

**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
CITY OF LAKE SHORE
CITY HALL
JANUARY 21, 2010
7:00 PM**

Earl North called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Mayor John Terwilliger. Committee members present: Earl North, Melinda Re and Elaine Leach; Alternate Jerry Swenson (came late) and City Administrator Teri Hastings. Ron Faust, Pat Rafferty and Gene Jaster were absent. Arla Johnson was in the audience.

Motion by Elaine Leach to approve the November 19, 2009 minutes as presented. Melinda Re seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Upper Gull Lake-Curly leaf pond weed – Jerry Swenson was late, before he arrived Melinda reported that Jerry was going to work with the residents of Upper Gull to prepare an aquatic vegetation plan with the DNR. Elaine said that Jerry did attend the Gull Chain of Lakes meeting as stated in the last meeting minutes. Jerry said that he needs to get the word out on Upper Gull to make sure the residents know how important it is to start with best practices right now and establish an aquatic vegetation plan, before it is too late and the water becomes impaired.

Curly-leaf pondweed grant-Lake Margaret – Teri Hastings reported that she submitted the curly-leaf pondweed grant again this year. She did it online this year and didn't need all the same paperwork that the city supplied last year. They have sufficient information. Elaine Leach asked the anticipated approval. Teri said that it is fairly soon. The grant would be for one application on Lake Margaret.

Update on Implementation Matrix Projects – Teri Hastings reported that the Environmental Committee has been assigned a shoreland restoration project and tour, Earl and Bob will tour and photograph the shoreline in the spring. Elaine and Pat are putting together a tour of the shoreline restoration projects that have already been done.

Update on joint meeting regarding Lake Margaret Paleolimnological Assessment and grant opportunities – Earl North reported that there was a joint meeting with the Environmental Committee, Stakeholders Committee and interested citizens for the implementation of the TMDL study and Joe Bischoff gave an excellent technical/non-technical analysis of the core sample outcome. It explained scientifically that Lake Margaret has never met the water quality level that would've met the states 30 ppb of phosphor in the water since early settlement (1800's). Earl said that what it brings it down to is to implement efforts in the watershed to control what goes into the tributary streams that run into Lake Margaret. I.e. keep the cattle out of it, sediment, and erosion control and making sure the septic systems are compliant every three years. Joe Bischoff said that he is certain that the most effective way to manage the phosphor content issue as being an impaired water would be to treat the lake with Alum. The price for treatment had been reduced considerably, which is now \$200,000.00 and the grant amount the city could apply for is half of that. Earl said the city would need to create a revenue source to be able to do the Alum treatment. Wenck is willing to write the grant for the city for the Alum treatment. Joe Bischoff thought the most effective treatment could begin with the deepest holes in the lake.

Elaine Leach asked when funding becomes available what does the treatment look like; would it be a one time treatment like the curly-leaf pondweed? Earl said he understood that it would be plotted by GPS and it is a granular treatment. Joe had told them that the water quality would

change in just days; however, he also said that the curly-leaf pondweed would be back with a vengeance the next spring. Teri said that the Alum would be applied in late July so in August the water quality would be great and it would significantly change the algae bloom for the season.

Earl said that the MPCA expects the city to make some effort to improve the water quality of Lake Margaret regardless if the lake has always been at 35-40 ppb of phosphorous. There were two major events that contributed to the condition of the lake, one was the logging in the 1870's and the other happened in the 1980's. The Mayor suggested that maybe it was when the beaver dams were being blown up. The committee thought that this should be looked into. Teri suggested talking to Tim Brastrup for that information.

Arla Johnson asked what the next step is to move forward. Elaine asked if the Environmental Committee could call this report to the attention of the City Council to accept the Lake Margaret Paleolimnological Assessment.

MOTION BY ELAINE LEACH THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE ACCEPT THE LAKE MARGARET PALEOLIMNOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT BY WENCK ASSOCIATES AS PRESENTED BY JOE BISCHOFF ON JANUARY 14, 2010 TO THE STAKEHOLDERS COMMITTEE AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE; AND RECOMMEND THAT THE LAKE SHORE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPT THE REPORT. MELINDA RE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED.

Jerry asked if the city has made final payment to Wenck. Teri said that the presentation was not billed. Joe did this for the city. She said we are now in the implementation portion of the TMDL. Arla asked as the Stakeholders move forward such as with the Alum treatment does it move through the Environmental committee again. Teri said that the committees are now following the matrix that Joe has prepared as part of the implementation portion of the TMDL study. Earl said as far as the Stakeholders and the Environmental committee with help from the city is to develop an order magnitude that the city would have to look at as its burden and that process. He said as Teri's pointed out there is more to this than just the Alum treatment; there are other financial obligations that will be incurred. Teri said that there is a Lake Margaret fund with approximately \$60,000.00 and the city received \$120,000.00 as a zoning violation that has not been designated to a special project. Arla suggested that a one page summary of the report be supplied to the city council. Teri said that it is unfortunate that two council members will be missing from the meeting.

Lake Shore fertilizer ordinance and state statute – Teri said based on the November meeting minutes the committee thought that people need to be reminded of the fertilizer ordinance. Teri supplied the ordinance and the state statute to the committee members for their reference and education. She said this should be put in the newsletter this spring to keep the public informed. She said a lot goes on behind the scenes that the residents are not aware of such as the Lake Margaret Overlay that is making a difference. Teri said that this same information was supplied to the lake residents in the dock drop of information from the Gull Chain of Lakes Association.

Resignation of Earl North – Earl said he has enjoyed his time on the Environmental committee, but the time has come to step down. He was on the committee for 5 years. He is on the Planning Commission, the Stakeholders committee, the Cass County Budget committee and the Mircopolitan.

The next meeting is on Thursday, February 18, 2010.

Motion by Elaine Leach to adjourn the Environmental Committee meeting of January 21, 2010. Jerry Swenson seconded the motion. Motion passed.