HI-LAND LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD
APRIL 16, 2019
DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by acting chairperson Dennis Brennan at 3:03PM at Putnam Township Hall. There were two Hi-Land lake residents in attendance.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dennis Brennan, Putnam Township Supervisor; Doug Helzerman, Livingston County Commissioner; Rob Mickovic, President of Hi-Land Lake Property Owners Association; Valerie Niemiec, Putnam Township Deputy Clerk; Livingston County Drain Commission representatives Michelle LaRose and Mitch Dempsey
MEMBERS ABSENT: None

CALL TO PUBLIC

Opened at 3:07PM. No response. Closed at 3:07PM

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by LaRose and supported by Helzerman to approve the agenda as amended. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Acceptance of Township Board Resolution creating the Hi-Land Lake Improvement Board and appointing Township representatives: **A motion was made by LaRose and supported by Helzerman to accept Putnam Township Resolution 19-06, adopted on March 20, 2019, to establish a Lake Improvement Board for Hi-Land Lake pursuant to Section 324.30903 of Part 309 and subsequent appointment of Dennis Brennan and Valerie Niemiec as the township representatives on the Hi-Land Lake Improvement Board. MOTION CARRIED.**

2. Appointment of Hi-Land Lake Property Owners Association representative to the Lake Improvement Board: **A motion was made by LaRose and supported by Brennan to appoint Rob Mickovic as the resident representative to the Hi-Land Lake Improvement Board, for a 4-year term starting 4/16/19 and ending 4/15/23. MOTION CARRIED.**

3. Appointment of Officers: **A motion was made by Helzerman and supported by Mickovic to appoint Dennis Brennan as Chairperson. MOTION CARRIED. A motion was made by Brennan and supported by Helzerman to appoint Niemiec as Secretary. MOTION CARRIED. A motion was made by Brennan and supported by Helzerman to appoint Drain Commission Designee as Treasurer. MOTION CARRIED.**

4. The Board and residents in attendance participated in an open discussion regarding Hi-Land Lake Improvement Board structure, goals, core concerns, desired outcomes, resources, process, and next steps. *Informal discussion notes, for information only, are included at the end of these Minutes.*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Niemiec and supported by Brennan to adjourn the meeting at 5:01PM. MOTION CARRIED.

ATTACHMENTS

Putnam Township Resolution 19-06
Minutes of March 20, 2019 Putnam Township Board Meeting (appointing Brennan and Niemiec)

Informal Discussion Notes from 4/16/19 Hi-Land Lake Board Meeting, for information only

General Lake Board Info

Board composition: *This board is composed of the County Commissioner representing Putnam Township Precinct No. 1, two representatives appointed by the township, one lake resident, and the Livingston County Drain Commissioner or his designee. Putnam reps do not have to be township employees. The HLPOA rep does not have to be on HLPOA board. The Drain Commission 'designee' is a position (not a specific person) that gets one vote but one or more reps can participate. The MDEQ can participate on the Board if they so choose.*

Term: *Lake Board appointments are for a 4-year term. No one can serve in a member's stead, but a permanent replacement can be appointed if a member retires. A Lake Improvement Board exists until it is dissolved but can be intermittently idle if no useful purpose.*

Quorum: *51% of Board is a quorum.*

Other lake boards: *There are 3 other Lake Boards in Livingston County: Cedar Lake, Lake Tyrone, and Thompson Lake. Information about these boards can be found online in 'lakes and dams' section of www.livgov.com/drain.*

Lake board community: *'Lake resident' is defined as owner of property. The roll (list of properties) included in the Lake Board District will be proposed by the Drain Commission and reviewed by the Board.*

Future board meetings: *No set schedule, but all meetings are conducted under the Public Meetings Act and require an 18-hour public notice available on the Putnam Township website.*

Future public hearings: *A minimum of two public hearings will be conducted. All residents will be invited by mail at least xx days before each hearing.*

Summary of Intent

Purpose: *The original and primary impetus for establishing the Hi-Land Lake Improvement Board is to access safe, effective, and cost-effective treatment to control invasive starry stonewort. Unlike inconvenient invasives we have treated for over the past 4 decades, starry stonewort is an extraordinary curse in shallow lakes. Stonewort meadows grow up to 12 feet thick making the lake impassable, depleting the lake ecosystem by squeezing out other plants and water species. Even one season with poorly controlled stonewort results in critical long term devastation of fish habitats. It impedes boating, swimming, and water sports, and diminishes property values. As water levels drop as summer progresses, smelly decaying stonewort meadows will be exposed to air. The cost of weed treatment, using safe and proven formulations, far exceeds the current HLPOA weed treatment budget. Treatment options and coverage area are limited as a POA, but a Lake Board has access to safe effective chemicals and can choose to treat all areas of the lake.*

More purpose: *Residents have suggested additional lake improvements that fall under the purview of a Board including: dredging of boat launch and erosion control of stream from Crooked Lake to reduce future sediment buildup; improvements to boat launch; dredging under Sunset bridge; clean up and maintenance of HLPOA easements and access points; water safety ensuring biodiversity; water quality and additional testing; fish stocking; optimization of communal swim areas. The Lake Board strongly encourages resident input..*

Process and Timing

Scope of Work: *must be clearly defined, tangible, measurable, and with specific associated costs. The Lake Board will be limited to the articulated Scope of Work, but projects can be prioritized and deferred when/if funds become available. For instance, if first two years require full focus on stonewort but it is held at bay, some funds in year three may be available for dredging or other improvements. Part 309 requires a 10-15% contingency fund.*

Duration: *Lake board projects are typically defined in 3 or 5 year timetable.*

Process: *(listed in approximate order)*

1. ***It was the consensus of the Board that we do not want to rush this process, and that the weed control companies must be invited to evaluate the Hi-Land Lake June-to-September 2019 weed cycle prior to providing accurate bids and deliverables. There are specific steps required to establish a well-considered Lake Board District, Scope of Work, and budget. Based on the Putnam Township tax cycle, this eliminates the possibility for enacting a Lake Board levy prior to the December 2020 winter tax bill. Weed control as part of the Lake Improvement District would begin in Spring of 2021.***
2. *Board members (primarily Rob) will identify and gather all existing resources including water quality studies, Dr. Pullman's 5-year Hi-Land Lake projections, recommendations, AVS studies, schematics, existing bids, sample contracts and RFPs, etc. These will be summarized and emailed to several consulting companies for bids on developing Scope of Work recommendations and gathering cost estimates to complete the work. Michelle has sample consulting contracts.*
3. *A consultant will be identified and hired to develop the Scope of Work, a list of weed control providers, and an RFP that will be distributed for bids. The Drain Commission has historically had access to a Lake Revolving Fund to front these initial costs, which will then be reimbursed from future collections.*
4. *Drain Commission will propose roll of included properties for Board review.*
5. *When Scope of Work and cost estimates are completed and reviewed by the Board, all residents will be invited to a Public Hearing of Practicability conducted at Putnam Township Hall.*
6. *All residents will be invited to a Public Special Assessment Hearing conducted at Putnam Township Hall.*

Next Board meeting was proposed as May 21st at 3:00 p.m.