LaGrange County Lakes Council
July 26, 2018
7:00 p.m.
LaGrange County Commissioners Room


Steve Scott-Welty called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Treasurer’s Report – Meredith was not present. Steve stated that we have $12,804.86 in the checking account.

Henri asked if Michiana Fish had sent in their lake association membership. Sandy will check.

Buck Lake was also tested for water quality.

Steve stated that several of us met the previous Thursday at Adams Lake Pub to discuss the future of the Lagrange County Lakes Association.

Bill Schmidt stated that attendance at our meetings has been very slim. The question is “How do we continue?” His proposal was become an “E” Lake Council. This council has good things going on that need to continue. He envisions maybe 2 meetings per year; one in the spring to plan and tell the members what we intend to do, and one in the fall telling them what we accomplished. We could do all business via e-mail. When there is an issue in the county the people will come back to the Lakes Council for help. Bill stated that Noble County is meeting next Thursday, August 2nd for an organizational meeting. It’s possible that we could become a bi-county Lakes Council. But he suggested for now we keep the LaGrange County Lakes Council alive by email, making decisions and getting things done. Miriam stated that plan would enable us to stay viable. Henri suggested that we let the lake associations know what we are doing. Steve McElhoe suggested having a pancake breakfast, inviting the DNR and water testing companies.

Bill recommended keeping the bi-annual newsletters, as this is the number one way to communicate with the Lakes Associations. Miriam stated that most lake’s associations have hard copy snail mail mailing lists, and we can get updated lists from Beacon Schneider.

Jack Dole stated that when the LaGrange County Lakes Council started it was immediately recognized that we do not have the resources that Steuben County has. Back then we found a way to get members on all the county boards and by that we got a lot of “word of mouth”. He believes low membership is a huge problem.

We need to find some other organizations that we could partner with, we could donate and let them do the work. Steve McElhoe suggested the soil and water district. Miriam suggested the Friends of LaGrange County Parks.
Jack stated that we need a relationship with someone with the newspaper. Front page articles are priceless.

Miriam reported on news with the Plan Commission-New signs were approved at Lakeland Schools. Most line items on the agenda are from the west side of the county; Amish businesses; starts up or additions. There are changes in campgrounds, they are no longer renting lots, they are selling them as residential lots.

Sam states that Blackman Lake has a sediment problem, and they may dredge next year. The Lake association does have grants for sediment studies. They have two quotes and will decide in the next two months who will do the work. There is a 65 acre field that funnels into the lake. The county is going to tile. They are having small fundraisers, they are a struggling young lake association.

Bill stated the downside of an e-organization is if someone comes to the meeting for help.

Steve received the water quality test results from Dave Arrington and sent them to Sandy. They will be posted on the website soon.

Miriam made a motion to meet in April, July and October, and move the meeting around the county. Seconded by Bobbie. All in favor. Motion carries.

We will have no president, just a steering committee, maybe a half a dozen folks.

- Bobbie-Cedar Lake
- Bill-Ex-Officio
- Sam Perkins-Blackman Lake
- Steve McElhoe-McLish-Lake of the Woods
- Max & Fran Samuelson-Stone Lake
- Steve-North Twin

Steve McElhoe-Semi-annual meeting will be August 4th. Pete Hippensteel will be speaking. They are selling lake flags as a fundraiser.

Bill Schmidt – Steuben County will be having their annual meeting at Lake James Christian Camp with a speaker from Lake George.

Fran-Stone will have a short business meeting. They have an auction every other year. This year they made five thousand dollars. Their next meeting will have a speaker who does weed control.

Bobbie-Cedar Lake – We have updated our mailing list. Water testing training was good. We will be clearing our inlet and our outlet.

Henri – Michiana Fish Lake-Saturday evening there will be a band at the pole barn. In two weeks we will have our annual picnic and fireworks.

Steve-North Twin- Annual meeting will be August 3rd. They had a flotilla for the 4th of July. Working towards a sewer, and raising money from each lake.
Motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. by Steve McElhoe.
Next meeting will be August 23 at 7:00 p.m., same location.
Respectfully submitted by Sandy Ferrell.