

Fall Meeting Minutes
Moose Lake Advancement Association

Monday, October 7, 2024 6:30 pm
Stone Bank School

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by President Rory Leyden, and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll call of Officers – Present: President, Rory Leyden; VP, Hilarie Puestow; Treasurer, Tom Kielma; Secretary, Yvonne Lindl; Directors, Sue Laabs, Bob Mikulec, Lynn Leidel, and Gery Sawall. Absent: Tammy Gallagher, Dir. Also present: Atty. Troy Giles
3. June 12, 2024 Spring meeting minutes were approved with no corrections.
4. Tom Kielma presented the Treasurer's report.
 - The balance in checking as of the end of September is \$3,869 with \$13,652 in savings. The cost of weed treatment was \$2,148.80 this year.
 - Membership stands at 55, compared to 72 in 2019, 75 in 2020, 85 in 2024, 88 in 2022, and 75 in 2023.
5. President Update – Rory Leyden
 - Rory reported that, since the spring membership meeting, he and the board have researched and interviewed attorneys familiar with environmental law. The Board approved retaining Atty. Troy Giles for work costing up to \$1,500. Expenditures up to \$5,000 were approved by the membership at the June 12, 2024 spring meeting.
 - Atty. Giles introduced himself, provided his background information, and described his experience with environmental law issues. He is from our area and is aware of the Moose Lake issues. He has done no projects for the Okauchee Lake Management District.
 - He was asked to look at 2 interrelated issues – the formation of a lake district and a solution for our high water issues. He believes that the creation of a lake district would help with solving our high water issues. A lake district is a quasi-governmental body that does have taxing authority. It is a more formal and lasting body than an association and would potentially have access to more resources such as grants or loans than an association such as MLAA. It probably would interface with other governmental bodies more smoothly than our current association.
 - Atty. Giles stated that the formation of a lake district is not a requirement to solving our high water problems. Approval from possibly 10 different government agencies may be needed to implement the solution. A lake district would also not be necessary if the solution required the acquisition of, or access to, property for placement of a pipe. A Moose Lake district does not have the power of eminent domain over another lake district, such as Okauchee. Atty. Giles stated that it might be possible to avoid the need to exert eminent domain if the pipe from Moose Lake was placed in our lake below the ordinary high water mark and exited Okauchee Lake below its ordinary high water mark.
 - Technically, a lake district would only be required if we wanted the property owners to be taxed to pay for the project. Property owners would share equally in the costs of a lake district. Ongoing costs to administer a lake district are estimated at \$4,000 - \$5,000. It

would probably cost about \$25,000 to form a lake district. Engineering costs to conduct studies and obtain approvals would run around \$45,000, with the cost of implementation in the range of \$250,000 - \$500,000.

- Atty. Giles contacted several environmental engineering firms to obtain proposals for the initial studies and approvals that would be needed. We've received proposals from 2 firms and expect another. The engineering firms felt that a pipe type of solution made the most sense, but would explore an optimal solution.
- Members suggested a temporary pump as a potential solution that should be considered. Another member suggested the discharge of our excess water be directed to a creek or river instead of to Okauchee. Rory stated that the decision as to the best solution has not yet been made. Another member questioned whether it was erosion and flooding that was providing the impetus for a solution or if it was driven by the frustration of boaters who couldn't use the lake as they wanted. Other members stated that the main concern was flooding and that their permanent dock or crawl space were in danger of flooding. Rory noted the high water had also damaged the Carl Schurz bath house.
- Atty. Giles offered to compile a list of advantages and disadvantages of forming a lake district. Much information about lake district can be obtained online. Rory stated that the Board has not yet taken a vote as to whether we should form a lake district. If the Board does vote to form one, more information will be sent to our membership.

6. Committee Reports

- Social Committee – Mark Olson reported that the committee organized 4 successful events this past year, beginning in January with a fishing jamboree and chili cook-off. In June, a fishing contest was held for the first time with 20-25 participants. These events were followed by the annual boat tie-up and the summer picnic, both of which enjoyed a good turnout. Next year may include a log carving contest before the super bowl party. Mark will try to get flyers out sooner to allow for more advance notice and better attendance.

7. Elections

- This year the four current officers are running in uncontested races, but 6 candidates are vying for the 5 board seats. Board candidates were allowed to introduce themselves prior to the election. Members cast their ballots.
- The following officers and board were elected: President – Rory Leyden, Vice President – Hilarie Puestow, Treasurer – Tom Kielma, Secretary – Yvonne Lindl, and Board Members – Tammy Gallagher, Sue Laabs, Lynn Leidel, Bob Mikulec, and Gery Sawall.

8. Old business – None

9. New Business – None

10. Adjournment – Motion was approved to adjourn at approximately 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Yvonne Lindl