

**Spring Lake - Lake Board
Meeting Minutes**
Spring Lake Township Hall
101 S. Buchanan Street
December 3, 2024
4:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm.

Lake Board Members Present: John Nash, Michelle Hazecamp, Joe Bush, Roger Bergman, Samantha Verplank, Roger Vanderstelt, Dave Billinghamurst, Rick Soldo, Jim Walters, and Brenda Moore

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Legal Counsel Stacy Hissong, Tony Groves and Paul Hausler, Progressive Companies and 5 public.

Additions/Corrections to Agenda: None

Review/Approval of Draft October 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes: Draft meeting minutes amended to add November 25, 2025 meeting date. Move by Hazecamp seconded by Bergman to accept minutes as amended. All in favor.

Financial Report: Bush presented a financial report dated 12/3/2024 which showed a current fund balance of \$691,645.61. Discussion ensued about how the financial report aligns with the annual budget. Motion by Bergman seconded by Moore to accept the financial report. All in favor.

Possible revision of special assessment district to add new parcels: Groves explained that he has been contacted by the Spring Lake Township assessing office regarding several parcels that appear to have lake access per a 1951 court order. However, these parcels have not been assessed previously as backlots with access to Spring Lake. Since the original court order, several homes have been built within the area that was proposed to provide backlot access to the lake. It is not clear that, given historical development patterns, backlot parcels still have unimpeded access to the lake. Further, there has been recent discussion before the Spring Lake Village Planning Commission regarding short term rentals in this area and lake access issues. Groves will investigate further and report back to the board.

Lake Board Bylaws: Adoption of bylaws for lake board discussed and Hissong noted lake board procedures are governed by statute and care would need to be taken if bylaws were adopted to avoid conflicts between bylaws and statutory requirements, which are subject to periodic amendment. No action taken on adoption of bylaws.

Public Comment: Ann Smith noted that there are several upcoming events including the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association annual conference in Muskegon and the MSU Extension Introduction to Lakes Online class that may be of interest to lake board members. Motion by Moore seconded by Bush that lake board members who want to register for these events would have their registration fees reimbursed by the lake board. All in favor. Groves/Hausler to follow up to inquire about having the lake board become a member of Michigan Lakes and Streams. Ann Smith also indicated that her lake assessment last year was \$600 and this year was only \$300 and said this should be checked.

Consultant's Report: Groves noted Solitude Lake Management LLC has submitted all required bonds and insurance certificates and the contract with Solitude Lake Management LLC for the alum treatment has

been finalized. At its next meeting (date pending), the lake board will need to consider adoption of a Bond Resolution to authorize the bond sale. Hausler indicated that work on the website is nearly complete and will be ready for public review shortly. The creation of a Facebook page is being considered to help to facilitate timely dissemination of information. Nash requested input from board members on issues of concern and board members responded that fertilizer use, stormwater management, minimizing the use of chemicals, drainage from Norris Creek, pollution from septic tanks, chloride runoff, who gets plant control treatments and why, project communication, and watershed management in general are priority issues that should be addressed moving forward.

Crockery Lake Association – County Funding Request – Bush reported that the request for funding for the Crockery Lake project was approved earlier today by the county finance and administration committee pending final approval by the county board of commissioners at their December 10, 2024, meeting. This project has generated controversy in that the project is proposed to be fully funded by the county without a financial contribution or commitment from Crockery Lake residents. In addition, it is likely that other lake groups in the county will now request that the county fund their projects.

Review of Legal Opinion (Closed Session): Move by Bergman seconded by Moore to move into closed session to discuss Legal Opinion. Roll call vote: Nash, yes; Hazecamp, yes; Bush, yes; Bergman, yes; Verplank, yes; Billingham, yes; Soldo, yes; Moore, yes; Walters, yes. All in favor.

Designation of Lake Board Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Coordinator: Move by Hazecamp seconded by Moore to formally recognize/appoint the office of the Ottawa County Water Resources Commissioner to serve as Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Coordinator of the Spring Lake - Lake Board and to allow the FOIA Coordinator to designate Lake Board counsel or other consultants to act on their behalf to respond to FOIA requests as provided in Section 6 of the Michigan Freedom of Information Act. All in favor.

Adoption of FOIA Procedures and Guidelines: Move by Hazecamp seconded by Moore to adopt the FOIA Written Procedures and Guidelines and Written Public Summary and associated materials presented to the Board by legal counsel as its official FOIA policies and documents. All in favor.

Designation of Lake Board Administrator: Groves indicated that he is scheduled to retire at the end of the year but, if the lake board desired, would stay on for an additional year to assist with the administrative aspects of the project. Lake Board members had several questions and tabled the discussion until the next meeting.

Meeting Schedule: Next meeting scheduled for March 26 at 4 pm at the Barber School. An interim meeting will be scheduled for the lake board to consider adoption of the Bond Resolution.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:00 pm