

Lake Mitchell Property Owners Incorporated

Board Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2023 v2

Zoom Meeting Attendance: Dave Stinger, Jackie Erway, Dave Kuyers, Hugh Hufnagel, Gary Huyge
Note: Having already resigned from the LMPOI board to accept an appointment to the Lake Mitchell Sewer Authority Board (LMSA), Dave Kuyers attended this meeting to aid in the transition of his prior LMPOI duties to the other LMPOI board members.

1. **Officer discussion and election:** Dave Kuyers reported that by accepting a position on the Lake Mitchell Sewer Authority (LMSA) board he was no longer eligible to serve on the LMPOI board (per LMPOI bylaws). Therefore, the LMPOI board will need to elect another president and identify another LMPOI member to serve the board. Following discussion, Jackie Erway said that she was willing to serve as board president on an interim basis until another person was nominated and elected to do so. This would leave her Vice President position open for the time being. The other board officers will remain in their positions as elected during the August 23, 2022, board meeting.

Several people were identified who might be approached about being on the board and will be contacted by existing board members. It was also decided to announce board openings through an email to existing LMPOI members, an announcement on the LMPOI website, and a LMPOI Facebook posting.

2. **Goals for 2023:** The following items were suggested as goals for 2023:
 - Help secure governmental funding to assist with the cost of necessary sewer system improvements (by working with our legislative representatives)
 - Recruit new LMPOI members using several approaches, eg contacting our neighbors who are not already members, holding a social gathering this summer, distributing membership flyers, etc.
 - Hold the annual membership meeting on Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 10 am.
 - Invite all Lake Mitchell property owners to attend a social event to meet other property owners on Saturday, July 8 or Sunday July 9 (possibly at Camp Torenta).
 - Encourage other LMPOI members to attend LMSA board meetings to increase the oversight of LMSA decisions and their impact on Lake Mitchell property owners.
 - Identify LMPOI members to run for Cherry Grove and Selma township board positions.
 - Conduct a LMPOI member survey to identify and clarify property owner interests.
3. **Member dues:** Following discussion, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to set the 2023 LMPOI membership dues at \$50. Members will be notified that 2023 dues are now payable. It was also noted that the dues amount may be lowered in 2024 if an adequate reserve level is achieved this year.
4. **LMSA issues:** LMPOI board members were encouraged to read the LMSA board meeting minutes from 11-29-22 and 12-5-22. There were no responses to the LMSA request for proposals to do the LMSA sewer system improvements. This could indicate that the request was not

sufficiently detailed for potential bidders to respond to. It could also mean that potential bidders were not interested in the work for other reasons (eg, project too small or too complicated, bidders already have all the work they can handle, etc).

5. **Follow-up with state legislators:** We need to continue our talks with newly elected Senator Michelle Hoitenga, and Representative Joseph Fox to continue to encourage them to advocate for state and federal funding (through the state) for our needed sewer system improvements. It was decided to send them another letter (perhaps an update of our previous letter) requesting their help. This will be sent in February (and followed up with a phone call to each person). Gary will take the lead in drafting and sending these letters.
6. **Transition:** With Dave Kuyers leaving the LMPOI board, the following items need to be transferred to other LMPOI board members: (1) board records – to Jackie, (2) checking account information – to Gary, (3) tax return information, including 2022 draft income tax returns – to Gary, (4) information gathered through FOIA requests – to Dave S if he does not already have it. Because Gary is also in the process of assuming the LMPOI treasurer duties, he will work out further details in another phone call with Dave K.
7. **LMPOI member email file:** There are approximately 160 LMPOI member email addresses that Dave K will update and send to Jackie. This list can be used for sending out 2023 dues notices and periodic updates to members about LMPOI activities.
8. **LMPOI member update:** It was decided to send out an email update to LMPOI members in the next few weeks. Hugh will draft the update and circulate it to all LMPOI board members for their review and input. The update will include:
 - Announcement of Dave Kuyers appointment to the LMSA board and resignation from the LMPOI board. (Note: Dave already posted this change in his board membership status on Facebook on 12-15-22.)
 - Thank you to members for signing the late 2021 petition that helped persuade the Selma Township board to appoint a property owner to the LMSA board.
 - LMPOI 2023 goals (see item 2 above).
 - 2023 LMPOI dues of \$50 are now due and payable.
 - Need for LMPOI member to fill an open LMPOI board position.
 - Annual meeting and social gathering invitation, dates and details.
 - LMSA issues, including updates on efforts to secure governmental funding and progress in the work bidding process.
 - Other things that LMPOI is doing, eg monitoring lake water levels, contacts with Cadillac News, Bridge Magazine, and the Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce. We are showing all of them how a healthy Lake Mitchell benefits the entire area, both economically and environmentally. For example, tourism (eg state park attendance) is highly dependent on a clean and fishable Lake Mitchell. Lake Cadillac, the Clam River, and other downstream bodies of water are also dependent on the condition of Lake Mitchell. So why should the costs of the sewer system be born entirely by Lake Mitchell property owners, especially when federal/state governmental infrastructure funding is being allocated to other sewer projects at other Michigan lakes?

9. **Facebook page and LMPOI website management:** Jackie will continue to manage LMPOI member communication through the Facebook page and Adele Stinger will continue to update manage the website. Jackie indicated that both she and Adele could use a few good photos of the lake.
10. **Cadillac News, Bridge Magazine, Cadillac Chamber of Commerce relationships:** Dave Kuyers took a lead role in managing these relationships. With his departure these relationships will need to be maintained by others. Hugh will assist Dave Stinger with these relationships in the future. Note: The approach being taken with these organizations is summarized in the last bullet point in section 8 above (member update).
11. **Water level monitoring:** Dave Kuyers suggested that we should continue to make sure that Lake Mitchell water levels are actively monitored as they have been in the past. Jackie will ask Bob Sayles to continue the monitoring he has been doing, especially in the spring and summer months. If he is not willing to continue doing this, we should find someone else to do it. It is important that government officials know that we are also watching water levels.
12. **Weed control:** Ron Klimp is our liaison to the Lake Mitchell Improvement Board (LMIB). He lets us know if there are any issues arising there that should be communicated to all LMPOI members.

Minutes revised by Hugh Hufnagel on January 9, 2023.