

LaGrange County Lakes Council
September 28, 2017
7:00 p.m.
LaGrange County Commissioners Room

Present: Henri Wesdorp – Michiana Fish, Glen Weave-Michiana Fish, Gary Metzger-Pretty, Max & Fran Samuelson-Stone, Meredith Cameron-Oliver, Steven Scott-Welty-North Twin, Sandy Ferrell-Admin
Guest: Dave Errington-SNRT-Sustainable Natural Resource Technology

Steve called the meeting to order and introduced the speaker.

Dave stated that we have had a cool summer. Shishewana Lake was the only one with bad water quality numbers, it came close to where you shouldn't be in the water.

He suggested we do water quality testing in March and April. Dave stated that is when the nutrient loading is heavy. He stated they have had some success working with farmers. SNRT does not have any enforcement power, but can make suggestions. He stated that with reduced sediment and loading on Fish Royer Lake made a huge reduction within a year. Dave says sediment basins can work, though they are not doing them as much anymore. He stated that the best place to collect samples are close to an inlet and in a ditch. Turbidity is calculated in the field.

In 2004 or 2005 they brought a veterinarian into a meeting with some problem farmers. The vet informed them that the nitrate poisoning was killing their calves and e-coli was killing their horses. Then they began to understand the importance of clean water.

SNRT is not a government program, but they get most of their money from Federal grants.

He stated that Stone Lake, with no inlets or outlets is good in many respects. They also have no runoff from fields.

He suggested that we test water in March and April and in July and August. In Spring you get the algae growth, because of the nutrient loading. He advised many people would be surprised by the numbers in the spring, as they are not used to seeing those results.

Treasurer's Report – Meredith stated we have a balance of \$12,498.33 as of September 15, 2017.

Redevelopment – Meredith stated that the Council and Commissioners agreed to help with the cost of the Toll Road waste water treatment plant with a \$1.3 million package that will cover Cedar Lake and the village of Howe. The Toll Road is covering 6.5 to 7 million of the project. The state of Indiana told the company who leases the toll road to rebuild the plazas and waste water treatment plants, and also required the nearby municipalities to hook in.

Steve read a letter from Bob Hedges, our current President. Bob is undergoing some treatment for health issues and will be unable to attend meetings for a few months.

New business-Meredith advised that the Hoosier Environment Council (HEC), is putting on event at the Sylvan Event Center, and asking the LaGrange County Lakes Council to help sponsor the event financially. The northeastern counties in Indiana have the most lakes of the entire state, and it would be good to have the HEC on our side when the legislator's begin to look at water quality issues. Motion by Gary to give \$100 for support of the HEC event. Discussion ensued. Motion by Henri Wesdorp to give

\$250, which is 1/3 of the cost, to the HEC for the event in Rome City. Seconded by Max Samuelson. All in favor. Motion carries.

Lake reports:

Stone – just held elections and have a new slate of officers. They will again have their annual Christmas party.

Pretty- also have new officers. Will be having their Halloween party. They are making improvements to their clubhouse.

Oliver-90% of the Dove Creek dredging is complete, so they now have a deep channel again. All the sediment was pumped out to a farmer's field. There are two sediment basins up the creek. The county has been asked to dip them out.

Michiana Fish-Meeting was two weeks ago. They have determined that about 25% of property owners stay year round.

North Twin- Also have new slate of officers, which are all women. They are seeing more bald eagles and osprey.

Motion to adjourn by Phil Metzger at 8:00 p.m.

Next meeting is October 26th, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Ferrell.