

Lake Improvement Board (LIB) Meeting  
Report: by John Ochs , LIB Board member, and President of HLA  
This is a completely personal report

A Hackert Lake Improvement Board meeting was conducted on May 10, 2016 at 2:00 pm, at the Amber Township Hall. All were present: Curt VanderWall, Chairperson, Mason County Commissioner, Richard Plowe, Drain Commission, Rick Ruba, John Ochs, and Sandi Steckel.

Guests: Dr. Michael McKinney of WSCC, and Jim Gallie, Supervisor, Amber Township Board Supervisor.

The postings of the meeting at the Hall, and in the paper were handled by Richard.

Curt came without an agenda and used the agenda supplied by John, which John had sent out previously to all.

Richard volunteered to write the minutes for this meeting. John volunteered to write the minutes for the **next scheduled meeting on October 10, 2016, at 2:00 pm, at the Hall.**

Sandi was welcomed to the Board, having been appointed by Amber Township to replace Connie Anderson who had resigned rather than write minutes for the last meeting. Sandi was duly elected to the position of Treasurer of the LIB.

The minutes of the October 5, 2015 meeting, written by Rick, were approved.

There was no financial report; Connie Anderson had not responded to repeated requests for the information. There is approximately \$10,000 in the account.

Dr. McKinney presented the WSCC 2015 Water Quality Monitoring Report. The report will be displayed on the HLA website. The presentation confirmed **the lake continues in excellent health.** The board thanked Dr. McKinney for attending, and the detailed presentation.

John noted any LIB bill payment, and financial activity/status will still have to be obtained through Connie Anderson as she remains Amber Township Treasurer. The LIB account is a sub account of Amber Township funds. Hopefully this will not present problems because Connie is notoriously delinquent, does not respond to any requests, or perform tasks she should.

Curt stated he would take care of it and asked Jim Gallie to obtain from Connie a statement of the last year's financial LIB activity to be presented at the next Amber Township meeting on May 23. The information would then be supplied to the LIB, hopefully Sandi Steckel. Jim agreed. It is unfortunate Jim has to work on this. He is an outstanding official, we are fortunate to have him leading the interests of Amber Township.

John expressed concern for the timely payment of future bills, and receipt of a timely financial report before future meetings from Connie. Curt indicated “he had made some calls”, and the matter was resolved. Curt expressed the desire “to move on” from the matter, without pinning down a procedure to insure we know our bills were paid, and we received timely financial reports. There was no explanation for Connie’s long record of non performance.

John again invited Curt, and Richard to a tour of Hackert Lake on his pontoon so they at least could say they actually had been on the lake for the first time and had a knowledge of what it was like.

There was no mention of any possible problems, or need for any lake management programs, other than the annual WSCC Water Quality Monitoring Program. The “Our Opinion” position statement adopted by HLA and the LIB remains in effect. This statement attests as long as the lake is healthy, with no problems, there is no need to spend taxpayer money on consultants, studies, herbicide treatments, and the like. Curt has been in favor of hiring Dr. Doug Pullman, a consultant who is retired in Florida, at a cost of thousands of dollars per year to perform multi year studies and recommend various herbicide treatments. Curt was the lone “no” vote to adopt the “Our Opinion” position statement.

I share this information from a desire to keep all informed. I have only the best interests of Hackert Lake riparians as motivation. I welcome any questions, comments, information.

John