

PPLA GETS A FINANCIAL REPORT

Submitted by Bob Becker

The Paw Paw Lake Association at its Saturday meeting received an audit review from Barnes & Ross, PC and found our financial reporting sound. The firm found them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In other words, our records are accurate and we are financially solvent.

In our desire to be an open and member driven organization the board of directors acted to place approved minutes on our web site. Simply go to www.ppla.info and link to the "About Us" tab for the prior months approved minutes. This action is an excellent way for you to be apprised of issues and actions we are addressing on your behalf.

Generally, the membership audience was pleased with our handling of the issues presented due to the excessive rain we had in September. The result of the struggle to communicate with our membership (and others on the lake) as to the conditions that led to the closing of the DNR sites along with limitations to lake access; we convened a committee to assess avenues to inform our community in any crisis situation which may arise. We are building the means to do this through our email contacts and our web site to bring up to date and factual information when required. Even if you are not a member but would like to be on our email address list let us know. Contact us at pawpawlkassoc@aol.com

We discussed resurrecting the "Ecological Dive" in cooperation with the "Mud Divers" and Yacht Club. It has been number of years since their last dive and it is always interesting to see what the divers "come up with". Hopefully, a dive will take place next summer.

A date was announced for a meeting with the Michigan State Extension Service (October 29, 2008) for the purpose of considering underwriting an Economic Impact Study (EIS) and to ascertain the benefits and the related costs. Such a study has been recommended by the Spicer Group in its findings, noting an EIS could be a very important tool to assess what benefit there would be for a restorative lake initiative to our surrounding communities.

Other studies have shown lake improvements actually improve revenues for local governments due to increased property values causing local governmental bodies to embrace clean up activities as it has a benefit to their 'bottom line'. Clean lakes not only are good for lake residents but can improve the local business climate, create jobs and have in some cases have allowed for a reduction of property taxes for those living 'off the lake'. This can make lake restoration a win/win for the entire community.