

**LAKES AREA SEWER AUTHORITY**  
Minutes—1<sup>st</sup> Organizational Meeting  
July 25, 2007

The Lakes Area Sewer Authority held its first organizational meeting on July 25, 2007, at 7:00 pm, at the Porter Township Hall.

Commissioners Present: Bitely, Boshoven, Grib, Laski, Melko, Oxley.  
Commissioners Absent: None

Other Attendees: Attorneys Schuitmaker and White, Smaka of Wightman and Associates, Elsey—Supervisor, Voilnia Twp.

Constitutional Oaths of Office were filed for each of the six commissioners.

Attorney Schuitmaker provided a report and overview of the Articles of Incorporation for the Authority. Motion by Grib, Support by Boshoven, to accept the report on incorporation; all ayes—motion passed.

Election of Officers for the Authority:

- Motion by Grib, Support by Boshoven, to appoint Gerald Melko as Authority Chair; all ayes—motion passed.
- Motion by Oxley, Support by Laski, to appoint Nate Bitely as Authority Vice-Chair; all ayes—motion passed.
- Motion by Boshoven, Support by Melko, to appoint John Grib as Authority Secretary; all ayes—motion passed.
- Motion by Boshoven, Support by Grib, to appoint Chris Oxley as Authority Treasurer; all ayes—motion passed.

Discussion followed regarding the addition of Finch Lake into the Authority as well as other potential lake areas. Potential assessment districts for Gravel, Fish, and Finch Lakes were reviewed. Hemlock and Pine Lakes are in process of circulating petitions and should be considered in the engineering study.

Attorney James White provided a report on By-laws and other procedural issues for the Authority. While By-laws are not required, they have some advantage in that procedural items are defined. White will draft proposed By-laws for the Authority to consider at the next meeting. The Authority and its constituent townships will need to draft and adopt a Sewer Ordinance, establish assessment districts for each lake area, and conduct respective public hearings. This gives the Townships the revenue to enter into contract with the Authority and sell bonds to pay for the project. We are currently considering going with the DOA Rural Development Bond. This will allow a lower interest rate (currently 4.25%) and spread the payment options out to the life of the project.

Motion by Bitely, support by Grib, to appoint attorney James White of Mika Meyers Beckett & Jones, PLC as Bond Counsel for the project; all ayes—motion passed.

Motion by Grib, support by Bitely, to appoint Wightman & Associates as the engineering firm for the project. After some lively discussion involving the need to get cost estimates from additional firms, Grib amended his motion to make Wightman the engineering firm for the total project. This was supported by Bitely. Role call vote: Grib-Y, Boshoven-Y, Melko-Y, Laski-Y, Oxley-Y, Bitely-Y. Motion passed.

Motion by Bitely, support by Boshoven, to appoint Harold Schuitmaker as the Authority Attorney. All ayes—motion passed.

Motion by Boshoven, support by Bitely to authorize the Authority Chair to sign an application to the Rural Development Fund for financing the project.; all ayes—motion passed.

Items for next meeting: establish lakes to be included in the project; ratify/approve Volinia Twp to be on the Lakes Area Sewer Authority.

Meeting Adjourned 9:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted

John A. Grib  
Authority Secretary