**Minutes**

**Lake Committee Meeting**

**March 2, 2017**

Present:

Fran Stifel, chair

Dietta Burgoyne

Lisa Rosenthal

Donna St. John

Norm Schlultz

Not in attendance: Jennie McCoun

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM. A quorum was established. Dietta made a motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting. Donna seconded, and all voted in favor.

**Membership:**

Felix Sawicki resigned due to time constraints. Fran contacted members who had missed numerous meetings and asked if they wished to remain on the committee since their absences resulted in sometimes failing to establish a quorum. Stephen Schneikart resigned. There were no replies from Gail Rosenthal and Mary Davis, so it was assumed they didn’t wish to remain, and they were dropped.

**ASI report:**

The report was discussed. Everyone thought it looked good.

**Aeration**

Because Jennie McCoun had asked about installing a fountain for aeration, Fran consulted Vertex. They replied that fountains are purely aesthetic and move water only on the top of a lake. Aerators are at the bottom and turn over the entire body of water. The committee felt that the money for a fountain could be better spent elsewhere. Dietta made a motion to remove a fountain from the committee’s future plans. Donna seconded. All voted in favor.

Since James Roehm’s October report suggested additional aeration for lakes #1 and #3, Fran got a bid from Vertex/ASI. It was $8500 for five diffusers. A revised bid utilizing a cabinet installed by Lake Doctors was about the same. Fran felt this was high, and she’s asked Lake Doctors to provide a bid.

**Florida Fish and Wildlife visit:**

Lisa reported on the inspection of lakes #1- #3 by Jeff Lokuta. He said that plant-wise these are the best lakes he’s seen. He gave some suggestions of how to cut down on damage to beneficial plants due to spraying. One suggestion was to not spray within 3 feet of the shore.

Lisa also contacted **Dr. Don Richardson of Ecological Consultants**, recommended by the NB lawn care company owner Frank Smith. Dr Richardson suggested:

1. Plant new plantings 2 feet out, then have lawn company trim along shoreline to prevent having to spray torpedo grass.

2. Instead of paying for hand weeding, money is better spent on plants since, no matter how careful you are, you’ll have to replant every 3 – 4 years.

3. Best plants for salinity are spikerush, three square bulrush (which is short) and bulrush.

4. Plant in March – May when lakes are low, allowing plants to be put out farther and grow up to depth of water.

5. Include in lake company contract that if plants are killed from spraying, the company will replant. He uses **American Ecosystems**, which does this.

Eelgrass was discussed as an algae control. However, Fran and Dietta did research, and it would spread too much to work in our situation.

**Alum:**

Lakes #2 - #8 will be treated in April or May. This will be the largest alum treatment ASI has ever done.

**Lake spraying:**

Spraying in lakes #1 - #3 was stopped until the meeting with Jeff Lokuta. Fran then instructed James to go back to spraying carefully. The permit for the TIGR selective herbicide should come through soon.

**Testing:**

Fran reported that James will test the lakes for dissolved oxygen and also test our reclaimed water for phosphorous. Samples have been taken.

Lisa asked if these results will be compared to other communities. Fran will look into this. Dietta will research how the reclaimed system works and report to the committee.

Lisa asked if a filter exists that would remove phosphorous. She pointed out that if we’re spending $50,000 on alum, it would be worth researching. Dietta will investigate.

**Budget:**

Dietta will be preparing the Lake Committee budget. She asked that members bring to the next meeting any items they’d like to add.

Meeting adjourned at 1:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Rosenthal