

PAW PAW LAKE ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes
OCTOBER 3, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Stepich at 9:03 a.m. Board members present were Joe Stepich, Ken Kregel, Len Metheny, Scott Hoadley, Ray Lechner, Charlie Pater, Kip Wright, and Barb Van Hout. Lou Presta was absent.

The **Minutes** of the Sept. 12, 2009 meeting were presented. Ken made a motion to accept, Kip seconded and the Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Len said that he will send out the financial report for September next Monday or Tuesday.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ecology Dive: There were eight divers who participated in the successful ecology dive on Sept. 13. Len said that if this dive would be held annually, more divers would put it on their schedule to participate. Len said that more boaters are needed to watch over the divers. Joe thanked Len for organizing the dive and asked him to chair this event next year, to which Len agreed.

Clean Boat/Lakes: Ken reported that a new law in 2009 requires that boats need to be clean when put into lakes. Ken also said that he has had no response from schools or senior centers to his requests for volunteers to inspect boats at the launch sites.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No Wake Signs: Joe ordered two more No-Wake signs, which will be placed on the lake next spring.

Lake Improvement: Rick Rasmussen said that the reports on Paw Paw Lake water and sediment will take three or four more weeks to analyze by the companies doing the studies. The state of Michigan is cutting back in the department giving approval for treatments based on vegetation study. If Sonar is recommended for Paw Paw Lake weed treatment, this request may need to be filed by January 1, not March 1.

Joe said that the optimistic view is that lake wide weed treatment will occur in 2010, and we should know this by January. The recommendations need to be given to the township boards soon, so that approval of the special tax assessment districts can be given. Dredging is the most controversial issue and needs to be evaluated.

Public meetings will be held this winter, but some concern was expressed for the homeowners who are out of town in the winter and cannot attend the meetings. Kip asked how these homeowners could give their input.

Rick Rasmussen and Mary Spessard have been sending out periodic updates via the PPLA website and e-mails.

NEW BUSINESS

November Meeting: Barb will call Pinecrest Industries for their 2010 prices for weed treatment, as this will be included in the Winter Newsletter. Joe will also ask through the Newsletter that homeowners place house numbers on their homes for better identification.

A discussion was held on how the Paw Paw Lake Association can remain relevant in the future to promote the best interests of Paw Paw Lake. Len and Scott suggested a survey to the membership, and Joe asked the board to reflect on the areas of safety, lake quality, governmental and social issues and come ready to discuss at the November meeting. Joe asked us to send our ideas to him a week ahead of this meeting.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Frank Jurenka said that the Paw Paw Lake Foundation has finished a survey of seawalls on the lake. Some of the concrete or metal seawalls are in bad shape, and letters could be sent to the riparian owners asking if they would change their seawalls.

Scott suggested that social programs sponsored by the PPLA should be maintained, to keep members aware of lake issues.

Kent Walczek suggested that new residents be given a 'rules of the lake' booklet, calendar of events, weed treatment information, possibly by a PPLA board member. Del Sipes stated that we used to give realtors this packet for them to pass on to new homeowners. We should ask realtors to notify us of new owners.

Bill Beddow said that he was working with Barb Callaway to get a list of every property owner on Paw Paw Lake, but it is hard to get property transfers in a timely manner.

Charlie reported that the Coloma Township attorney is writing an ordinance about proper use of de-icers on the lake.

Del Sipes said that the DNA sent him a report on the dead swans found on the lake last spring. They were killed by a fluke that lives in snails, which caused the swans to bleed to death. The Michigan Lakes & Streams meeting will be on Oct. 16 in Van Buren County.

Joe's e-mail address is ppla@comcast.net. Motion to adjourn was made and accepted.

Barbara Van Hout, Secretary