change the restriction to operate wake boats in waters no closer to shore than 500 feet and in waters no less than 15 feet deep.

If you want to contact a representative with your opinion of the new wake boat legislation proposal, please reach out the lawmakers below.

The contact the chairperson of the committee -Laurie Pohutskey her email [ilauriepohutskey@house.mi.gov](mailto:ilauriepohutskey@house.mi.gov)

The State Representative for our district is Tom Kunse - [tomkunse@house.mi.gov](mailto:tomkunse@house.mi.gov)

A representative from EGLE presented the positive effects of converting lake fronts back to natural vegetation. He explained that it is easy to get permits from EGLE to make the conversion and where to find help on their website on how to design a shoreline.

There was much discussion on fish planting and if we should switch to planting hybrid bluegills. There was a suggestion to send out a survey to all the members who donate to the fish fund to get their thoughts. Discussion tabled until next meeting.

**2. Community Outreach** - Skin Deep Studio in Mecosta has offered to sponsor the goody bags for the kid's fishing tournament. There has been many doorhanger bags delivered.

**3. Communication/Newsletter** – Tracey Thelen will take over the newsletter once Kathy Battle moves. Thanks to Kathy for all of her work on the newsletter and to Tracey for taking over this large undertaking.

**4. Annual Meeting-** Discussion was tabled until next meeting

**5. Lake Levels** – There was no update on current lake levels. There was a comment from a few members that the water level is good and varies slightly based on how much rain we receive.

**8. Goose Nest and Egg Destruction Permits** - The number of geese is down this year and there are noticeably fewer nests. Currently we surveyed 5 nests and destroyed 27 eggs. Thanks to all volunteers who participated in the program

**9. Lake Survey** - Discussion was held regarding a possible lake survey. Based on information Terry received at the conference, a lake survey would run around \$20,000. One suggestion is that maybe a Go Fund Me set up if we move forward. More discussion will be needed.

**10. Re-imagining the Horsehead Lake Logo** -We have received 2 submissions for the logo re-design. More submissions may come in. The committee will revisit at the next meeting and the designs will be presented at the annual meeting

**11. Shrink Wrap Recycling Initiative** – Currently we have sold 5 recycling bags. How do we get more exposure on this program?

**12. Living at the Lake, Tips and Recommendations.** Tabled

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on June 8 (Martiny Township hall not available), July 13, August 10 (Annual Meeting @ Martiny Township Pavilion), September 14, and October 12. NOTE: There will be not meeting on November 9, 2024.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn by Dan Carpenter; seconded by Charlie Foster, Unanimous.