

Gravel Lake Association
Semi-Annual Membership Meeting
June 29th, 2013

Meeting called to order at 11:06am

Present: Craig DeSimone, Reed, Brooks, Pinkos, Brown, Carole DeSimone, Dorsey, Flavin, Hochsprung, Kitzmiller, LaLone, McGreal, Murray, Paramski

Absent: DeRosa, Garrison, McDevitt, Stogis

A motion was made by Melton to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Kitzmiller, approved. There was a \$500.00 donation for fish stocking made by Jean Cunat, in memory of Bill Sedik. Take a look at the Michigan Riparian Magazines which is an organization for the protection of Michigan Lakes.

Officers' Reports:

Secretary-no report

Editor- Welcomes any information for the next newsletter. Also in the fall issue of Michigan Riparian, our own Greg Garret will be featured, for the taps he plays at 9:00pm each evening.

Internet Ops-In the Gravel Lake.org we have recent calendar, free classified ads for members, Business advertising, pictures, that will become galleries. We also have a Facebook page, that will post upcoming events.

Fund-raising- There is paraphernalia for sale today

Water Quality-Kurtyak and Greg got a testing of water on or about April 2nd this year, the phosphate level was about the same as last year.

Weed Treatment- We are in a year for whole lake treatment. There are 3 levels that a lake is rated, Mesotrophic(some weeds) Oligotrophic(no weeds) or eutrophic (a lot of weeds) Gravel Lake is in between Mesotrophic and Oligotrophic, trending toward oligotrophic. Art Earl will talk with companies as to cost and effectiveness of aeration for the channel.

Buoys/Signage-Thanks to McDevitt, Flavin, and John Deren for getting the buoys up this year. There was a concern about the lake level being too high, but no one wanted to do anything about this.

Old Business:

Public Access – The rocks were placed at the access for erosion. If there are any problems at the access you need to call the DNR poaching line.

Water Quality consultants- We will be looking into this

Speed limit signs- still looking into.

Phone Book update- The 2013 phone book should be ready for distribution at the August membership meeting, for paid members.

Gravel Lake Picnic- The picnic is immediately following the meeting. A big thank you to Steve and Janice Pinkos, and Missy Dunnigan for all your hard work.

Whistles-Distribution at the August membership meeting, for paid members.

GL Stickers- We are looking into stickers for paid members.

GLA Social- We will not be having a social this year, but it should return in 2014.

4th of July-

Boat Parade: “4th of July” Theme – Friday, July 5th at 6:00pm (to enter email Stogis)

Kids Games: Saturday July 6th at noon.

Paddle Boat Regatta: Saturday July 6th at 6:00pm (enter at mouth of channel)
Fun Run; Sunday July 7th at 10:00am (small fee at Willow Beach)

New Business

VanBuren County Sheriff Marine Patrol – Deputy Jason Fisk reported to the association that there are 113 lakes in VanBuren County, and 78 are patrolled by VanBuren County Sheriff Dept. Also a portion of the Lake Michigan shoreline, so if you call and need the Marine Patrol it may take some time to get here. He also went over the safety issues they are looking for if you are pulled over by them while on the lake, they include Life jackets that fit all passengers, 16' or more boats must have throwables on board, registration, and fire extinguishers (these are needed for boats with enclosed gas tanks.) Jet Skis- you must have a Boaters safety certificate is you birth date is after December 31, 1978.

New Laws-

1. You have to have a vest on while skiing etc behind a boat.
2. Children 12 years and under can wear a type 1, 2, or 3 life vest, while riding on Jet skis.
3. As of July 1, 2013 all people born after July 1, 1996 must have a Boater Safety Certificate to drive watercraft. Boater safety course is available to take on line. Look at the Van Buren County Sheriff Dept. website for information.

Alcohol Level while operating a should be under .10. Remember drinking on water will increase your alcohol level. You can have a beer, but not be intoxicated.

Life jackets must be accessible- they can be under seats, but not wrapped in plastic.

Below slow no wake you can be outside pontoon railings, but is you are over this speed you have to be inside railings.

If you are pulling someone behind boat you must be 100' from rafts or docks.

Public Access is not part of the Jurisdiction of the Sheriff Dept. it is patrolled by the DNR.

On Jet ski's the spotter must be backwards when pulling someone behind. You can use a 2 seater jet ski when pulling someone.

Boater Safety Courses

1. July 20th at 8am: Decatur-Hamilton Fire Dept. 420 W. Delaware St.
2. July 27th at Lawton Fire Dept. - 119 S. Main St.

MLSA update- Hybridized EWM – this is very hard to remove, it is spread by moving boats from one lake to another. We are looking into this with PLM.

Trustee elections- Paul Galassi has resigned, a big thanks to Paul for serving Winkler beach since 2004. Craig DeSimone has moved Brown to Winkler beach, and Arlene Rockwell will take over Chamberlin Beach as interim trustee until a formal election is held in August.

Other New Business-none

Next Membership meeting is Saturday, August 11 @ Raab's pole barn @ 10:00am

Next Board of Trustee meeting is Saturday, July 20th @ Porter Township Hall @ 10:00am.

Announcements: Jim Rockwell has set up with Outpost of Holland, Mi, to come out to Gravel Lake on July 3rd @ 7:00pm, to demonstrate and let anyone interested in Stand up Paddling try it. Melton has a

free 4 barrel raft. August 10 is the Reggae Party at Micheli's. There is a hotdog pull behind on Streeter Beach if you are missing one.

A motion was made by Reed to adjourn, 2nd by Kitzmiller, adjourned at 12:11.