

Spring Lake - Lake Board FINAL Meeting Minutes

Spring Lake Township Offices

101 S. Buchanan Street

June 25, 2025

1. Call to Order: 4:00pm.
2. Roll Call: 9 present - Josh Brugger, Joe Bush, Rick Soldo, Michelle Hazekamp, Jim Walters, John Nash, Dave Billingham, Roger Vanderstelt, Stephanie Barrett.
3. Additions to/Corrections to/Approval of Agenda: Jim Walters moved to approve the agenda. Rick Soldo supported. *Discussion: none.* **Motion carried.**
4. Review/Approval of Draft April 14, 2025 Meeting Minutes: Stephanie Barrett mentioned Joe Bush's name was incorrect. Stephanie Barrett moved to approve the amended April draft meeting minutes. Supported by Joe Bush. *Discussion: none.* **Motion carried.**
5. Financial Report: Rick Soldo - The fund balance is 3.7 million, and we are fully funded for the Alum treatment. Met with Joe Bush's team. Looking at a financial agreement w/ Ottawa County for their services overseeing our funds. Joe Bush put together a breakdown of cost for his team - *pick-up topic after New Business*.
-Roger Vanderstelt- does not see Fruitport Twp. on the financial report. Josh Brugger replied that Fruitport's payment has been delayed due to an audit; expecting things to be settled by June/July.
Jim Walters moved to approve the financial report. Stephanie Barrett supported.
Motion carried.
6. Consultant Report/Plant Control & Alum Treatment Update: Paul Hausler -
The Alum treatment was successfully completed between April 28 - May 21. Ph sampling was done before and after the treatment. The invoice has been received, but Solitude has to sign off on the surety bond for \$2.365 million and state that the work has been completed on time.
Partial water samples were taken from the lake in June with a reading of under 20 parts per billion for phosphorus and a full set of samples will be done in August for comparison. On Monday, June 23rd, seiche readings were taken and were between 7 and 9 feet.
Regarding aquatic plant control; 1st payment was just under \$22,000.00 and the second payment was \$12,000.00. This will significantly reduce the algae blooms in the areas treated. (We can only treat a specified amount/area per year per EGLE). We will look into harvesting the celery and bidding it out, but we need a permit from EGLE. We can plan this over the winter and be ready to harvest next spring/summer.

- John Nash wants to make sure the board gets info out to the townships in a timely manner using a uniform presentation to provide factual information.
- Jim Walters- has been invited to speak on a podcast with (Michigan Sea grant) and discuss our experiences with the Alum treatments.
- Joe recommended a tour of the Lake in August as a board.

7. Technical Committee Update Report (Soldo & Walters):

Rick Soldo- Held two meetings, one with Paul Hausler and Jim Walters and a second meeting with Joe Bush and Stephanie Barrett in attendance. It was decided that a Watershed Management Plan is a critical focus area. Discovered there was a plan created years ago that can be utilized. Jim Walters put it into an AI podcast and it produced a great outcome. It was asked of Progressive to produce an estimated cost for creating a Watershed Management Plan. Progressive gave a quote of \$109,000.00. Ottawa County Conservation District offered to help create a plan at a significantly reduced rate. *Discussion:* consider asking municipalities surrounding the lake to help with funding. The plan must be EGLE approved.

-Ben Jordan & Sarah Bowman from the Ottawa Co. Conservation District stated that they have secured a service contract with Ottawa County consisting of a 5 year monitoring plan for the entire county. Although there are a lot of gaps in data for Spring Lake, they are already doing work for a watershed plan on Spring Lake. Data is being collected from multiple sources within the lake. Around \$49,000.00 is needed yet to complete the study and plan, and that amount would become our portion. They are also planning to apply for a Watershed Council Support Grant from EGLE and 205J funds that are specifically for watershed management that would cover the remaining balance or a significant portion of it, thereby lowering our cost further.

It was moved by Rick Soldo to provide board support in moving forward with development of a watershed plan. John Nash supported. **Motion carried unanimously.**

8. New Business: (2) Invoices -

- First Invoice - (to Solitude in the amount of \$3, 329,738.24) Stephanie Barrett moved to approve payment of the invoice to Solitude for the Alum Treatment services in the amount of \$3,329,738.24. Rick Soldo supported. *Discussion:* Dave Billingham asked how much will be left in account after the Alum payment has been made. Josh Brugger stated that we will have just over \$375,000.00 remaining. Vote via Roll Call: **Motion passed unanimously.**
- Second Invoice - (to Dickinson Wright PLLC for \$24,323.00). Roger Vanderstelt moved to approve the payment to Dickinson Wright PLLC. for bond counsel in the amount of \$24,323.00. It was supported by John Nash. *Discussion: none.* Vote via Roll Call: **Motion passed unanimously.**

-Update regarding payment to the County Treasurer's Office for continued services rendered to the Spring Lake - Lake Board. Our finances go through 3 of their departments, taking up valuable time of the county employees while they have been

handling the Lake Board's funds for 25 years at no charge. Rick Soldo and Joe Bush came up with an estimated cost to us of \$10,250.00 per year for their continued service. Rick will be requesting bids from other CPA companies for comparison.

9. Public Comment:

- Ann Smith; Ferrysburg.
- Ken Wilison; Spring Lake Twp.

10. Next Meeting: August 27 at 4:00pm in the Barber School meeting room, 102 W. Exchange Street.

11. Adjourn: Roger Vanderstelt moved to adjourn the meeting. Joe Bush supported. The meeting was adjourned at 5:34pm.