It is the mission of the Lake of the Woods Property Owners’ Association to distinguish itself as the community’s leader by providing resource, direction, and service that results in superior lake quality and superior lake living. To achieve this we must:

- Continuously improve our Association and the Lake’s environment.
- Provide information and education to keep our members informed on the priorities and goal.
- Place equal emphasis on all Lake of the Woods’ priorities: ecology, conservation, property values, recreation, and safety.

Lake of the Woods Property Owners Association’s goal is to be the best, not because we say we are, but because our residents and visitors tell us we are.

**LOWPOA Meeting Minutes**  
**July 13, 2019**

1. The Lake of the Woods Property Owners Association met at the Community Building on Saturday, July 13, 2019 at 9:00 AM.

2. Rick Keller, President, called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

3. Board of Directors

   A. Present: Joe Skelton, John Paolucci, Brian Denk, Wil Smaka, Tom Power, Tom Evans, Elaine Keller, Rick Keller, Marilyn Smaka, Tim Ward, Travis Hiltrop, Troy Pikula, Julie Boynton, Pete Peuquet, Matt VanSoest

   B. Absent: N/A

4. A thank you was sent out to host Frank Collins for providing the donuts. John Paolucci will be the host for the next meeting.

5. Visitors and/or New Members: No new members or visitors were present.

6. The June 1, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Brian Denk made a Motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Elaine Keller. All board members agreed.

7. Treasurer’s Report:

   A. A point of clarification was noted that the NIPSCO expense shown on the report was for the full year per instructions from the board at last month’s meeting.

   B. It was also noted that the LOWPOA currently has approximately 80 to 85 paid members.

      i) A question was raised as to if to become a member you actually have to be living on the lake or just within the sewer district.

         (1) The board agreed to reference the bylaws and get back to the membership on this question.

   C. The Treasurer’s report was reviewed and approved. John Paolucci made a motion to approve which was seconded by Julie Boynton. All board members agreed.

8. Events/Fundraisers

   A. A Day at the Lake

      i) A Day at the Lake, sponsored by the Bremen Conservation Club, will take place on Saturday, July 20th; it was noted that final plan details were in the works but the
following information was shared:
(1) 8:00 am Breakfast
(2) Face Painter 3:30 – 5:30 pm
(3) Balloon Twister from 2:30 – 5:30 pm
(4) Some crafters will be present
(5) 5:00 pm dinner
  (a) No lunch will be provided this year.
(6) Arsenic water testing booth will be set-up from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
  (a) This is for arsenic testing only
  (b) Bottles will be available for a $20 deposit which will be returned when the
      bottle with water for testing is returned
  (c) Fill the bottle from your untreated outdoor water tap
  (d) A form will be filled out for your bottle and test results will be sent to you
  (e) The water testing is done in Indianapolis

ii) John Paolucci made a motion that the LOWPOA provide the typical $500 donation to
    the Day at the Lake Event. Will Smaka seconded the motion and all board members
    approved.

B. Bremen Historical Architectural Tour
   i) Sunday, July 28th a tram ride begins at the High School parking lot and tours
da downtown Bremen historical commercial and residential properties.
   (1) A specific point of interest will be the water tower, which is one of only two of its
       type left standing in the country.
   ii) The ride is approximately an hour and a half.
   iii) Tickets are $10 per person or $20 per family.
   (1) Tickets are available at the Marshall County Museum, Yoder’s Hardware,
       Bremen Town Hall and the Bremen History Center.

C. Pork Chop Supper
   i) 97 dinners were sold and we completely sold out.
   ii) This was the most dinners ever served.

9. Marshall County Lakes Council
   A. No specific update was provided on the Marshall County Lakes Council but it was noted
      that Cardinal (formerly known as JF Environmental) will be holding an open house
      beginning at 9:30 am on July 26th in Walkerton.

10. Board Nominations will be taken during the month of July with voting taking place at the
August 3, 2019 meeting.
   A. Anyone can be on the board or run for an office as long as they are a paid association
      member in good standing.
   B. District Representatives should live or own a property in their district, but a
      representative can be from another district if no one else in said district is available or
      willing.
   C. If you would like to run for the board or nominate someone, please contact Julie
      Boynton, recording secretary.
   i) Judy Brumbaugh approached Julie Boynton following the meeting indicating a desire
      to be on both the board and the upcoming Lake Restoration committee (see minutes
      under “new business” regarding this committee).

11. Old Business

   A. FLAGS
i) Expenses for the flags were $283.40. For flags sold thus far, a $270 profit has been realized. There are approximately $80 worth of flags yet to be sold.

B. WALK – RUN - ROLL
   (1) Approximately 180 people attended the event.
   (2) As of this year, the event has been taking place for 9 years. Next year will be the 10th anniversary of the event and the Paolucci’s have generously agreed to coordinate the event again for next year.
   (3) Proceeds totaled $1,800 with $1,500 coming from registrations and donations and $300 in sold merchandise.
      (a) There is still some leftover merchandise that can continue to be sold.
   (4) The plan will be to hold the event next year on Saturday, July 4, 2019.

C. BOAT FLOTILLA
   i) Nearly 30 boats participated in the flotilla.
   ii) 23 decorated boats were judged for innovation and creativeness with the winning entry going to the Bollenbacher’s for their JAWS theme.
   iii) The flotilla will take place on Saturday, July 4th next year and will be noted in the August newsletter so members can start planning their boat decorations.

D. PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE
   i) Rick Keller noted the two areas that were present in the lake and asked if anyone knew whether or not the volunteers who agreed to had yet pulled out the weeds.
      (1) No one present at the meeting could confirm.

E. WEED UPDATE – Sharon Galminas noted a lot has happened since the last meeting:
   i) A new map of late blooming milfoil presence was passed out. 30+ acres were found.
   ii) Sharon went out to review the areas with Aquatic Weed. It was also noted that curly leaf was present and a large presence of weeds in general.
   iii) Working with Aquatic Weed another spray will be requested through the DNR and permit department. These groups know that LOW is struggling with the presence of weeds and it was noted at the October 18, 2018 meeting that this was expected which is why an all lake treatment was requested, but was ultimately denied for 2019.
   iv) Aquatic Weed will be back out the week of July 15th to treat 31 acres. This is 2 weeks earlier than normal for a second spray; it will take 21 days to fully take effect and should then last for 6 to 8 weeks which should take us into September.
      (1) May add some copper sulphate to help address the current algae and future algae blooms.
   v) LOWPOA cost responsibility for this second treatment is $1,968 bringing total costs for weed treatments this year to $4,238.
      (1) There will be additional fees in the fall.
   vi) The plan is to request a full lake treatment for 2020.
   vii) The DNR has granted approximately $250,000 to LOW for weed treatments over the years.
   viii) Brian Denk had information sheets for any interested members on what they can do to treat weed issues around their own piers.
      (1) NOTE: previous minutes indicated that you could treat 620 feet around your pier and should have noted it is 620 square feet around your pier.

F. RESTORATIVE LAKE SCIENCES REPORT
   i) Flash drives of Dr. Jones presentation that took place on May 11th are available for interested members who were not able to attend the presentation.
      (1) See Julie Boynton if you are interested in receiving a flash drive copy.

G. NEWSLETTER
   i) 2nd edition should come out in August before Labor Day.
ii) Matt VanSoest asked for a welcome and member spotlight volunteer to be highlighted

iii) 500 copies will be printed for this 2nd edition. 450 copies were not quite enough at the last printing.

iv) The newsletter will also be emailed and linked on the Facebook page.

v) Tim Ward noted that he passes newsletters out from the Dam to 3rd road. Travis Hiltrop noted that he would assist with that area as well.

H. WEB PAGE

i) Travis Hiltrop noted that the new Lakeofthewoodsindiana.com webpage is ready to go live later today.
   (1) The webpage will highlight past meeting minutes, events, newsletters, photos, etc.
   (2) The annual cost for the webpage is currently $114 for the basic level version we are using.

I. LAKE OF THE WOODS COMMUNITY SIGNS

i) Working to fix the one in front of the community building

ii) Will continue to work through the summer to repair, clean and provide minor landscaping around these signs.

iii) It was noted that the vinyl letters on many of the signs are peeling. A resource will be sought to replace the vinyl components of the signs.
   (1) There was discussion regarding artwork for the logo, etc. that will be needed in order to update these signs.

iv) May also consider looking for sponsors for the signs to raise funds for the repairs and annual maintenance.

12. New Business

A. Lake Restoration – next steps

i) Rick Keller noted that as an association we will need to determine how best to address the issues noted in the Restorative Lake Sciences report such as lack of oxygen, inlets bringing in high levels of phosphorus and nutrients, etc.

ii) Approaches in the report for consideration included such items as inlet sediment traps/filters and aeration.

iii) As well, a presentation by John Tucci from Lake Savers on June 1st provided additional information and considerations.
   (1) See the June 1st minutes for notes on this presentation.

iv) It was noted that we are considered a high priority lake by IDEM due to the amount of phosphorus present.

v) Pete Peuquet indicated that he has met with Indian Lake board members in the past and recently with a member of the Koontz Lake Conservancy Committee. In meeting with the member of the Koontz Lake committee, it was noted that it took over 2 years to fully inform lake residents and to seek the residents’ approval before moving forward. What was learned from the Koontz Lake experience:
   (1) In the beginning, 10% of the lake residents were for seeking a conservancy to add lake aeration and some dredging; 10% were against the same while 80% were uninformed.
   (2) They created a committee separate from their owners’ association board to work directly on the topic.
      (a) This committee was/is mainly made up from non-board members which consists of lake residents who were passionate either for or against moving forward with a formalized plan. Some board members ended up
participating, but the committee was set-up for one goal and one purpose; lake restoration.

(3) The current president of the Koontz Lake Conservancy Committee was himself initially against the project, but as he learned more, he became in favor of the project, took on more committee responsibilities and ultimately became the president for the Conservancy Board.

(4) Koontz Lake experiences similar inlet issues as our lake.

(5) They have already dealt with their inlets/ditches in some fashion and determined they are ready to move forward with aeration and some dredging.

(6) One of the committees first tasks was to create a mission statement and answer the following questions:
   (a) Can this work for the success of the Lake?
   (b) What are the potential costs of proposed solutions?
   (c) What does the schedule/timeline look like?
   (d) How do we manage the program going forward?
      (i) Management of any lake improvement system cannot rely solely on volunteers. Any budgets must include funds for annual and ongoing maintenance of any solutions put into place; whether that be sediment trap maintenance or aeration system maintenance.

(7) After 2 years of informing, educating and communicating, they were able to gain 75% approval of the residents for the project of moving forward with a conservancy.

vi) Pete noted to the membership present that we are interested in creating a similar committee for Lake of the Woods to focus on lake restoration planning and recommendations.
   (1) The board asked for any present and interested volunteers for this committee to see Pete following the meeting.
   (2) The board also asked members to spread the word to others who might be interested in volunteering to serve in this way.
   (3) We will be looking for 10 to 12 volunteers for the committee.
      (a) It was noted that an odd number might be considered relative to voting majority
   (4) This information will also be shared via email, newsletter, website and Facebook page once the committee is ready to begin its work.

vii) We expect the process to be similar in taking up to 2 years or more to inform, educate and communicate to the LOW community.

viii) SWCD has some funds available that could be considered for a first step in working on our inlet/ditch sediment traps. Grants may be sought for this purpose.

ix) Pete also noted that he has spoken with some of the local farmers and has found that many of them were not aware of the severity of the nutrient and phosphorus run off. Some of the farmers indicated they were willing to discuss remediation options.

x) John Paolucci made a motion that a LOW Lake Restoration Committee be created; Elaine Keller seconded this and all board members agreed.

B. Brian Denk noted that he shared the LOW water reports (old and most recent) with a nationally recognized lake water expert, John Rogers.

i) Mr. Rogers noted that the process is very long and we should not expect to see immediate results even in our lifetime.

ii) It has taken a long time for the lake to get this way and will take a long time to remediate.

iii) Some members responded citing the success that Indian Lake in Michigan has experienced after adding lake aeration and ditch/inlet sediment traps/filters to their
lake. They have experienced some issues along the way, but the lake residents in general appear to be pleased with the results. It was also noted that Indian Lake has also done some dredging and other items as well to add to the success of restoring their lake.

iv) It was noted by a member present that if we wait too long matters will only get worse.

C. TRASH REMOVAL COMPANIES AT THE LAKE

i) Several members discussed the two trash removal companies available around the lake and encouraged other members to check their bills for rising costs and to set-up for seasonal pick-up as needed.

D. A general note was made that the LOWPOA was created on June 26, 1974.

13. Next General Meeting to be held on Saturday, August 3, 2019. Continental breakfast 8:30 am and meeting begins at 9:00 am.

14. The meeting adjourned at 10:13 am.

Respectfully submitted by Julie Boynton, Recording Secretary