

**THE DOUGLAS LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
46TH ANNUAL MEETING
AUGUST 25, 2014**

President, Nat Wilkinson called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held August 20, 2013 were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Walt Naumer referred to a handout showing a cash position of \$42,198.51 an increase of approximately \$20,000 over last year. A 3-year CD for \$13,481.55 is earning 1.3%. He stated that CD's are currently earning .8%. Walt reported a future expense will be approximately \$2,000 annually for half the cost of maintaining the boat ramp at the Douglas Lake Bar. In addition, there will be some upcoming extraordinarily large expenditures for a shoreline survey and another Eurasian Water Milfoil survey. He referred to an error in the handout under DLIA Money Market Transfer Out of \$5,000 which should read -\$5,000. He stated that income from directory sales was \$12,450 less \$3,000 for printing the last directory. The dues income is \$9,845. There being no questions, the report will be filed for audit.

President's Report

Nat Wilkinson reported that Sandy Segrist and Barbara Wilkinson are retiring from the position of zone representatives and will be replaced by Judy Greubel for Zone 11 and Evelyn Schulte for Zone 91. He stated that the DLIA dues increase was put to a vote of the membership last fall and passed by a large margin. Nat mentioned that John Kurkjian sold nearly 13,000 in 2015 directory ads. He thanked the UMBS and also the directors, board members, zone representatives, committee chairs and members, officers and volunteers for their help and support. Nat also thanked Betsy Naumer for providing cookie donations. He expressed special thanks to Holly Gedert for assuming duties in his absence.

News from the UMBS

Paul Drevnick , newly-hired aquatic scientist at UMBS, welcomed the group and invited them to participate in future UMBS programs. Paul's research program focuses on understanding responses of aquatic systems to stressors such as watershed disturbance, air pollution, and climate change. For example, he is looking at how the proposed removal of the dam on the Maple River would affect Douglas Lake.

Boat Ramp

Holly Gedert gave a PowerPoint presentation stating the Douglas Lake Road road end boat ramp was maintained by the DNR until summer 2013. A DLIA committee brought together the Cheboygan County Road Commission (CCRC), Munro Township, UMBS, the DLIA, and interested residents to come up with a solution. The CCRC owns the platted land and will maintain the road end, and Munro Township will maintain the boat ramp. Munro Township added it to their budget in March 2014. The DLIA will donate 50% of the cost of maintenance to the Township. DLIA paid \$102.34 for Afton stone for CCRC land improvements made 8/26/13, and plan to pay \$1,157.50 for ramp improvements to be done 8/27/14. Maple Bay Marine donated a dock last spring for increased safety and it helps to be a good neighbor to the adjacent property owners.

The DNR called 2 stakeholder meetings this past winter on 12/13/13 and 3/18/14. The stakeholders are: DNR Fisheries Division, CCRC, Munro Township, UMBS, and DLIA. The DNR wants to put a DNR designed boat launch facility on Douglas Lake. The DNR investigated 3

locations, and is currently concentrating on the Reinhardt Road road end area. An informative Question & Answer (Q&A) was drawn up this past summer. Members were requested to read the Q&A before responding to an Opinion Poll. The Opinion Poll showed people were against the DNR purchasing 100' of Douglas Lake shoreline for the purpose of a DNR designed boat launch facility. The DLIA Executive Board took a vote on the issue and voted against it. On 7/14/14, the DLIA sent a letter to the DNR copying the CCRC, Cheboygan County Planning and Zoning, Munro Township, UMBS, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, and DLIA committee members. Included in the letter were all the written responses members made in the Opinion Poll.

A Special Use Permit is required for a boat launch. If such a permit is requested for any piece of property, the property owners with 300' will be notified of a public hearing at least 15 days in advance. A notice will be published in the Cheboygan Tribune.

After reading our opposition letter, the DNR replied that they needed more time to review the member responses. The DNR requested State appraisal of the Reinhardt Road property has not yet happened.

During a Q&A following the boat ramp presentation, Holly noted that there are many properties for sale around Douglas Lake. The DNR may research any of the available properties. It was suggested from the floor that we begin communications with the local DNR commissioner.

Website

In Chick Hershberger's absence, Nat Wilkinson reported that the website is being used and is being kept updated.

Internet

Joan Hartwig reported that RACC is negotiating with the UMBS to get internet access on the UMBS tower, however they need 20-25 customers and have approximately 15 to date. A sign-up sheet will be at the rear of the room. She stated that Chick Hershberger is looking into Mi Spot, an internet provider with a tower in Brutus and Levering.

Invasive Species

Pete Klaas reported that an information sign has been placed at the boat ramp. He talked to a group attending a Bass Anglers tournament in late May and gave them brochures. He also talked with Maple Bay Marine. They put the Clean Boats Clean Waters brochures and stickers on their counter and are reminding people to clean their boats and trailers so they do not transport aquatic material. There have been no reports of unusual aquatic plants. Pete mentioned that if anything unusual is noticed, please obtain a sample and advise Kevin Cronk or the UMBS.

Loon Report

Dave Thompson reported that loon rafts were placed in the lake in mid-April. Two baby loons were hatched in Fishtail Bay, however, no eggs were noticed in Maple Bay. He stated that next year an additional raft will be placed in Marl Bay. Dave reported that the Pike Marsh has been put on hold at the request of the DNR.

Environmental News

Nat Wilkinson highlighted a written report prepared by John Kafer, Treasurer of the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (TOMWC). He stated that the past year has seen a number of project completions, including the renovation of Tannery Creek as it enters Lake Michigan in Petoskey, a project funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Volunteer stream and

lake monitoring, and monitoring of aquatic invasive species all continue to expand. While TOMWC members are still very focused on issues surrounding hydraulic fracturing (fracking), they are also expressing concern about the Enbridge #5 pipeline as it crosses the Straits of Mackinaw and continues south underground, passing approximately 3/8 mile from Douglas Lake's North Fishtail Bay. This pipeline is 60 years old and is still carrying 22.7 million gallons of oil and natural gas liquids per day. Another item of interest is that TOMWC has explored offering educational service through organizations with already established expertise and infrastructure. They learned that there is a need for education on topics surrounding water issues. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is actively searching for a second boat launch site on Douglas Lake and the DLIA has provided them survey results indicating strong resistance to their action. Membership donations to the TOMWC have increased this year which indicates the membership truly values the organization.

Mark Paddock introduced Bob Vande Kopple, UMBS resident biologist, who has been tracking water levels. Mark reported that this spring the lake level was the 2nd highest recorded in the last 40 years. He stated that last winter there were 53 days of below zero weather. Mark mentioned that the Gederts had loons nesting on land on their property, however, the raccoons invaded the nest. Next year a raft will be placed near that area. Mark stated the environment of Douglas Lake is woods and fields around the lake of which UMBS owns 10,000 acres. He said the Stewards keep the trails open. He reported that the Stewards will be traveling this week to the Chase Osborn Preserve. The University owns the 3,800 acres on Sugar Island on the St. Marys River in the Upper Peninsula. Mark mentioned that the DLIA does road clean-up p on US-31 and the UMBS Stewards clean up 7 miles on the Riggsville Road twice a year.

Guest Speaker

Kevin Cronk of Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (TOMWC) gave an overhead presentation stating a 3-year plan for a shoreline survey will begin next summer for Douglas Lake. The last one was done in 2001-2002 and should be done every 3 years. He shared a few results from area lakes to give us a feel for topics covered. The first year is the survey and the TOMWC works on results over the winter. A summary report is provided the 2nd year with questionnaires and materials sent to property owners that have issues. The 3rd year consists of site visits and advice for those who are willing to make changes. The cost of the survey to the DLIA depends on the number of issues discovered.

People help their lake by properly maintaining their septic systems, not fertilizing, and creating a natural shoreline. A unified effort works best because one neighbor's shoreline can affect the next.

New Business

There was no new business.

Election of Officers

Evelyn Schulte stated the Nominating Committee presents the following slate for officers: Holly Gedert for President, Frank Beaver for Vice President and Joan Hartwig for Secretary. The officers were elected by acclamation.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Schulte, Secretary