

**HACKERT LAKE ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING ATTENDANCE  
Saturday, July 19, 2014**

**MEMBERS ATTENDING (32):**

Joyce Grassa  
Sandi Steckel  
Bob Haupt  
Gail Kowalski  
Ed & Lou McCarthy  
Pat & Stub Willick  
Paul & Mary Ann Schultz  
John & Linda Ochs  
John & Raina Barbrick  
Laurie Hamilton  
Rick Ruba  
Jerry Barchett  
Ed Sanders  
Paul & Sue Dykman  
Don & JoAnn Fletcher  
Dan & Jan Bialas  
Ron & Sue Bailey  
Mary Reeds-Mortensen  
Jim & Julie Corby  
Jim & Tami Thompson  
Jerry Justice

**GUESTS (3):**

Mike and Kathy McKinney  
Bev Timpy

**HACKERT LAKE ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING  
JULY 19, 2014  
McCarthy Residence, 6:00 pm**

**AGENDA**

**Call to order, sign in sheet, name tags, hand out**

**Introduction of officers, board members: Ed Sanders, Lou McCarthy, Sandi Steckel, John Barbrick, Bob Haupt, Chris Loftis, Ed McCarthy Rick Ruba**

**Introduction of those present, Dr. Mike McKinney, guests,**

**Election of John Ochs to President:**

**Re election of current officers and board members:**

**Secretary Report: Lou McCarthy  
Minutes of 7-12-13 annual meeting (posted on web site)  
Web site status, news letter new secretary ?**

**Treasurer Report: Sandi Steckel  
Membership**

**Dr. Mike McKinney, WSCC, Professor of Biology, Chair of Science  
Water Quality Monitoring Program**

**Status of the Lake: John Ochs  
Walleye plant, 6-16-14  
Hi speed boating sign  
"Our Opinion"  
LJB report**

**Possible donation to Amber Township: John Ochs  
Picture(s), \$200 ?**

**Weevil Projects: Bob Haupt**

**Snail mail vs electronic ? Advise Sandi Steckel**

**Solicitation of opinions, comments, questions, input,**

**Adjourn**

# HACKERT LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES Saturday, July 19, 2014

## **WELCOME & ROLL:**

President John Ochs, called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM at the home of Ed & Lou McCarthy on Hackert Lake. Thirty-two (32) members attended. This number included officers and Hackert Lake Association (HLA) Board members. John Ochs welcomed everyone and thanked the McCarthys for hosting the meeting.

## **INTRODUCTION OF OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS, AND WSCC REPRESENTATIVE:**

- John Ochs introduced the Hackert Lake Association Officers and Board Members present.
- He also recognized guests, Mike & Cathy McKinney. Mike is from West Shore Community College and is instrumental in the water quality monitoring of Hackert Lake.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS**

- John announced that on May 22, 2014 the HLA Board elected him President. John now asked for endorsement of his election from the membership present at the Annual Meeting. Gail Kowalski made a motion to accept John Ochs as Hackert Lake Association Board President. Paul Schultz seconded. The show of hands vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- John motioned that he be elected President by acclamation. Joyce Grassa seconded. Motion carried.
- John Ochs made a motion to re-elect the current HLA Board members, with the exception of the Secretary, Lou McCarthy, by acclamation. Lou seconded. Motion carried.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

- Secretary Lou McCarthy asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting without reading them aloud, as they had been posted on the HLA website all year. Dan Bialas made the motion. Gail Kowalski seconded. Motion carried.
- Lou expressed her desire to step down as HLA Board Secretary. She offered to continue to function as editor of the newsletter and HLA website.
- Lou also gave a short update on the website and asked if the membership was satisfied with its status and the twice-a-year newsletter. The consensus was positive.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

- Treasurer Sandi Steckel gave her report. (*see attachment 1*) As of 7-19-14, there is a current balance of \$3,432.71 in the checking account with a paid membership numbering 72.
- Paul Schultz made a motion that the Treasurer's report be accepted as read with no corrections necessary. Bob Haupt seconded. Motion carried.

## **HACKERT LAKE REPORT FROM DR. MIKE MCKINNEY:**

- Dr. Mike McKinney, WECC Professor of Biology, Chair of Science Water Quality Monitoring Program commented positively on the condition of Hackert Lake. The 5-year report showed Hackert Lake to be clean and healthy. McKinney expressed his pleasure with the results of the study. (*see attachment 2*)

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- John Ochs began his report by stating that the Mason County Walleye Association and the DNR planted 16,000 walleye fry in Hackert Lake on 6-16-14. A letter of thanks and a donation of \$200 will be sent to the Walleye Association. *(see attachment 3)*
- Township Supervisor, Jim Galley, got a new high-speed boating sign for our boat launch and Bob Haupt installed it. John recognized Rick Ruba and Ed Sanders as the "Water Patrol" people on the lake and suggested that if members see boaters in violation of water safety rules and speed limits they should contact Rick or Ed. People may also call 911 to report violations.
- At the HLA Board meeting of May 22, 2014, the Board adopted a document entitled "Our Opinion" as its official stand on the care and upkeep of Hackert Lake. *(see attachment 4)*
- John was pleased to announce that the Hackert Lake Improvement Board (LIB), created in late 2004 through Amber Township, approved and adopted the document "Our Opinion" by a 4 to 1 vote on 7-15-14. Rick Ruba agreed that the LIB adopting the document as its official policy for Hackert Lake was a significant achievement.
- Paul Schultz commented that three of the LIB board members who are not residents of Hackert Lake declined to learn more about our lake. Paul expressed the importance of the Hackert Lake Association supporting our representatives on the LIB, Rick Ruba and John Ochs.
- Pat Willick asked if the LIB had discussed the use of herbicides on Hackert Lake. John Ochs said it hadn't been officially discussed yet, but there were two proposals on the table from Pullman and Groves. A survey of the lake is necessary before any recommendation can be made on the proposals. Paul Schultz noted that the new chairman of the LIB, Curt VanderWall, wants to bring in consultants for chemical weed control on the lake. Rick and John were pleased that the document "Our Opinion," endorsed by the HLA Board, was adopted by the LIB and said that it showed the power of an active lake association board.
- The secretary position on the LIB, vacated by Ed Sanders, has not been filled as yet.
- John Ochs noted that Township Supervisor, Jim Galley, is a friend of Hackert Lake and was in attendance at the 7-15-14 LIB meeting.
- Jim Galley is initiating a beautification plan for Amber Township Hall. He is asking for pictures of Hackert Lake to be hung in the hall. John and Linda Ochs brought an aerial picture of Hackert Lake to the meeting. They propose to donate it to the township. Jim Galley is also soliciting donations for the beautification process. John Ochs asked if the HLA would be willing to donate \$200 to the cause. Ed Sanders made a motion to donate \$200 to the Amber Township Hall beautification project. Paul Schultz seconded. Motion carried. The next Amber Township Board Meeting will be this Monday, July 21st, at 7:00 PM. John Ochs will attend and make them aware of the donations. *(see attachment 5)*

## **OTHER REPORTS:**

- Bob Haupt reported that there is a process being used by Tom Hamilton to raise weevils. John Ochs said that weevils are no longer available through EnviroScience. Using Hamilton's process, it might be possible for interested parties on Hackert Lake to raise their own weevils. Bob can get more information on this for those interested.
- Lou McCarthy and Sandi Steckel asked for a list of anyone wishing to receive communications from the HLA via email instead of traditional mail. The newsletter and other communications will be sent electronically, saving the HLA postage.
- Bob Haupt also asked that any new residents of the lake please sign up so that the Welcoming Committee can follow up with them.

There being no further comments, discussions, input, Ed McCarthy motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Gail Kowalski seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lou McCarthy, Secretary

## HACKERT LAKE ASSOCIATION

TREASURER'S REPORT

AS OF 7-19-2014PRIOR BALANCE AS OF 5-22-14 WAS: \$ 3833.11

PLUS:

INCOME:	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
	<u>Dues</u>	<u>110.00</u>
	<u>Interest</u>	<u>-1.00</u>
	_____	_____
	_____	_____

SUB BALANCE = \$ 3943.51

MINUS:

EXPENSES:	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
	<u>HLA Signage</u>	<u>193.00</u>
	<u>Wally's Assoc.</u>	<u>300.00</u>
	<u>Stamps</u>	<u>58.80</u>
	<u>Emmanuel Char.</u>	<u>60.00 = 510.80</u>

BALANCE = \$ 3432.71PAID DUES MEMBERS - 72CC: PRESIDENT  
SECRETARY

SUBMITTED BY:

Sandra Stepien  
Treasurer

June 9, 2014

To the Hackert Lake Association,

Five years ago, I sent a letter to you concerning the water quality monitoring program that WSCC performs for area lake associations. There were three objectives that we had in place.

1. The first objective is for the education of our students. This program offers an opportunity for the student to gain hands on experience in the environmental sciences which prepares them for advanced science and environmental classes. The procedures and equipment that we use are equivalent to the methods and equipment described in the DNR's Lake Status and Trends protocol for inland lakes. The student works under the direction of a trained research scientist for help in procedure and evaluation of results.
2. The second objective is to monitor the water quality and overall health of the lake. This acts as an early warning for any changes in the lake environment. Once a month, we monitor dissolved oxygen, temperature, chlorophyll, nitrates, ammonia, phosphates, turbidity, coliforms, hardness, and pH.
3. Finally, an indirect purpose of this program is community involvement. The student, the college, and the lake associations all benefit from this program.

These objectives are still in place.

We have monitored the lake already on June 5 and plan to have three more dates this summer. The quality of the lake is very good. The nitrates, phosphates, and coliforms are well below the danger level. I will be providing the results later this month. I hope that the association that WSCC has with the Hackert Lake Association continues for the near and far future.

Sincerely,

Michael A. McKinney, Ph.D.

Professor of Biology  
Chair of Science  
West Shore Community College

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June 26, 2014

Mr. Carter Koles  
President  
Mason County Walleye Association  
P O Box 118, Ludington, Mi. 49431

Dear Carter,

On behalf of Hackert Lake Association, I thank the Association, and the DNR, for the recent planting of sixteen thousand (16,000) walleye fry in Hackert Lake. Over the years, the Association has been very kind to Hackert lake and we are very appreciative. A \$200 donation check from the Hackert Lake Association is enclosed.

Hackert Lake continues to be very healthy, with no conditions of concern, and enjoys a thriving fishery. We wish the Association continued success in its commendable efforts to benefit Michigan's walleye fishery.

Very truly yours,

John Ochs

President, Hackert Lake Association

Cc: Scott Heintzelman, DNR

Our opinion:  
As adopted at the May 22, 2014 HLA Board Meeting  
And, at the 7-15-14 LIB Meeting

**Background:**

The lake is healthy, with no evident problems.

Fishing, boating, swimming, etc. are as good as ever.

The only predictable complaints would be that several lake front owners find their dock surrounded by vegetation of some sort, not necessarily EWM. This is a condition which can be controlled by the dock owner.

Some rake at their dock, some have used mats. See [www.lakemat.com](http://www.lakemat.com) In 2013, two owners pulled permits and had A&T Co. apply herbicide.

We have had three full vegetation surveys, the last in 2013.

We have had yearly water quality monitoring by WSCC at two sites, five months each year.

Weevils have been planted since 2004.

Those who spend many hours on the lake each year have an accurate knowledge of the vegetation conditions. We see where the vegetation is, the type, and concentration.

In the years in which weevils have been planted, less than \$10,000/year (tax \$) has been spent.

It would be easy to spend \$50 k/yr on a lake of similar size. (ref. Pleasant Lake, Washtenaw Co.)

The literature on the weevil is mixed; effective on some lakes, not very effective on others. There are a number of variables. It would be faulty thinking to conclude "the weevils work", or "the weevils don't work". It is irrelevant if the weevils "worked" on a Wisconsin lake, and "did not work" on a Minnesota lake. All that matters is: have the weevils worked on Hackert Lake?

In the opinion of Hackert Lake Association, the weevils have worked on Hackert Lake.

The data from EnviroScience is supportive of our direct observation.

Investigation into the world of herbicides opens up a whole new arena of debate.

Approximately \$14,000. is in the LIB account. It was appropriated primarily for weevils. Let's spend it wisely.

**Suggestions:**

1. Continue the annual water quality monitoring by WSCC. It is relatively cheap (\$500), credible, and would detect any harmful trend(s). The program is consistent with the standard.
2. Postpone any more "data gathering" for at least 2014, and 2015. It is not only expensive, but, for the most part, tells us what we can see with our own eyes. It is not justifiable to spend taxpayer money on consultants to tell us what we can see for ourselves. Expensive data gathering might be justified in the future if a perceived problem develops.
3. The LIB should invite experienced consultants such as Doug Pullman, Tony Groves, and Cortney Marquette of EnviroScience to present. Invite one or two experienced herbicide applicators to present. Mike McKinney of WSCC should be invited, or requested to submit a written description of the water quality monitoring program. There are a great many questions to be addressed regarding consultants, herbicide applicators, and an effective lake management program for Hackert Lake.
4. The LIB members should visit Hackert Lake at least one, or more, times this year to have a personal knowledge of the lake.
5. If weevils are available, plant 5,000 in 2015, and 5,000 in 2016.
6. Continue to educate ourselves with lake management knowledge.
7. For now, "do nothing" is a viable option.



Mr. Jim Gallie

July 20, 2014

Supervisor, Amber Township Board

Dear Mr. Gallie,

It was appreciated that you attended the Hackert Lake Improvement Board meeting on July 15, 2014. We are grateful the meeting, and future ones, are to be conducted at the Hall. At the meeting you described the Amber Township hall beautification project. We commend your effort.

This is to confirm the donation of a framed aerial photo of Hackert Lake, with a smaller framed description of Amber Township's beautiful gem.

The Association also hereby presents a donation check in the amount of \$200, for the project.

Very truly yours,

John Ochs  
President  
Hackert Lake Association