Barron Lake Association

June 12, 2021

Officers Present: President Bruno Eidietis, Vice-President Rick Marneris, Treasurer Tom Hable, Secretary Debbie Floor Guests Present: Drain Commissioner Jeff VanBelle, Todd Feenstra President of Tritium, Inc. Director of Midwest Water Stewards

Meeting opened at 10:00am.

**Lake Level and Well Update**

Bartak Park easement has been obtained at little to no cost. There are low lake levels everywhere. Covid has affected the well process.

Barron Lake has two aquifers; an upper aquifer & a lower aquifer. East side of lake -

Aquitard - Poorly permeable underground layer that limits the flow of groundwater from one aquifer to another. Upper & lower are connected = leakage - efficiency goes down. West side aquifers are not connected - We should get better results from the West well. Keeping the well on continuously is bad - Cyclical pumping is more efficient - Pump on one week - Pump off one week. Proposing an 8” well on the West side with a submersible pump. Regal’s pump is currently pumping 900 gpm - Proposing to run a new well at 500-600 gpm. We must have rain to really affect the lake level. In 2009 the state started a new system of regulating all high capacity wells - Will they revisit our original permit? Two wells are considered as one system. Prices for PVC pipe have increased 4x in one month.

Todd has to present a cost estimate - costs may be higher than anticipated. The new

design for the well will be easier on the eyes. Will require two or three phase electric service. He has to work with AEP engineering about the electric service, Probably <$50,000. High capacity wells are different than residential wells.

Due to current regulations, Todd does not recommend that we go for a 1,500 gpm well. Farmer wells do not affect the lake level. To minimize drawdown in the upper aquifer, we need to run the well 7 days on/7 days off.

1 - Registration can be done at any time. But our permit will have 365 days to complete the project. Well drillers are busy, and Covid has caused problems with the supply chain.

2 - Permit - Attorneys need to decide to split the 1,100 gpm between two wells or not - Bruno and others would like to get the permits in place. There is only so much water in a watershed area - others may also register for the water. Todd will write up a proposal and use local contractors.

**Weed Treatment**

Tom Hable reported that there was more milfoil in the fall than usual. In May 2020 we had 12-14 acres of milfoil. This year we had 30 acres. We will not use Precilicor, very expensive and have to have 10 acres of continuous weeds. We will be using a

tri-chemical process to treat milfoil and curly pondweed. Treatment will take place on June 14, again in August and again in September. The tri-chemical treatment will cost about $7,000. Shoreline treatments will also be done on Monday, June 14. Go to the Barron Lake website for details. Our lake should be pristine by July 4. The weed consultant will attend the next meeting in July.

**Fish Stocking**

Application to stock Walleye needs to be turned in - stocking will take place in October - A motion was made to spend $2,500 to purchase 800 fingerlings. Motion carried

**Boat Parade**

The Boat Parade will be held Saturday, August 14 at 3:00 - There will be no theme this year - Register on the website - We would like to have more boats in the parade. Join the fun.

**New Boating Laws**

Jodi will update the website - Children 6 and under must wear a life jacket.

**Cass County Fair**

The Cass County Fair will be held August 1 - August 7 - Jessica Lambert (574) 532-5375 has volunteered to help organize the volunteers. Please call Jessica to reserve your time slot.

Our accounts total $48,804.38 - $20 Membership dues are now due - Motion was made to increase dues to $30 beginning in June 2022. Motion carried.

Watch what you are flushing into the sewers - ONLY toilet paper should be flushed. It costs the township $500-$600 every time the city maintains the sewers.

Jones Park is getting a Disc Golf Course. It will be free for everyone to use.

Howard Township has changed their blight ordinance - blight has gotten worse since COVID. Howard Township has also hired a new attorney. Howard Township Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm

Tom will shop for a different lending/banking institution - Currently we bank with Circle Federal Credit Union.

The next meeting will be Saturday, July 10 at 10:00am at Jones Park Pavilion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Floor