

Village of Wauconda  
Minutes of Environmental Committee Meeting  
Monday, September 12, 2011, 4:00 PM

Committee Members Present:

Chuck Black, Chair  
Ken Arnswald  
Linda Starkey

Mayor and Trustees Present:

Mayor Mark Knigge

Village Employees Present:

David Geary, Village Administrator, Director of PW, Director of BZ  
Jackie Soccorso, Director of Environmental Quality, Superintendent of Admin., PW

Meeting called to order at 4:04 P.M. by Chair Black.

Chair Black asked for a motion to approve the July 25, 2011 meeting minutes. Motion by Trustee Starkey, second by Trustee Arnswald. Motion carried.

The first item discussed was lake restrictions. Ed Lochmayer, Co-Chair of the Bangs Lake Advisory Committee (BLAC) summarized the research his committee had done. Three lakes were surveyed: Druce/Third Lake, Honey Lake, and Lake Zurich. All three of these lakes have a mechanical way to control the water level in the lake. Druce/Third Lake has a dam, ordinance on no-wake/lake closures. Honey Lake does not have much boat traffic and so they do not issue no-wake or other restrictions. Lake Zurich has an agreement in place between the Village, IDNR, IDOT, and the Lakeshore HOA group. Chair Black requested that BLAC survey more lakes. Ideally, he would like to see data on 8-10 lakes. Resident Bill Barber stated that most homeowners put in their docks/piers at the same level each year and that the closing of the lake around Memorial Day was "perfect timing." He believes the Village "did it right." Ed Lochmayer stated the Village had an SOP and can it be changed to leave the flow control bars in for a longer time period and monitor the water levels throughout the fall. He would like the bars to remain in place until November 1st. The current SOP calls for removal on or about September 1st. Discussion continued over the reasons for the Sept 1<sup>st</sup> date such as flooding concerns, drought concerns, and boaters' ability to use the lake and the ease with which boats can be removed at the end of the boating season. Administrator Geary presented a compromise and asked if BLAC would agree to a removal date of October 1<sup>st</sup> with the idea that this may change the following year as we continue to monitor the water level in the lake. Ed Lochmayer agreed on behalf of BLAC. Director Soccorso will prepare the revised SOP and distribute to stakeholders.

The second item discussed was fish stocking and slot limits. Ed Lochmayer presented a proposal from BLAC to stock the lake and develop a program for fish stocking. BLAC would like to keep larger breeding fish in the lake because of dwindling populations. Chair Black asked how long BLAC would like to have lower slot limits and Ed Lochmayer responded that he would like them to remain in place until another fish survey is conducted by IDNR. Discussion continued including signage changes to reflect lower slot limits. The Village has the authority to be more

restrictive than IDNR with regards to slot limits, but it cannot be less restrictive. Chair Black asked BLAC to get a timeframe from IDNR on when the next fish survey will be conducted and also to determine potential sign costs. Trustee Starkey asked how much BLAC spends per year on fish stocking. Ed Lochmayer responded that the fish stocking donation fund currently has \$3,300.00 and that BLAC ideally would like to spend \$10-\$15K per year. Chair Black asked if the Village or BLAC gets revenue from fishing tournaments. Ed Lochmayer said no. Discussion continued on potential revenue sources for fish stocking and other lake maintenance items such as exotic plant management. Chair Black asked Ed Lochmayer to put together a proposed budget for lake maintenance activities and bring it back to the Environmental Committee. Trustee Starkey stated that from a communications standpoint, donation may be able to be solicited through Facebook. Director Soccorso stated that INDR consultations are required for most lake maintenance activities, including fish stocking. She asked Ed Lochmayer to provide her with the details of the proposed fish stocking so she could submit to IDNR for consultation.

The next item discussed was aquatic hitchhikers. Ed Lochmayer stated that BLAC would like an ordinance that made it illegal to transport aquatic hitchhikers over Village roadways. Discussion continued over how such an ordinance would be enforced, what the penalties may be, and what resources the Village had available to create and enforce such an ordinance. Ed Lochmayer stated that he does not want the lake to become re-infested with milfoil, curly-leak pondweed, and zebra mussels once those are under control. Ed Lochmayer stated that the State of Minnesota has a law like this already in place statewide. Mayor Knigge suggested that Illinois/Indiana Sea Grant could be of assistance. Ed Lochmayer stated that he has already partnered with IL/IN Sea Grant and also ProtectOurLakes.org. Resident Bill Barber stated that he thought Illinois already had an ordinance similar to Minnesota.

The next item discussed was the development of a lakeshore HOA group. Chair Black stated that he was working on this. The goal is to set up this group so they may discuss and share information regarding beach operations, boating issues, lake maintenance issues, etc. It would be a forum for HOAs to share information and best practices with each other.

The next item discussed was ice fishing shanties. Ed Lochmayer stated that BLAC would like to see additional shanty regulations put in place so that shanties are removed at the end of the season in a timely manner so they do not just fall into the lake. He believes the Village needs to be more restrictive in regards to ice shanties, fishing regulations, and that fees should be collected and shanty permits issued. Administrator Geary stated an ordinance is already in place and that perhaps better enforcement is needed. Ed Lochmayer disagreed and stated that he believes a stronger ordinance is needed. Director Soccorso will discuss this issue with the Police Chief Larsson and the issue may be further discussed at a Police Committee meeting. The Police Department is responsible for enforcing this ordinance.

Ed Lochmayer reported that the next BLAC meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 28, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. Chair Black then scheduled the next Environmental Committee meeting for Monday, December 12, 2011 at 4:00 P.M.

Trustee Starkey moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Trustee Arnswald.

Meeting adjourned at 5:14 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Soccorso

Copies to:

Mayor Knigge; Chuck Black, Chair; Village Board members; Administrator/Director Geary