

Crockery Lake Association
Board Meeting
July 17, 2019

1. Meeting called to order by President Bob Blaukamp at 7:03 p.m.

Board Members present: President Bob Blaukamp, Vice President Pat Wolters, Secretary Susan McClure, Treasurer Greg Slater, Dennis Arms, Carl Elliott, Paula Humphrey, Betsy Ludwick.

Guests: Karen Elliott, Jody Hyde, Ben Jordan, Callie Melton, Anna "Kat" Sluka.

Benjamin Jordan, Conservation Technician for the Ottawa Conservation District, spoke to the CLA Board and guests about the role of Conservation District and his role as Watershed Coordinator. The Conservation District Office is an unfunded but mandated service the county must provide. Thus, much of the office's funding comes from grants, which he writes. Currently, the Conservation Office has grants for the Bass Creek and Deer Creek watersheds and is working in five more watersheds in Ottawa County. (There are many more watersheds in Ottawa County.) The state grants, 319s, are aimed to restore water quality through Best Management Practices (BMP) agricultural practices and by replacing failing septic systems. The three year grants pay approximately three-quarters of the cost of reducing sedimentation and phosphorus infiltration into the watershed through the use of cover crops and manure management. To stop e-coli from entering the watershed, 319 grant money will pay up to three-quarters of the cost of replacing failing septic systems.

There are caveats. The grant money is for the entire watershed, not a portion of a watershed like a lake. (The state of Michigan policy supports sewer systems for lake residents.) The aid is not immediately available; the time the grant preparation starts to the funding becoming available may be eighteen months or longer. People living in the watershed must be willing to cooperate and change farming practices. Ben stressed that letters of support are an important part of the grant application. Data about water quality from certified sources are important (another agency spent \$20,000 for testing which Ben was able to use in the watershed grants). After the grant is awarded, there is monitoring to be sure the Best Management Practices (BMP) are being used to control sedimentation and manure. Monitoring for e-coli is ongoing. And, of course, the state does audits to make sure the taxpayer funds are being used appropriately.

There is also direct Federal funding but it takes longer to obtain. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is another source for funding. GLRI awards federal grants for similar projects. This is a possible route to get funding rather than through the 319 Non-Point Source Program from the Michigan EGLE. Farmers in the Crockery Creek Watershed are CURRENTLY eligible for funding through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) which is part of the USDA. That program provides cost sharing for cover crops, manure storage, nutrient management, etc. Ben said that it is important to note that this funding is available to apply for now (2019), but the applications are competitive and the process is somewhat lengthy. Getting a GLRI or 319 grant "localizes" the grant money and makes the process of funding BMPs in a specific area easier.

Bob Blauklamp asked what the CLA could do. Ben noted that grant funding needs local matches which include volunteer time at events where we could meet others in the watershed, in our case local farmers. We could refer people to Ben so he could meet them. Paula Humphrey noted that Joe Bush, the Drain Commissioner (Water Resources Person), has a list of the farmers whose land drains into Crockery Lake.

Ben urged us to use the Ottawa County page to learn about Conservation District events. He gave us his business card and several pamphlets for our education.

We thanked Ben Jordan for speaking to us.

2. Approval of Agenda: Accepted—no vote.

3. Call to the Audience—no response.

4. Additions to the Agenda

None

5. Secretary's Report

Paula Humphrey said she had not moved to accept the June Secretary's Report. However no one remembered doing what I misattributed to Paula. Betsy moved to accept the Secretary's minutes. Pat Wolters seconded. Passed. (At home I looked at the handwritten notes for the June minutes: Pat had moved to approve and Betsy had seconded Pat's motion.)

6. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Greg Slater reported 48 members have paid dues.

The Boat Parade winners were awarded \$175.

The Treasurer's Report shows \$\$3601.08 collected for the 2020 fireworks which is \$990.92 LESS than what the 2019 fireworks display cost. The 2020 show is expected to cost 12% more than the 2019 display.

Pat moved the Treasurer's Report be accepted, Betsy Ludwick seconded. Motion passed.

7. Special Assessment District

The Stage 4, Final Resolution, was passed by the Chester Township Board on July 8, 2019. It will expire July 7, 2029. Owners of lake front property will be assessed on their Chester Township Winter Tax Notice for the cost of professional weed treatment in Crockery Lake.

8. Weed Treatment

The last weed treatment (June 12, 2019) was copper sulfate or SeClear G. Carl Elliott gave the Board copies of the Safety Data Sheet which identifies hazards. Professional Lake Management wrote "NA" on the notice sheets it posted on each property in regard to when Crockery Lake could be used again; "NA" makes it sound as though the lake water can be used for typical uses immediately after application. The lack of information in the Notice misleads people. One young boy using the lake developed a skin rash after the SeClear G was applied. We will express our concerns about incomplete posting to Jaimee Conroy, the PLM representative, whom Pat Wolters will invite to speak at the August 21, 2019 Board Meeting. The next weed treatment is scheduled for July 22.

9. Fireworks Report

The fireworks display was spectacular.

Carl Elliott reported that he took the mortar racks back to Wolverine, the fireworks company, after the display because he and Tom Ludwick will no longer be in charge of the Crockery Lake Fireworks Display. Carl and Tom had been storing the racks locally. One lake resident has expressed interest in participating in the fireworks display.

Carl said the mortar racks were not placed in the pasture where they had been in previous years due to heavy use by the cows. Greg Slater said that information was a pile of crap.

10. Newsletter

BetsyLudwick was thanked for her pains in producing an on-line newsletter. Pat Wolters will prepare newsletters to be mailed. Board members need to find out which residents do not use e-mail

and would need a post office delivered copy of the newsletter. Board Representatives could deliver printed newsletters to residents. Pat said that she is pleased that by using the internet the newsletter is no longer limited in length.

11. Welcome Packet Update

Board members want to review the Welcome Packet. When the Welcome Packet is handed to new residents, the information in it represents the CLA. If it is inconvenient for the new resident's Board representative to go with Karen, Carl Elliott noted that any Board Member could go with Karen when the Packet is handed out. Pat Wolters had reviewed the Packet and noted some changes: representative's name on inside of folder cover, add candle sales to membership form, omit that CLA plays an advisory role to the Chester Township Board, change description of watercraft to "registered" watercraft, change "anti-funneling" ordinance to "funneling" ordinance. Adding internet references to the Township Ordinances that pertain to Crockery Lake was discussed. Betsy Ludwick moved that the CLA pay for twenty-five copies with the changes to be distributed to Board members at the August meeting. Paula Humphrey seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Next meeting is Wednesday, August 21, 2019
2442 Crockery Shores