Spring Lake - Lake Board
Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2023

Meeting called to order by Chair, John Nash at 2:10 pm.

Members Present: John Nash, Joe Bush, Craig Bessenger (alternate for Vance Meyer), Roger Bergman, Roger Vanderstelt, Dave Split, Mike Rolf (via phone and Zoom).

Members Absent: Brenda Moore and Samantha Verplank

Also Present: Shaun McLarty, Ottawa County Chief Deputy Water Resources Commissioner, Tony Groves and Paul Hausler, Progressive AE

No public in attendance

November 17, 2022, meeting minutes reviewed and accepted with no corrections or changes.

Treasure's Report: McLarty provided a draft Spring Lake – Lake Board financial report (11/18/22 through 4/6/23) that showed a current fund balance of $146,130.85. It was noted that no assessment funds were reported for Fruitport Township. Groves will contact the Fruitport Township Treasurer regarding same. Discussion ensued regarding simplifying the format of the financial report and it was noted that lake board assessments can be paid any time between December 1 and February 14 without penalty and the current format of the financial report reflects that funds are transferred to the county incrementally as they are collected. It was concluded that no changes in the format of the report are currently warranted. Groves will provide the lake board with a breakdown of the approximate assessment amounts collected by each governmental unit in the assessment district.

Motion by Bergman seconded by Bush to accept the financial report with the understanding that additional information will be forthcoming regarding assessment amounts collected by each local governmental unit and the outstanding Fruitport assessments. Motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers: Nash noted that he recently resigned his position as Spring Lake Township Supervisor. Nash has chaired the lake board since its inception and indicated he would like to resign his chair position but would remain on the lake board as the representative of Spring Lake Township. John suggested board member Mike Rolf would be a good candidate for chair. Board members acknowledged Nash's many years of service and thanked him for his leadership. The following motions were then made and approved.

Motion by Bergman seconded by Bush to accept Nash resignation as chair. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Bergman seconded by Vanderstelt to reappoint Rolf to a four-year term as the waterfront property owner representative on the lake board. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Nash seconded by Bush to elect Rolf as Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Bessenger seconded by Vanderstelt to elect Joe Bush as Secretary/Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously with the understanding that staff from Progressive AE will provide detailed meeting notes to facilitate the preparation of meeting minutes.

Consultant's Report:

Water Quality Report: The lake board was provided a copy of a report entitled 2022 Spring Lake Water Quality Monitoring Report prepared by Progressive AE that provides a discussion of historical and current water quality conditions in Spring Lake and management implications. Recent data indicates Spring Lake is highly eutrophic and that the effectiveness of the alum treatment that was conducted in 2005 is beginning to decline. A second alum treatment along with a long term watershed management strategy are being recommended to improve conditions in the lake, especially with respect to the algae blooms that have occurred in the lake in recent years.

Draft Budget (2024 to 2033): A draft budget for a new program (attached) was presented and discussed. The new program is proposed to include the same components as in previous years (i.e., aquatic plant control, plant control coordination/field evaluations, water quality monitoring, information and education, watershed management plus an alum treatment). If an alum treatment is approved, it is proposed to be financed over a 10-year period. The annual cost of the new program is $670,000 which equates to a unit assessment of about $600 per year. Several lake board members noted that the necessity of another alum treatment of Spring Lake is going to need to be explained in full as lake residents will have many questions. We must be prepared to present the factual basis for another alum treatment and the anticipated water quality benefits. It was stated that the effectiveness and longevity of a second alum treatment of Spring Lake may be enhanced since the current sediment phosphorus release rate is about one-half the release rate measured before the first alum treatment. In addition, the alum dose for this treatment would be about 20% greater than the dose applied in 2005, and today's application technology is more precise than what was used previously.

Public Hearings and Legal Counsel: Two public hearings will need to be held to proceed with a new project. The first hearing called the hearing of practicability is to obtain public input on the necessity of the project and the second hearing is on the special assessment roll. The lake board discussed a tentative date for the hearing of practicability of Monday, August 14, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the high school auditorium, if available.

Given the costs associated with the proposed new project, Groves recommended the lake board consider retaining legal counsel to assist with the public hearing proceedings and the bonding process. The law firm of Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes was recommended to assist with the hearings and the firm of Dickinson Wright was recommended as bond counsel. Groves will contact the firms to inquire about costs and availability.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 12, 2023 at 4:00 pm at the Spring Lake Township Hall. A second meeting was tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 10, 2023 also at the Spring Lake Township Hall.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:30 pm.