



SMOKE SIGNALS

April 2001

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Without a dues increase we will have to continue with the current weed treatment program (like the past years).

SIDE NOTE: The ballots will go to a separate post office box number. We are making arrangements with the Montcalm County Sheriffs Mounted Division to do all handling and counting of the ballots.

The DEQ requires that we submit the depth and location of every lake-front well before they will consider our application for 2-4 D, a product that is very efficient on some of our weeds. **WE NEED YOUR HELP! IF YOU HAVE THAT INFORMATION, PLEASE SEND IT TO Lake Shores Association, Box 63, Howard City, MI 49329.**

There are some very important topics to be covered by this Smoke Signals! First.....

.... **Weed Control.** Our Weed Control Permit IS ON HOLD at the MDEQ! **WE ABSOLUTELY NEED EVERY WELL DEPTH FOR ALL 211 WATER FRONT HOUSES QUICKLY!** We are working with the Health Department and some of this data is available under the Freedom of Information Act, but we have to pay \$14/hour for them to collect it plus copy costs. We were originally told that the DEQ needed to know the location of well depths less than 30 feet (because you can't treat within 250 feet of those houses), now some clarifications have been made - we need to know the depth and location of each well (including a drawing of the house the lake and the well head).

Besides the clock is ticking to get our permit through, the Health Department does not have this information on some of the older houses. We need to follow both plans of attack - we need each home to mail their map in (to PO BOX 63) and beg the Health Department to retrieve what they can as soon as possible.

Second—Attached are quite a few meeting minutes. Please read them. Some updates regarding weeds. Per Dr. Pullman (Weed Expert from MSU) and his research, SONAR and AVAST work best with a fall treatment. The active ingredient is not temperature sensitive, but is very light sensitive. They have determined that if they treat in the fall, the chemical has all winter to work without sunlight degradation. It gives two years without much other treatment necessary (where if it is treated in the Spring, Year 2 some extra chemicals are needed because Curly Leaf, a very opportunistic weed, will take over the area that the milfoil was). Please study the notes (a very brief description - Avast will be used at 6 PPB, it will treat the whole water body from shore to shore, it will kill Milfoil and some other weeds for about 3 years. Year one - cost is about \$40,000! Year 2 - some contact herbicides will be needed to treat some "bad spots" and algae will be treated at the parks, Year 3 - a little more contact herbicides will be needed

to kill Curly Leaf, and algae will be treated. Year 4 back to the \$40,000! In the long run it should be a much better kill.)

In short WE DO NOT HAVE \$40,000 TO DO THIS. Pinecrest will finance the cost for the lake over two years. The board knows that the most important thing on the lake is the LAKE and the weeds. If we want the best we are going to have to pay for it. Therefore, the Board is recommending that we increase our dues to \$150 to fund this project. That averages about \$13/month - pretty cheap to live in this paradise. The driving force for this needed increase is the weed control, but with this additional money we can move forward on many other projects as well.

We will conduct the vote in very early April. Remember only "members in good standing" can vote. Annual dues are due April 1!

Lake Shores Association Board Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2001

Location: Kathy Thompson's House Start time: 8:30 am End time: 9:30 am
Attendees: All present (Brooks, Church, Postma, Veneklas, and Thompson)

Minutes from last meeting will be approved at next meeting due to corrupted computer files – all agreed.

New business: Money – received financial report from P. Church. In short, we have \$2,000 in the bank.

Collection agency contracted, 16 names turned in which accounts for \$21,000, one name accounts for \$7,500. We get 65% of what is collected. Every household has received at least 7 "reminder" notes before being turned over to collection. Depending on how this trial goes, we may make this a normal part of dues collection, just like filing a lien on the property.

Church and Veneklas commented the challenges on keeping the membership list current. It was agreed that it would be most helpful if people would notify Lake Shore Association when a piece of property is sold. At present there are 16 lots for which we don't have accurate information.

Weed control was discussed. Following the board meeting, the Weed Control Committee will share their initial findings.

Brooks will contact Robinson Septic Company to check on prices of Port-a-Johns for the parks and also try to negotiate bulk/group discount for Septic Pumping. We must communicate to everyone the importance of pumping their tanks every two years for full time residents, and every 3 years for weekenders. The major reason is to protect our lake and wells from possible contamination.

Next meeting agenda items: 1. Proposed budget for 2001. 2. Dues increase for 2002 to allow better weed control and improvements to common properties. Postma will talk to Brian Vincent on the legal procedure for a dues increase.

Minutes taken by Kathleen Thompson Meeting Adjourned: 9:30 AM.

Lake Shores Association Board Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2001

Start time: 9:15 a.m. End time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: K. Thompson's House

Attendees: Thompson, Church, Postma (Absent: Brooks, Veneklas) Terry Veneklas resigned per Paul Church.

Will go over meeting minutes when more board members are present.

Fences – we need to make a decision on whether or not we will make a policy by mid March. If we are going to do a policy change we can run it with the same vote as dues increase.

Lawyer – Church voiced his concern that we need a lawyer on staff either by retainer or volunteer. There are many small legal questions every week, and we are not trained to answer them properly nor do we want the personal liability.

Collections – going great, already collected \$3,500.

Smoke Signals – still working on bulk rate classification.

Dues Increase – We have to make a decision whether or not we are going after a dues increase and how much. Will be determined at our next meeting.

Insurance – Thompson talked to Keith Alexis (Warrior Drive), a State Farm Insurance Agent, to review our insurance policies and figure out if we can save money by updating or modifying the policies.

Parks – Church voiced his concerns about maintaining our parks ourselves. He recommended hiring everything out (lawn care). That way we can save on buying workman's comp. Insurance and reduce our personal liability and the lake's liability

Meeting adjourned – Minutes by Thompson.

—Treasurer's Report—

Many things have improved since taking this over last August. We have collected 20% of the past due accounts. We have a collection agency working with us to help collect these. We have a new accounting system in place and a web site all implemented this year. We currently have a cash balance of \$18,477.00 with less than 50% of the dues collected. Dues must be paid by April 1, 2001 or they are considered late and are subject to finance charges. Currently the lake is running in the red with the weed kill being the largest expense.

Every year we have treated less of the lake because the funds for the weed kill have not kept up with the price increase of chemicals. As time goes on a gradual dues increase will be necessary in order to keep up with increasing costs associated with this lake however, an immediate dues increase is absolutely critical and necessary at this time. The dues would have to be increased to \$150.00 per year to cover the cost of the correct weed kill and to get this lake out of debt. This is only \$12.50 per month to have a weed-less and well-maintained lake. The lake has become a big business with over 450 members and is continuing to grow. We are a private lake with no outside funding and if we are to maintain our private lake status more money is needed. A vote will take place in the near future and I am urging you to **vote yes** for the increase.

LAKE SHORES ASSOCIATION
Financial Report

For Period of 8/1/99 through 7/31/00

Part of Trumpets and Doves Annual Audit	8/97-7/98	8/98-7/99	8/1/99-7/31/00
	12 months	12 months	12 months
BEGINNING CASH BALANCE	\$21,462.35	\$23,982.94	\$12,650.23
INCOME			
REGULAR DUES	\$27,729.50	\$32,466.04	\$32,519.87
PAST DUES	\$3,593.33	\$0.00	\$0.00
PAVILION RES. FEES	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
BUILDING PERMITS	\$190.00	\$40.00	\$310.00
INTEREST INCOME	\$358.67	\$224.51	\$170.65
DONATIONS	\$1,675.00	\$1,104.65	\$2,160.00
RECREATION FUND	\$863.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
OTHER MISC.	\$1.19	\$0.00	\$200.00
INCOME TOTALS	\$34,510.69	\$33,835.20	\$35,360.52
TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE	\$55,973.04	\$57,818.14	\$48,010.75
EXPENDITURES			
PARK ELECTRIC AND ENTRANCE LIGHT	\$493.42	\$678.34	\$738.44
PARK REPAIRS/SUPPLY	\$23.26	\$0.00	\$0.00
PARK MAINTENANCE	\$2,825.00	\$2,311.38	\$5,398.00
PORTABLE TOILETS	\$1,200.00	\$480.00	\$1,560.00
EQUIPMENT RENTAL AND REPAIR	\$0.00	\$570.17	\$181.80
RUBBISH	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
FIREWORKS	\$1,615.00	\$1,700.00	\$2,180.00
CONFERENCES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$524.00
GAS AND OIL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
FISH	\$2,978.50	\$3,223.50	\$3,392.00
LIEN RELATED EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$366.75
CORPORATION FEE	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
INSURANCE AND BOND	\$1,057.40	\$2,178.10	\$3,058.80
RETURN PAVILION DEPOSIT	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
MICH LAKE AND STREAM	\$35.00	\$435.00	\$0.00
OFFICE EXPENSE	\$755.42	\$1,130.12	\$636.58
SMOKE SIGNALS	\$377.80	\$1,050.15	\$542.80
POSTAGE	\$938.00	\$1,127.70	\$574.37
WEED CONTROL	\$17,685.00	\$18,718.00	\$17,117.30
PHONE	\$27.12	\$0.00	\$0.00
LEGAL, ACCOUNTING & PROFESSIONAL	\$0.00	\$2,775.00	\$3,450.00
CLERICAL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
BOAT RAMP & STICKERS	\$660.00	\$1,499.55	\$74.69
MISC LABOR	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
RECREATION EXP	\$1,074.76	\$0.00	\$0.00
SKI SHOW (NET OF DONATIONS)	\$370.00	\$25.00	\$0.00
SEA WALL	\$6,534.92	\$823.59	\$0.00
OTHER MISC	\$134.40	\$385.98	\$296.66
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$31,990.08	\$45,167.91	\$40,940.78
END CASH IN CHECKING	\$23,982.94	\$12,650.23	\$7,069.97

LAKE SHORES ASSOCIATION
Box 63
Howard City, MI 49329

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Lakes Shores Association

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LAKE SHORE ASSOCIATION WEED KILL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 5, 2001

Location: Thompson's House Start time: 9:40 a.m. End time: 10:40 a.m.
Attendees: LSA Board: Brooks, Postma, Venekase, and Thompson (Absent: Paul Church)
Weed Kill Committee: Helen Boss, Gord Potter, Judy VanderGutche, and Shirley Westveer

The weed committee did some preliminary research to share with each other and the board at their first meeting.

Per Gord Potter, Tim Slavens does not want to be part of the committee. (The board wants to give Tim a special Thank you for coordinating weed control for the past years) Consensus of those present that we express our appreciation to him for all the hard work in the past for the Association both as president and weed control liaison for the last five years.

Following exchange of ideas and much discussion it was decided to continue using Pinecrest as our weed control company. There were two major reasons: First, permits have to be submitted in February for the upcoming season and second, no one will write the permit without first viewing the lake. It is imperative that we get accurate information as to weed depths on all lake front property. This directly effects what chemicals can be used. Gord Potter is in contact with the county Health Department to see if we can get this information right from them since homeowners are not submitting it. We will highlight this request again in February's Smoke Signals.

Two other Weed Control companies were researched besides Pinecrest, our current provider. They are Professional Lake Management and Progressive Engineering.

Also discussed was the possibility of setting up a "Lake Board" so funds could be collected by tax assessment. Shirley shared that a lake board, by law, must consist of five people who are one lake resident, two township residents, the county commissioner and the drain commissioner. After discussing the pros and cons of such a board that idea was rejected.

Because of the timing, known history dealing with the lake and DEQ/DNR requirements we have decided to go with Pinecrest one more year. An open meeting will be scheduled with a representative from Pinecrest at which they will do a presentation and answer questions.

Shirley shared the importance of Indian Lake's board becoming more involved in Michigan Lakes and Streams. Among the benefits are workshops and networking with other lake associations. She also encouraged each member to join Michigan Waterfront Alliance that is the political action arm of ML&SA.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:40 AM. Minutes taken by Kathy Thompson

OPEN MEETING WITH PINECREST

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Craig Goodenough, a representative from Pinecrest, (the company who has been doing weed treatment for us) drove up to meet first with the Board and then with all interested property owners. Six Board Members and/or Weed Committee members met with him at 6:00 p.m. Nineteen lake residents joined us at 7:00 p.m.

Craig did a fine job of explaining, listening and answering questions. There were some excellent questions asked: types of products used; what would be needed to do a better job; the permitting process with DEQ; timing of application; costs.

In order to use Sonar or Avast, a new product similar to Sonar but about 1/3 less costly, it would be necessary to have a representative from either company accompany the applicator when doing the work in order for any guarantee to be made. Prior to application a lake mapping must be done and survey of the weeds, types and locations. Treatment is most effective when done early in May before the water warms up.

Dr. Doug Pullman is the rep with the company who handles Avast and he has been on the lake with them in the past. Craig planned to contact him and see what he recommends for 2001. The use of this product may have to be delayed until 2002 because of the need to collect information needed/required by DEQ.

When discussion began about the estimated cost-approx.\$40,000-one of the members present figured out that would only be \$50 more per member and felt that was very possible. Those in attendance were very supportive of that suggestion.

Not only were there full-time lake residents present but also several who had driven up just for the meeting.

We were reminded that use of fertilizers on our lawns that are not recommended specifically for use around a lake could also contribute to increased weed growth.

As result of the meeting several people volunteered to serve on committees and get more involved.

Meeting was adjourned about 8:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Shirley Westveer