

**Spring Lake - Lake Board
Meeting Minutes**
Spring Lake Township Hall
101 S. Buchanan Street
June 12, 2024
4:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm.

Members Present: John Nash, Joe Bush, Roger Bergman, Dave Billingham, Brenda Moore, Michelle Hazecamp, Roger Vanderstelt and Samantha Verplank.

Members Absent: Mike Rolf

Also Present: Tony Groves and Paul Hausler, Progressive Companies

Public Present: Jason Koert, Kevin Priddy, Rick Soldo, Sue Halter, Rosalie Covolo, Richard Carlson

Lake Board Members Introduced. As Chair Mike Rolf is absent, motion by Bergman and seconded by Vanderstelt to appoint Joe Bush as Vice Chair. All in favor.

Additions/Corrections to Agenda: None

Draft Meeting Minutes: October 23, 2023, meeting minutes reviewed. Motion by Verplank seconded by Moore to approved minutes. All in favor.

Financial Report: Bush presented a financial report dated 06/06/2024 which showed a current fund balance of \$756,693.53. It appears almost all the assessments levied on the December 2023 tax bill have been collected and are accounted for. Motion by Bergman seconded by Hazecamp to accept financial report. All in favor.

Fruitport Charter Township Board Vacancy: Due to the passing of lake board member Dave Split, Fruitport Charter Township will need to take action to appoint a replacement. Hazecamp reported that Fruitport Charter Township Supervisor Todd Dunham has expressed interest in the position. Groves to follow-up with Dunham to explain the appointment process.

Consultant's Report:

Hausler provided an overview of lake sampling and plant control work completed on the lake to date. Discussion ensued about using natural solutions for plant control, where possible. Hausler noted new restrictions in the EGLE permit for Spring Lake restrict the use of copper outside of man-made channels. This is different than in the past when algae treatments were permitted along much of the shoreline.

Groves explained the bidding process to obtain competitive bids for the pending lake alum treatment. Bidders will be required to submit a qualifications statement with their bid and be fully bonded and insured. A request for bids will be publicly advertised and bids will be due on July 17. An alum contract will be awarded to the lowest qualified bidder, not necessarily the lowest bidder. The bonding process is underway to finance the alum treatment and both Spring Lake Township and Fruitport Charter Township have adopted full faith and credit bond resolutions. The City of Ferrysburg initially tabled the resolution but will reconsider adoption at its next meeting on June 17. Groves will attend the meeting to answer questions.

DeHaan Assessment: Groves was contacted by the Spring Lake Township assessing department this past winter regarding a parcel that received a full assessment but was not on the assessment roll previously. The property owner claimed that they did not live on the lake. A site visit to the property and a review of records at the Register of Deeds office indicate that the parcel is not actually on the lake but abuts a small creek that drains to Spring Lake. However, the subject parcel does have an easement that allows lake access, but the property owner would like to extinguish the easement as the easement is no longer useable. Groves to follow-up with the property owner to obtain a written release of the easement and verification of same.

2024 Meeting Schedule: The lake board will meet at 4 pm at the Spring Lake Township Hall on July 24, August 28, and October 2 pending confirmation of the availability of the hall on those dates.

Public Comment:

Several property owners from Stahl Bayou were in attendance and discussion ensued on the condition of the bayou and the difficulties in managing the bayous given their shallow depth and lack of water circulation. Hausler to meet with several residents of the bayou later this evening to discuss options to help improve conditions in the bayou. It was noted that treatments of the lake coordinated under the direction of the lake board are conducted by a licensed applicator under a state permit. In recent years, the state has limited the scope of treatments of Spring Lake and only invasive species and select locations of the bayous can be treated.

Natural approaches to controlling plant growth such as limiting the use of phosphorus fertilizers, not throwing leaves and grass clippings in the lake, and not feeding waterfowl were discussed.

The rationale for the alum treatment was discussed and it was noted that several years of study have been conducted regarding the efficacy and safety of alum and how the alum treatment will help to reduce phosphorus levels and the severity and duration of algae blooms in Spring Lake.