

Minutes (Organizational Meeting)
Hess Lake Improvement Board
May 7, 2024
9:30 A.M.
at the Newaygo County Drain office

Board Members Present: Bart Calvi, Dale Twing, Mark Slocum, Grant Bryan, Ken DeLaat
Board Members Absent:

Also Present: Steffani Clayton- Drain Secretary, Tony Groves and Rick Buteyn-Progressive AE, Katherin Farwell- Hess Lake Association, Nancy Calvi, Mary Spicer, Russ Andrejczak, Valerie and Steven Pritchard- Public

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Calvi.
2. Election of Officers
Clayton asks if there are any nominations for chair. Motion by Bryan, seconded by Slocum to elect Bart Calvi as Chairman. Clayton asks three times if there are any other nominations. There were none. Clayton asks if there are any nominations for vice chair. Motion by Calvi, seconded by Twing to elect Grant Bryan as Vice Chairman. Clayton asks three times if there are any other nominations. There were none. Clayton asks if there are any nominations for secretary/treasurer. Motion by Bryan, seconded by Calvi to elect Dale Twing as secretary/treasurer. Clayton asks three times if there are any other nominations. There were none. All ayes, motion carried.
3. Approval of Agenda:
Motion by Slocum, seconded by Bryan to approve the agenda with the following changes: New Business- contract for services is for both assessments and Progressive, the channel between Hess and Brooks, Bob Ripstra and term limits for board members. Old Business- Muskegon Watershed. All ayes, motion carried.
4. Approval of Minutes 9/12/2023 Meeting
Motion by Calvi, seconded by Slocum to approve the minutes of the 9/12/2023 meeting with the correction on the 2024 meeting dates. All ayes, motion carried.
5. Public Comment: (2 minutes)
Calvi explains what public comments are used for. Mrs. Pritchard sent a letter into the Drain Office in 2023 for the public hearing to contest being on the assessment roll and was removed. Mrs. Pritchard begins her conversation with Twing regarding a refund from the Hess Lake Board assessments. Twing puts attorney Kyle O'Meara on speaker phone from Fahey-Schultz to answer the refund question. O'Meara explains that legally, the board cannot issue refunds. He also explains that the opportunity for resolving this prior to 2023 was 2020, and after that public hearing, the assessment was legally confirmed. Mrs. Pritchard expresses that she has sent in letters, called and came to the office in person since 2020 with no results and states she may go to small claims court. Mr. and Mrs. Pritchard left the meeting unhappy.

6. Financial Report:

Motion by Twing, seconded by Slocum to approve the financial report. All ayes, motion carried.

7. Old Business:

- a. Wheeler Drain Tour: Twing asks Clayton to choose three dates and send to the board for a decision.
- b. Muskegon Watershed: Twing explains that the board has replaced the chairperson. He also explained that Consumers has a 20 million dollar project on the Hardy Dam to redo the road and the spillway. They wanted to use Wheeler and Hardy Drain to divert water in case of overflow. Twing explains they will use Hardy Drain, but he will require a deposit for future costs and make the Consumer's property the main parcel for the assessment roll that will carry through register of deeds should the property be sold.

8. New Business:

- a. Plant Control/Survey Schedule: Buteyn will be on the lake May 20th for plant survey. Treatment will take place the week after. Mary Spicer states she has cattail in front of her house. Twing and Buteyn both state that algae will be bad this year due to the mild winter and the very warm spring. Farwell asks about ways to submit algae samples. Twing states it is done through the Health Department. Buteyn mentions the legislative wake boat bill. If passed, there would have to be a way to enforce the law.
- b. Carp Solutions: Groves adds a document to the packet. He stated the studies have found a lot of old carp in the lake, indicating that new carp are not hatching. 20 carp were tagged with radio telemetry tags and they congregated by Wheeler Drain in the spring. Four big nets will be placed throughout the lake with auto-release food to trap the carp. Progressive still recommends a barrier in the channel between Hess and Brooks Lake which will require an EGLE permit. Motion by Slocum, seconded by DeLaat to move forward with the \$79,000 Carp Solutions contract for carp removal. Roll call vote. All ayes, motion carried. Motion by DeLaat, seconded by Calvi to approve \$1200 for side scanning. Roll call vote. All ayes, motion carried.
- c. Bluegill Stocking: Bryan explains that the tanker hauling the Bluegill rolled and all the fish spilled out. They are not sure when they will be able to get another delivery.
- d. Website Update: Calvi wants to add the Carp Solutions report, approved meeting minutes, and the Lake Wingra Article. Twing would like to add the wake boat and septic legislative bills.
- e. Motion by Calvi, seconded by Bryan to adopt the contract for services for assessments. Roll call vote. Three ayes (Calvi, DeLaat, Bryan), two were out of the room (Twing and Slocum), motion carried. Motion by Calvi, seconded by Slocum to adopt Progressive contract for aquatic plant control. Roll call vote. All ayes, motion carried.
- f. EGLE Lake Level Changes: Twing explained EGLE is changing the mandates for lake level dams, but this does not affect Hess Lake.
- g. Pritchard Refund Request: Discussed in first public comment.

- h. Bob Ripstra: Bryan explained there is a legislative bill on septic systems. This would require landowners to have their septic inspected every 5 years at a cost of around \$3,000.
- i. Term Limits: Groves goes over term limits for each board member.

9. Correspondence/Bills

Motion by Calvi, seconded by Slocum to pay routine bills. All ayes, motion carried.

10. Public Comment (2 minutes)

Russ Andrejczak expresses that he believes the chemicals from Savin are killing the native cattail. Buteyn explains the process and how it is not the cause. He believes boat wake in the lake may contribute. The board tells Andrejczak that over spraying on the lake was occurring several years ago and that could be part of the reason. Buteyn explains that the board can decide on spraying weeds later in the year.

11. Miscellaneous

Farwell asks about seawall grants and information. Twing explains it is hard to get ahold of Erick Elgin and he is trying to find another contact for seawalls.

12. Adjournment

Motion by Calvi, seconded by Slocum to adjourn the meeting at 11:21 a.m. All ayes, motion carried.