

Barron Lake Association Minutes
June 11, 2022

Present: President - Bruno Eidietis, Vice-President - Rick Marneris, Treasurer - Tom Hable, & Secretary - Deb Floor

Guest: Cass County Drain Commissioner, Jeff VanBelle

Jeff presented the following report - Good news! On 6/20 test wells will be drilled at the Bartak Park location. Steve Mauer will be performing the drilling at a cost of \$20,000 for the test wells. Todd Feenstra will be present and take soil samples every 3 ft at the drill site. This will help determine the type and size of screen and motor that will be needed. The wells will be 30 ft and 240 ft deep. A firm from Kokomo may be doing the final well drilling for about \$100,000.

The typical AEP backlog is 60-70 requests for service, last Fall they were at 245 requests. AEP knows what we need and what type of motor is needed. 12" pipe has become a consideration and pumps are hard to come by.

Water usage is becoming an issue. People are wanting to ban all agricultural wells in Michigan. We have a permit and cannot be stopped. We will need a permit to fix erosion at the current well. By Fall we would be on schedule for well completion in the first quarter of 2023.

The new well will be a 12" well, like the one on Barron Lake Rd. This new well could replace the Barron Lake Rd well, or we could alternate the usage between the wells. Our lake has upper and lower aquifers - the lake is in the upper aquifer. We will monitor test wells for 3-4 months. Mike Seward mentioned that he was concerned about the sludge that will come from the test and production wells. His concerns were noted by the Drain Commissioner. We will continue to cycle the wells one week on and one week off to obtain the best results. The current well is pumping at 40-50% efficiency, and the new well is expected to perform at 80% efficiency. Barron Lake level is currently 755.5'.

Secretary read the August 2021 report - motion to approve was seconded, & motion carried.

Treasurer's report was presented - motion to approve was seconded, & motion carried.

Savings	\$45,722.62
Checking	<u>\$5,233.32</u>
Total	\$50,955.94

Weeds were bad in 2021. May 2022 findings showed that there was no need for treatment. June 10th, 3-4 acres of milfoil was found, no curly leaf was found. Spot treatment will be done before July 4. The current company is working out well. There will not be treatments along the shoreline this year. The herbicide is hard to find and the price went up four times the cost of last year.

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800 walleyes were delivered the first week of November 2021. Water quality is good, and fishing is good.

Election of officers will be held next month. Anyone interested in running for an office should contact Tom Hable.

The Association is not working at the Cass County Fair gates this year.

Keith Stelter voiced concerns about short term rentals on the lake. Michigan Township Association recommends that we do not do anything about short term rentals. Keith also has concerns about wake boats. Sheriff deputies are recommending that we do not do anything. Also discussion about limiting the number of boats on holiday weekends.

Dennis Ignowski voiced his unhappiness about the sand bar crowd, who trespass onto his beach. Discussion about whether the lake is public or private. It is a public lake with no DNR public access. Discussion about Bruno limiting the number of boats that use his property for access to the lake, concerns about no Port-a-Potty and what are the visitors using for bathrooms.

It was suggested that we take the initiative and speak to our neighbors when the short term rentals are loud, boats going the wrong way around the lake, and breaking any boating laws. Also suggested to take a video of the wrongdoing and make sure to get the boat registration number to report to the sheriff.

Keith suggested that documentation be put together about boating laws, quiet hours, etc. This info would be handed out to the short term rental owners. This information could be added to the welcome books that the rentals have available for their guests. Below are some links for the Boaters Safety Course, and boating laws.

Official Michigan Boating Safety Course Online

<https://www.boat-ed.com/michigan/>

Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities -

<https://assets.kalkomey.com/boater/pdfs/handbook/michigan-handbook-entire.pdf>

Next meeting is Saturday, July 9th at 10:00am at the pavilion at the Kiddie Korral Park.

Debbie Floor