

Moose Lake Advancement Association Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 24, 2024 at the Leyden Residence

Present: Rory Leyden, Hilarie Puestow, Yvonne Lindl , Tom Kielma, Bob Mikulec, Sue Laabs, and Lynn Leidel. Absent: Tammy Gallagher and Gery Sawall

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.
2. High water levels - Currently the lake level is 12 & 5/8" above the ordinary high water mark - approximately 2" higher than it was 2 weeks ago. In 2020, the lake level was at 16 & 3/8" above the ordinary high water mark. The lake is currently 3 & 3/4" below that level.
3. Rory provided a summary of his understanding of the high water issue. We have properties that are regularly flooding. At one time there was a stream between Moose and Okauchee Lakes. The DNR is the governmental body that needs to approve any drain solution to the problem. Before the DNR gives its approval, it will require a plan and an environmental impact study.
4. Next steps – At the June 12, 2024 Spring meeting, the members authorized the Board to spend up to \$5,000 to advance a solution to the high water issue. Board members agreed that these funds be spent first on legal counsel which will help inform us of necessary next steps such as surveys and engineering studies. The Town of Merton's attorney recommended Atty. Troy Giles to help us. Bob Mikulec has spoken with another attorney that might be helpful. Rory would like us to speak with at least 3 attorneys before we engage one.
5. Lake District – The pros and cons of forming a lake district were discussed. One advantage of forming a lake district is that it puts us on equal footing with other governmental bodies such as the Town, County, or the Okauchee lake district. The Town would like us to become a lake district because it would remove all our lake issues from their responsibility. Even if we were to become a lake district, we would still need the Town of Merton to help us get an easement or exert eminent domain on affected properties . Questions that arose are how Carl Schurz would be treated, how expenses would be assessed to properties (i.e. on basis of frontage, a per parcel rate, or based on assessed value), and the recourse that owners would have if they were unhappy with a tax assessment. Others include the checks and balances present, what decisions require a vote of all members vs. just the Board, and whether an individual can make tax deductible charitable contributions to a lake district. All Board members present except Yvonne Lindl were in favor of forming a lake district. Rory requested Board members pair up and engage in conversations with members of other area lake districts.
6. Weed Treatment – Sue Laabs reported that we did obtain approval from the DNR for the treatment of milfoil but she hasn't been able to reach Brian Suffern to schedule it. It must be done by the end of June.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Submitted by: Yvonne Lindl, Secretary