Barron Lake Association Meeting Minutes June 14, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Rick Marneris at 10:05 a.m. and the pledge of allegiance was recited. In attendance were President Rick Marneris, Vice President Tom Hable, Director at Large Bill Newhouse, Secretary Deb Floor. Treasurer Jim Muckerheide was absent. - 31 members were present

Secretary’s Report - Deb Floor read the August 10, 2024, meeting minutes. Motion was made and carried to approve the minutes.

Treasurer’s Report - Tom Hable presented the Treasurer’s Report: Checking Account - $12,236.81 No bills are due. 72 members have paid. CD $42,322.10 $54,588.91 Motion was made and carried to approve the minutes.

Weed Treatment - Two weeks ago 1.75 acres were determined to need treatment. One acre of milfoil and the remaining weeds needing treatment are curly pondweed. Treatment will be next week. Treatment will not interfere with any holidays. We had a full lake of ice this past year, which helped to keep the weeds down. Weeds will be monitored once a month through September. We will also have an annual report for the DNR.

Old Business - We were notified about the new well being shut down just before Christmas. We have spoken with our county commissioner, Jeremiah Jones, Representative Tim Wahlberg, Representative Brad Paquette and Drain Commissioner Jeff VanBelle about getting the well up and running again. EGLE - Environmental Great Lakes Energy - has a large overreach which includes farms, lakes, water and air. No one person can sign off on anything, there must be multiple signatures. Rick made the decision to not send a letter out to the members with an update on the well status until the board had more information. We have been in contact with EGLE and the Cass Drain Commissioner. The issue is that the drain commissioner did not apply for a specific permit. EGLE representative came out to inspect the well, and discovered that we were missing a permit for work done below the high water mark - pump house - Section 301 of the code. Every 30 days we would receive a letter and then EGLE would not respond until day 30. At which time they would ask for more information and extend the timeframe out to another 30 days. The inspection was completed on July 1, 2024, and we were not notified until December 16, 2024. In May 2025, Tom sent Jeff Van Belle 14 pieces of information. The old Barron Lake Rd well has been running off and on since January at about 50% efficiency.

The condition of the boat launch has also been brought to the Drain Commissioner’s attention.

Diane Seward spoke about the sulfur smell that comes from the well which is 12’ from their patio. She stated that there was algae in 2024 and none in 2025 when the well was not pumping. She stated that the bentonite went into their yard. She is asking that the sulfur gas be tested, and that the algae and smell are her major concerns. She said the Seward and Long families are dealing with the brunt of the well issues.

New Business- The board thanked the fire department for allowing us to hold our meetings at the fire station. Motion was made to donate $100/meeting to the fire department. Motion seconded, and carried. The lake level monitor has been installed at the Jon and Cheryl Allen property on Prospect Point. Measurements have been questionable. Fred called the company two weeks ago and has not heard anything back from them. Cheryl Allen said that a couple ladies were at the property within the last week working on the monitor.

Bill Kasprzak, Howard Township Supervisor, stated that the township’s intention is to turn the old well into a hydrant. This could help the residents with their insurance rating.

He said short term rentals are handled by the Zoning Administrator, who will write an ordinance stating that if a property is used for short-term rentals - the owner cannot claim a principal residence exemption. There was no dump day in Howard Township this year - Certificates are available at the township office for up to 1,500 lb. load at the dump. He also reported that blighted properties are an issue and noted that the township spends thousands of dollars in legal fees trying to clean up these properties. We now have a full-time law enforcement officer for the township.

Barron Lake Social Hours: Friday, June 20 starting at 5:30pm, Thursday, July 24 starting at 6:00 pm, and Friday, August 1 starting at 5:30 pm - at Barron Lakeside Bar and Grill.

A motion was made at 11:25 a.m. to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was seconded and carried.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Floor,
Secretary