

The Muskegon Lake Public Advisory Council
Meeting Summary
July 12, 2007

In attendance were: Cynthia Price, ML-PAC Chair and GR Food Systems Council; Dennis McKee, ML-PAC Vice Chair and Consumers Energy; Lea Markowski, General Public; Carolyn Weng, Marsh Monitoring Program; Vicky Webster, Muskegon County Health Department; Charles Palmer, GVSU/Health Department Intern; Kathy Neff, General Public; Jerry Garman, Westshore Consulting; Janet Vail, GVSU Annis Water Resources Institute; Hope Mitchell, City of Muskegon Planning Department; Kathy Evans, ML-PAC Director.

Price opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions, provided an overview of the business to follow the presentation, and introduced speaker Brenin Wertz-Roth. Wertz-Roth gave a 45 minute presentation promoting the Great Lakes from the perspective of a small sailboat enthusiast.

Following the presentation, Evans distributed the following handouts: (1) a proposal for discussion which included the ML-PAC mission statement, several name change ideas, alternative organizational structures (including partnerships), and the possibility of federal and state 501(c)(3) incorporation; (2) a draft cooperative agreement between the ML-PAC and the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly (MRWA); and (3) a copy of the MRWA bylaws.

Evans first requested that the draft ML-PAC/MRWA cooperative agreement be reviewed for input. She explained that legal contracts for grant-related ML-PAC services would be developed for her as an MRWA subcontractor. She also suggested that the ML-PAC and MRWA enter into an understanding indicating their mutual responsibilities and her status as staff.

Price introduced the possible need for bylaws to replace the ML-PAC's existing "operating guidelines." It was generally agreed that bylaws would be appropriate. McKee noted that bylaws should be consistent with 501(c)(3) requirements. Price agreed to form a drafting committee including herself, Markowski, and Groesbeck. The decision to apply for non-profit incorporation is not yet needed.

Markowski mm/sm Weng to recommend adoption of revised mission statement wording at the 07-23-07 ML-PAC meeting. Passed.

McKee mm/sm Markowski to change the name of the organization from Muskegon Lake Public Advisory Council to Muskegon Lake Watershed Partnership. Evans noted that the organization has been and continues to be involved in projects which benefit Muskegon Lake, but are not always an inherent part of the Area of Concern delisting process. Passed.

Evans updated the group on progress with the Grand Trunk site Lakeside Picnic Shelter grant. The volunteer construction event will be done in conjunction with the United Way Day of Caring on September 7, 2007. Fiduciary responsibility is needed to move the project forward. McKee mm/sm Markowski to have Price send a letter of request to the Muskegon Conservation District to perform this function. Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM.

- submitted by KE
- revised by WG