

Gravel Lake Association
Board of Trustees Meeting – Minutes
May 11th, 2019

- I. Called to Order - 10:01am
- II. Present: Craig DeSimone, Reed, Melissa DeSimone, Pinkos, Brown/LaForge, Hochsprung, McDevitt, McGreal, Micheli, Rinaldi, Roeder, Toso, Vitkauskas, Zwartz.
- III. Absent: Carlie DeSimone, Lalone, Paramski, Rockwell
- IV. Approval of minutes – 4/6/19 - motion to approve minutes by Suzanne Reed and Second by Kristy Vitkauskas, motion passed.
- V. Treasurer’s Report – Janice Pinkos reports there has been membership dues and advertisement fees coming in since last month and we have paid for picnic rentals, riparian magazines, website fees.
- VI. Officers’ Reports –
 - A. Secretary – no report
 - B. Editor – Jamie Paramski told Craig DeSimone the newsletter would be ready for delivery on Memorial Day weekend, Jim McGreal would like pictures of spring activities around the lake and a new photo for Craig DeSimone’s president’s corner. Craig DeSimone wants to advertise on Facebook to get photos for the newsletter, they need to be sent separately because Facebook is not a good enough resolution.
 - C. Internet Ops. – Jim McGreal reports that there are 415 new users of the website, popular pages: calendar, newsletter, poker run. There have been about 17-18 memberships online so far this year. Jim is still looking for video interviews and making a newsletter article in conjunction with the video interview. Paul Van Schoyck is our videographer. Phil Rinaldi suggests that we post the video interviews on instagram as well.
 - D. Fundraising – Craig DeSimone reports that the design contest is going on the facebook group. Suzanne Reed reports that the sale dates will be set at a meeting after the board meeting today.
 - E. Water Quality – Craig DeSimone reports that we still need volunteer for phosphorus sampling, Linda Vitkauskas might want to volunteer her husband or Craig will seek help from the Facebook group.
 - F. AIS control – Craig DeSimone reports that we have discussed the treatment via email since the last board meeting. PLM suggests a whole lake Sonar treatment but the DNR is not in support. Craig went ahead and told PLM to do the treatment but it hasn’t been done yet. PLM provided data that supports the whole lake treatment that the DNR might not have been aware of. Craig DeSimone is happy the DNR biologist is forcing us to think about the treatments.
 1. Should we employ a management company to oversee the lake treatments. Dave Brown thinks we are doing fine now. Janice Pinkos does not think we can afford a management program if it’s \$5,000. Tom Zwartz thinks we should keep the status quo. The board agreement seems to be that we should keep things the way they are because of the cost and we are keeping up with the information from PLM.
 2. All board members received a chart of common native and aquatic plants for ID purposes. Jim McGreal will put the pdf of the chart on the website and we can put it on the facebook page too.
 - G. Buoys/signage – Tom Zwartz will have the buoys in by memorial day.
- VII. Old Business
 - A. Picnic
 1. Update - Dave Brown says everything is on schedule.
 2. Volunteers - Suzanne Reed, Ray Reed, Chris Toso, Janice Pinkos, the DeSimones
 3. Melissa DeSimone will put the event on the Facebook page.

4. Suzanne Reed would like to add a Kid's activity to the picnic every year. Melissa DeSimone will help with activity ideas.
- B. 4th of July - Kerry Moore is in charge this year, he needs to set dates for the events, everything is after the actual 4th.
- C. Poker Run - Janice Pinkos has a committee of herself, Alyssa Pinkos, Suzanne Reed, Tricia Barker, and Darla Kelliher. Everyone on the committee has responsibilities. We still need 4 docks at this time.
- D. Garage sale - Linda Vitkauskas says people want June 22nd and 23rd, 9 people responded quickly about it, the newsletter, Facebook, and with the invoice. Linda is going to put them in the Flash for about \$12 and put up signs. We need to find out how much signs costs. Linda will make a map that we can put on the Facebook page and handouts at the garage sale sites. Linda will sell GL tshirts at the garage sale as well.
- E. Halloween 2019 - Phil Rinaldi says the official date is October 19th. Phil will send Jim McGreal or Jamie Paramski a small blurb about the event for the spring newsletter.
- F. Earth Day clean-up - Jen Micheli says there was a smaller turnout for the clean up this year. There was also less trash. Greg Garrett and Swalecs came out to help, they had little pokers for the kids to pick up garbage. Someone came out to clean up the tree on the public access, we think it was the DNR. Someone trimmed the branches on Fuel's property, we are not sure who did that.
- G. Public Access – Craig DeSimone reports that he spoke with a DNR worker at the MLSA conference about a natural shoreline and Joe Nohner (DNR worker) will help us figure out how we can make that happen. Craig says we need to talk to our DNR contact but Joe will contact them too to help us. Craig told us about the GIS software that gives basic data about inland lakes in Michigan. Craig would like to see the natural shoreline to eliminate the erosion to the channel mouth.
 1. Signage - The DNR needs to approve the sign content before Suzanne Reed gets bids.
- H. Shaw Rd. pedestrians –
- I. Legal defense fund - tabled discussion

VIII. New Business

- A. Riparian subscription costs have increased to \$14 per subscription. Craig DeSimone asks if we should absorb the extra cost or change it. Dave Brown would like to know how many people get the riparian. Janice Pinkos reports that 132 of our members opt in for riparian, more than half of the members we have. Phil Rinaldi thinks it is a good perk. Linda Vitkauskas says that years ago it was an extra amount if you wanted the magazine. Dave Brown thinks we should go back to letting people purchase the magazine separately. Tom Zwartz thinks we should increase dues to help pay for the magazine.
 1. Tom Zwartz makes a motion to continue to provide the Michigan Riparian magazine and increase dues to \$40. Craig DeSimone says we cannot make that decision as a board, it has to go to the membership. Tom Zwartz wants us to put it to the membership to raise dues.
 2. Craig DeSimone says that for 2019 we are paying for the increase in the Michigan Riparian magazine but we need to keep this idea on the agenda so we can further discuss. Janice Pinkos would like to wait until the August meeting to make a decision about this so people have time to think about this issue.
- B. MLSA update:
 1. Boat wash - Craig DeSimone reports on information from the CD3 boat washing system. It is inexpensive, easy to use, it is now the law to wash your boat. \$30,000 for the system and \$1,200 to maintain it every year. Tom Zwartz wants to know if the special assessment district could help pay for it. The board is very interested in more information on this system.
 2. Algae blooms - Craig DeSimone reports that he went to a session on this and the channel is prone to these blooms, they are actually bacteria, pets could die from swimming in it, people can get sick, the channel is ripe for issues with this. Craig took away that we can sample for it, we can prevent it with filtration at the shoreline (natural shoreline), aeration could also work by basically turning the channel into an aquarium. Tom Zwartz asks why you can't just control it through PLM but Craig

DeSimone says that trying conventional algaecide would actually make the blooms worse. Sandy beach trustees should help monitor this if they can.

a) Chris Toso would like to know if dredging the channel would be a possible project.

3. Wake boat impact - Craig DeSimone reports on the session he attended with a boat salesman, watersports association, professor from GVSU, insurance agent with water specialty. Studying wave action, educating people in proper boat usage and impacts.
 4. College interns - Craig DeSimone reports that he attended a session by NWC about getting an intern to help manage/study our lake. What is the cost? Are we a good candidate?
 5. Shoreline parks - Craig DeSimone attended a session with Cliff Bloom about water law issues. The property owners behind a shoreline park are no longer riparians but they used to have riparian rights, this is from a recent ruling. We do not have this issue on Gravel Lake.
 6. PFAS - Craig DeSimone reports that he attended a session about this. Proximity to airports and industry and rivers would mean you have an issue with PFAS. We don't have the risk factors but that doesn't mean we don't have it. Craig thinks we need to think about testing. Dave Brown would like to know how much it costs, answer is thousands of dollars. Linda Vitkauskas says they don't drink their water. The board does not have a strong position about this at this time, Craig will keep it on the agenda.
 7. Gravel Lake in Riparian - Craig DeSimone says we need people to help put this together.
- C. Other new business -
1. Suzanne Reed has three welcome baskets to be handed out to new residents. Let Suzanne Reed know if there are more new residents.
 2. Jim McGreal says that on the north wall of the dam the boards are coming loose.
- D. Next BOT meeting – Saturday, July 20th at 10am at township hall
- E. Next Membership meeting – Saturday, June 8th (this is a corrected date)

IX. Announcements – MLSA Spring region meeting at Porter Township Hall on 5/18: 9am-12pm

X. Adjournment: 11:38am