

Minutes  
September 19, 2009  
Board Meeting  
Maplewood Nature Center

Present: Cheryl Albergo, Joe Albergo, Marshall Doig, Norine Doig, Betty Hemlinger, TJ Hemlinger, Carol Massat, Helmuth Massat, Brian Mervau

1. Minutes of the Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> general meeting were approved.
2. The Treasurer's report was given by Norine Doig. Our current balance is \$3902.91. \$157 in fish stocking donations were made. The 50/50 raffle generated \$253 in income.
3. Norine Doig was asked to contact Dick Krull in regards to the aerial photography fund raiser. The Hemlingers also want to participate. When Dick is contacted, we will publish information on our website and fall newsletter about the timing of the photographs and final due date for payments.
4. An email from Dave Arrington was presented as a report. It is attached. Dave Arrington and Erik Pearson funded the stocking of the lakes with smallmouth bass, which can reproduce in our lakes. The two of them donated 700 fish at a cost of \$2000.
5. The board voted to approve payment of \$191.85 to reimburse Dave Arrington for the delivery fee for the smallmouth bass.
6. Carol Massat made a motion to approve the funding of walleye stocking this fall. The motion was seconded by Brian Mervau and was unanimously approved. The cost will be \$2200.
7. Our new website is at [www.fishandroyerlakes.com](http://www.fishandroyerlakes.com)
8. A fund raising committee was appointed, consisting of Sharon Call, Cheryl Albergo, Brian Mervau, Marshall Doig, Norine Doig.
9. Fundraising Discussion: Next year's hog roast and potluck will include everyone bringing their recipe for their dish and possibly an extra recipe. A cookbook will be developed, including pictures and short tales of lake legend, lore, and history, including stories about the history of the houses on Fish and Royer Lakes. The cookbook will be sold to the community and on the website and Facebook site as a fundraiser. Next year's hog roast will be held later in the day and the attendance of children will be strongly encouraged. The loaning of large tents will be solicited. Games will be developed for both children and for adult attendees. The aerial photography project should generate about \$800 for the association, which is enough to fund the catfish stocking in the spring. Brian Mervau suggested a New Year's Eve party at \$50 a couple as a fundraiser. This may be a WinterFest, due to the difficulty in scheduling things for New Year's Eve this year, or may be planned for the following year as an annual event. A new dues cycle will begin in January 2010 and will generate income from dues and fish stocking donations. A fun video is being planned for our website and Facebook page to illustrate the sorry fate of non dues payers, including walking the plank, being stripped of epaulettes, and being held in stocks, in contrast to the joys of those who have paid their dues, who drink margaritas, win the lottery, and win popularity contests. Joe and Cheryl Albergo may sell Chicago hot dogs on Fourth of July as a fundraiser.
10. Helmuth Massat reported on his attendance at the Lakes Council meetings. Four Fish and Royer Lakes residents attended: Dan Yasko, Jim Koza, Helmuth Massat, and Mark Randall. Helmuth Massat was elected to the Board. Helmuth attended two meetings. The second meeting was a day of informational speakers from DNR, River Watch, Clean Lakes, and the IDEM. Basically, for weed control we need to find someone to give us an estimate and to manage the necessary permits. Angie Brown is our watershed specialist.

11. A Weed Control committee was nominated, pending their acquiescence, including Dave Arrington (consultant), Jim Koza, Brian Mervau, Helmuth Massat, Mark Randall, and Dan Yasko.
12. The content of the Fall newsletter was discussed. Dave Arrington will write a piece on fish stocking. Scott, the naturalist from Maplewood Nature Center will be asked to write a piece on local snakes and frogs. A report on the Hog Roast will be included. Updates on aerial photography will be made. No membership forms will be included on this newsletter. We will ask when people are in residence at the lake, for email addresses, we will inquire about interest in a Winter Fest. The proposal that fish bedding areas be developed on the two lakes will be included. This would involve the placement of riprap in shallow areas. A request will be made for "Cottage Tales", histories of the various cottages and lake lore.
13. The next Board meeting will be at 9 am on Oct. 31 at the Maplewood Nature Center. The meeting after that will be at 9 am on Dec. 5 at the Maplewood Nature Center. At the December meeting a calendar for the year will be developed for the year 2010.
14. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Massat

Hi Everyone,

I wanted to update you on the fish stocking before your board meeting this Saturday. There are several items on the plate and I'll do my best to briefly explain each below:

First, there was interest in stocking Smallmouth Bass for recreational fishing in both lakes. Eric Pearson contacted me after the annual picnic informing me of the request and I went forward with the stocking. We had 700 fish delivered on the August 30<sup>th</sup>. Eric Pearson and I donated \$1000 each for the bass and do not want the association to reimburse us; it is our special donation. However I am requesting the association to reimburse me for \$191.85 for delivery and cost of fish above \$2000 (fish total was \$2030 with delivery fee of \$161.85). The lakes will support reproduction of the Smallmouth Bass so any supplemental stocking will be negligible. I'll take care of the entire cost for any future restocking.

Second, there have been questions about stocking fish at the public landing only. There are several reasons for that procedure. 1) Stocked fish will disperse themselves throughout both lakes. I was assured of this by both the hatchery and fishery biologists. Our past stockings have verified this through the years by anecdotal creel data. Walleye and Channel Catfish are actually being caught in higher numbers on Royer. Of course part of that is more fishing hours occur on Royer vs. Fish Lake. If we had actual fishing hours per lake for each species I think you would see a fairly even catch history. 2) The public landing is used by the hatchery due to the weight of the vehicle. It is a one ton truck with a water filled tank in the bed. Overall weight is 4 1/2 tons to 5 tons depending on water loading. They do not like to drive off-road. 3) They need to off-load the fish rapidly to enhance survival. At the public landing they can back into the water and accomplish this task efficiently. If we ever get a cemented landing on Royer we can certainly deposit the fish there or even spit the load. However, I again iterate that due to even dispersal it is not really necessary.

Third, the Walleye are scheduled to be delivered late next month. The question is how much you wish to spend? It costs \$1989 per 1000, 6-8" fish. Add another \$161+ for delivery and you are looking at around \$2200. My suggestion is for me to order 1000 fish and perhaps use any funds left over toward the catfish stocking in the spring. Walleye will not reproduce so continued restocking is necessary. This species is stocked not just for recreational purposes, but for stunted Bluegill control. I need to know your decision very soon so I can lock the order. Also, I requested to get more than a few hours notice of delivery so interested folks can come down and observe the process. At best, I'll know only one perhaps two days in advance of the actual delivery and will not know the time until about two hours prior. I'll need a list of folks that may want to observe the stocking so I can contact them on short notice. (I had virtually no early warning on the Smallmouth delivery or I would have called interested folks for that event).

Fourth, The Channel Catfish play an equal role in removing stunted Bluegills from the population. They are relatively cheap at \$750 per 1000, 6-8" fish. The fishery biologists tell me that Walleye and Channel Catfish together is best possible combination for Bluegill control. They state uses this approach on many lakes throughout Indiana. We are seeing the results with bigger panfish being caught. My suggestion is for the association to allocate for 1000 fish (if funds are available) and I'll donate another 1000. If you have additional funding for another 1000 (3000 total) that is the true mark we are shooting for in the stocking program.

Fifth, I would like to write a special addition for the fall newsletter explaining the stocking program and perhaps quelling a few fears about stocking only at the public landing. As always (except for July while I was in the hospital), I'll run the copies for the association.

Thanks for all your hard work. The association has made great strides. Dave Arrington