

**JANUARY 2, 2010**  
**SUMMARY OF INFORMATIVE**  
**MEETING OF LAKE GEORGE COTTAGER'S ASSOCIATION**

The following is a summary of items discussed during an informal meeting held on January 2, 2010 at the Lake George Conservancy Building by the Board Members and Directors of the LGCA. Due to the informality of this meeting no secretaries' minutes nor treasurers' report was read. The purpose of this meeting is to go over the Trine University engineering students report on the dam.

President Stang welcomed everyone to the informal meeting at 9:05 AM. There were approximately twenty-eight in attendance. (Officers, Beach Directors and residents) President then made the announcement that due to a work conflict the representative from Trine was not available for the 9:00 AM meeting but that he would be here (the conservancy building) at 1:30 PM this afternoon for those whom could return. He expressed his sincere hope that many would return for this presentation. At this time, President Stang slowly previewed the report. Bringing to light the findings of the Trine Study and cost difference, which Trine estimated, and the cost the engineering firm report estimated. The engineering firm's estimate was between \$650,000 and \$950,000 while the Trine Study estimated a cost of \$98,600 approximately depending on the contractor. Kyle Morton will explain how they came to this expense at the 1:30 meeting today.

**UPDATES:**

**INSURANCE-** Steve Boomer shared that the D&O insurance was written by Cincinnati Insurance Company, and it saved \$250 per year. Also, there was a change in agents and the insurance company will permit him to check for more ways to save our non-profit organization money.

**WEEDS-** To date (2009) the association spent \$30,000 + combating just Eurasian Milfoil. Two other weed species have been identified as possible infiltrators into our lake, Elodea and Starry Stonewort. The Starry Stonewort was found in the millpond and has been treated. LGCA has been reimbursed by the state for the expense of treating this weed in the millpond.

Governor Daniels is attempting to use the LARE Fund for other expenses. We have a letter available on the table for anyone who wishes to participate in voicing their objection to the Governor spending those monies for something other than it's intended purpose. (Just sign your name and mail)

**NEW BUSINESS -** President Stang ask if anyone knew what was going on with the destruction of the vegetation on the corner of 127 and Baker Road. Connie Carrol shared that the planning commission said they (Shelton Fireworks) were clearing the land so that their business was more visible to the interstate. The planning commission said that there was no plan approved for new signage for that company. Concern was expressed that the ditch from the pond area had been cleared and appeared to be draining toward the land located just south of the lake. Concern was also expressed that the diesel fumes had

become more apparent since all the trees were cut down. Kathy Kurtz will keep abreast of the situation and contact the appropriate people as needed, also, she will be checking into the need for green space required at such areas. The association will due further investigation into this situation in April.

#### **DAM UPDATES:**

Earth Tech based their report on 31" of rain per year as the worst possible scenario. Trine focused on the earthen embankment of the dam. Dam safety slope should be 1.3 min. Lake George dam slope is 1.2 Trine's recommendation is to change the slope 3:1 vertical. Those in attendance at the presentation in December were in agreement that the slope should be 4:1 vertical for even safer mowing should the additional cost not be excessive.

Trine's recommendation to make the slope changes was to add clay soil (a specific kind would be needed). See report for details

Trine's estimated cost was \$98,600 for a 3:1 change in the embankment slope, Kyle will refigure for the cost of a 4:1 slope. Kyle guessed a figured approximately \$15,000 or double what the 3-1 would cost.

#### **WHAT IS NEXT?**

- 1) Work with engineering firms, we have two at this time who have responded to our inquiries. Lawson-Fischer (who did a report in 2004) and a smaller firm McCormick Engineering both out of South Bend.

It was noted that whatever decision is made on hiring an engineering firm, the DNR, IDEM and others need to approve the plan. Also, it is believed that work with an expense over \$75,000 needs to be bid out.

- 2) President wanted it noted that \$ 2, 500 has been set up and approved with an additional \$2,500 approved at the last meeting to cover Dam expenses. We need as many LGCA members as possible to participate in expressing their opinion on how we get the additional funds for forth coming expenses. If we consider a minimum amount \$150,000 as the expense how do we get it? We can cash in LGCA CD's, wait until we get the money, or use money as it comes in for dues paid. Or, do we ask for voluntary donations as the weeds, fireworks and fish fees are paid. Another option would be to get a bank loan and it be paid by voluntary members. The majority in attendance at this informative meeting felt that taxation was the only fair option. It was suggested again the association look in forming a taxing district in Indiana known as a Conservancy (Tax) District where everyone would pay. It was noted that those residents on Michigan side (Bay View) have already got a tax district in place with Michigan to cover the cost of treating the weeds in their area.

The majority in attendance felt a taxing conservancy would have 100% participation as opposed to the 67% of 400 owners who contribute to the weed fund now. It was also

recommended that maybe a “ditch tax” could be used in include both dam and weed expense.

President Stang shared that there was a meeting at the Timbers in October with Bob Meeks. The discussion was concerning how LGCA could fund the work needed on the dam. And, would there be state/federal/county monies available. Mr. Meeks contacted a grant writer from Indianapolis, and he found that the residents around the lake are not financially in need of assistance. (Too much money around the lake!) However, it was discovered that the Department of Agriculture has a Rural Development Division and they have money to loan. Loan, key word, hopefully it will be a low price loan. We will continue to look at different ways to finance the dam project when we know how much funding we are looking at. Dick Burrows is going to help work through some issues involving financing and money available.

Kathy Kurtz offered the suggestion that a survey letter be sent out to all residents explaining the options we have concerning the expense. Let the residents express their opinion on how they would like to pay for the dam repair and maintenance. This will be looked into as a viable option come spring.

For specifics concerning the report contact President Stang on the availability of more copies of the Trine Study. No further meetings are scheduled until May '10, however updates can and will be made as needed on the website or via e-mail. Please make sure that your e-mail address is current so you can receive current information.