

Lakes Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2010

Members Present: Dan Beckman, Bill Cox, Eric Fox, Jill King, Alan Kohlhaas, Dave Patterson, Dave Ryberg, Bill Sess, Joe Stocker, Gerald Young

Members Absent:

Board Liaison: Bill Minnery – Present

Community Manager: Bruce Keller – Present

Guests: Nick Wullenweber, Jeff Cain, Tom Allen, Mark Schaffeld, Mary Swiggum, Mike Harris, Jim Ulrick, Jeff Fuell, Todd Lahy, Gregg Popp.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32.

Approval of Minutes from the June meeting: Eric Fox moved to approve the minutes and Bill Sess seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Guest Issues: Gregg Popp was in attendance to present his complaints about the handling of the high water lake status that occurred earlier this summer. He was unaware that we had specific lake level indicators that were used to determine when the lake should be put at no wake or closed status due to high water. He still feels that these indicators need to be re-evaluated for both the switching from to green to yellow and also for going back to green from yellow. The Valley is a huge watershed and it takes quite awhile for all of the rain water to make its way to the lake, so we shouldn't be so quick to turn the light back to green. He presented photos and described the damage to his beach, boat and dock. The committee received his presentation in a positive manner and agreed to visit the lake measurement marks. Eric, Gerry and Dave P., will meet and evaluate the current procedures and if necessary, make suggestions for modifications to the committee.

Board Meeting Update: Bruce and Dave gave a brief report from the last board meeting. Jeff Fuell presented the Parks and Recreation options for color choices for the pavilions that are to be constructed. The majority of the committee preferred the taupe color.

Fish And Game Club Update: The Kid's Fishing Derby was scheduled for Saturday, July 17, and from what I could see was another huge success. Thanks to the F&G Club for another great civic contribution to the Valley.

Lake Patrol Comments: Paul Rolfes reported that the recent 4th of July Celebration on the lake was another huge success. He commented that the issue of big wakes was increasing. He also indicated that the number of citations being issued for lake rules violations was increasing.

Lake Statistics: Gerry distributed the attached lake statistics for June 30 and July 7. Clarity and temperature were reported to be normal for this time of year. Dissolved oxygen greater than 5 ppm was measured down to 10 ft. and Clarity down to 6 ft. Gerry also discussed the two reports previously published, Weed types in HVL, 2010 and HVL Main Lake Treatment history. Both of these reports had previously been issued to all. Bruce will have them put on the HVL website. He added some additional information based on more recent trips around the lake. He asked that if anyone finds any weed types in or on the lake that look strange or out of place to please put them in plastic bags and get them to him as quickly as they can.

Small Lake Maintenance Report: The small lakes are being inspected monthly. Bruce will have these reports scanned and added to the website. Floyd from VRUC will be checking the overflow tubes of all of the small lakes using their remote camera.

Old Business:

Lake Treatment Schedule Change – There were many calls and comments following the announcement to delay the July lake treatment for a couple of weeks and evaluate the need for a treatment at that time. It turns out that a lot more people schedule summer activities around the treatment dates than we had thought. We decided to cancel the second treatment and stick with the scheduled third treatment on August 17. All of us will monitor the weed situation and decide whether to do three treatments next year or go back to two. Bruce will be issuing an RFQ for treatment very soon so that those interested in bidding can come out during the summer and see what exactly they are bidding on. The RFQ and resulting responses will be set up to accommodate two or three treatments.

Dredging project – Bruce has received bids for the project set up and management for the dredging project. Four bids were opened at the last board meeting. Bruce summarized each for the committee. Several members wanted time to more thoroughly study each bid prior to deciding on one. .

Boating Class – Bruce agreed that we could introduce the class via the ListServe, the web site and in the Echoes and include Bill's number if people have questions.

Lake Safety – Eric reported on his attendance at the Safety meeting. We all agree that we just can't legislate common sense.

Bull Frogs – Based on our observations, there are very few frogs in the main lake or even in the smaller lakes. Frogs can play a part in reducing mosquito populations. HVL Rules currently permit hunting of bullfrogs at certain times and by certain means. We would like to see the practice discontinued and propose the following changes and additions to the rules:

Proposed rules for protection of Bull Frogs, and proposed rules addition to address recent use of illegal fish traps at marina, and proposal to discuss proper rule location for protection of turtles.

Bull Frogs

Current rules 12H6, 12H8, 12H13g allow taking limited number of Bull Frogs in season and with valid IN hunting license.

Proposed: Eliminate rules 12H6 and 12H8 and 12H13g.

Proposed new rule at 12H: Removing Bull Frogs from any HVL lake at any time by any means is prohibited.

Comment: specifying "by any means" and "at any time" needed since current rules allow taking by some means and some times.

Fish Traps

Recent report of fish traps capturing bass fry and other small fish at marina. Clarify that minnows or other small fish cannot be caught on any HVL lake. Affects rules 12H5 and 12H11.

Proposed: Add to rule 12H5 that the use of any fish trapping device for minnows or other small fish is prohibited in any HVL lakes.

12H5 proposed new wording – Netting, gigging, shooting, jug-fishing, electric shock, use of trot lines and or limb lines, or the use of any device for trapping minnows or other small fish are prohibited as a means to take any fish from any HVL lakes.

Proposed: Add to rule 12H11 that minnows or other small fish cannot be caught in any HVL lake whether to be used as bait or not used for bait. Clarify that minnows can ONLY be purchased for use as bait on HVL lakes. Clarify that partial emptying of bait bucket is prohibited.

12H11 proposed new wording – Minnows may be used for bait on any HVL POA lake only if purchased at a reputable bait store. Emptying the bait fish in whole or in part of a bait bucket into any HVL POA lake is prohibited. Minnows or other small fish cannot be caught by any means on any HVL POA lake whether used for bait or not.

Proposed: Clarify that commercial fishing includes capturing of minnows, fry, and other small fish.

12H9 proposed new wording – Commercial fishing of any kind including but not limited to the capturing of minnows, fry, or other small fish in any HVL POA lakes is prohibited.

Turtles

Current rules prohibit turtles from being taken from HVL lakes (snapping turtles may be taken) under rule 12H13h, Removing turtles from any HVL POA lake is prohibited. Properly identified snapping turtles may be removed from an HVL POA lake using appropriate caution.

Proposed: keep rule wording as is but list it in rules under section 12H not subsection 12H13.

Laminated Card modifications – We will be reviewing the cards over the winter and will have additions or changes ready for the spring mailing.

New Business:

Timing of No Wake for 4th of July – Several residents complained about closing the lake so early for the fireworks. They wanted the lake to be left open and the boat parade held later in the evening to allow the lake to be open longer for skiing, tubing, etc. The committee discussed this and with consultation from Paul Rolfes, felt that the current schedule was a good one and since it was only one day per year, additional changes to allow for “make up” high speed/green time were not necessary.

Suggestions for docks by Willies – A resident emailed a list of ideas for the slips by Willies.

1. Request for installation of an electrical outlet near the docks. The committee felt this would be a safety hazard and didn't feel it was a good idea. Use rechargeable devices for cleaning the boats.
2. Allow boat lifts in the slips. This has been discussed previously and the committee is not against lifts in the slips as long as they don't infringe on the space for the other boat in the adjoining slip. We may consider placing a reserve charge which would be refunded at the time the lift is removed. If it weren't removed, then the reserve would be used to pay for getting it out of the slip.
3. Issue keys and allow golf carts to access the lower level via the path that is currently locked. This was felt to be a liability issue and we were not in favor of it. Apparently something similar had been tried in the past and it was abused and failed miserably.

Buoy Placement – In response to comments from the safety committee Rick Manion and I went out during the week of July 11 and properly positioned the existing buoys at the north end of the lake. We set them all at the required 150 feet from shore and moved two of them closer to the dam. This appeared to leave a rather wide gap between the three at the very end of the loop. Rick added two additional buoys to better define the turning loop. Based on observations from this past weekend, it appears to be much better.

Motion for adjournment – Bill moved that we adjourn and Joe seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Patterson, Chairman.