

**Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.
Board of Directors Meeting
February 21, 2014
Minutes**

The Board meeting was called to order and an invocation was given by HOB0 President Lee Poe. In attendance were Lee Poe, Dan Murchison, Jim and Johnye Woodrow, George Jackins, Ralph Mason, Scott Phillips, Peggy Bullard, Marie Greene, Marie Butts, Mau McCallum, Steve and Leslie Miles, Sam Piccolo, William Walters, Patsy and Steve Wideman, as well as area representatives Dale and Patty Vann and Rose Green.

The following matters were addressed during the Board meeting:

County Tax Maps Demonstration – Steve Wideman presented a demonstration on the use of Chilton County's on line property tax maps for finding the names and contact information of property owners on the Chilton County side of Lake Mitchell. The tax maps are a useful tool for assisting area representatives seeking a way to contact prospective new HOB0 members around Lake Mitchell.

Web site – Marie Greene reported on and demonstrated some aspects of the wonderful new web site she has designed for Lake Mitchell HOB0. She encourages submission of lake photographs, which can be added to the site and welcomes ideas and suggestions for other additions that might be useful. Suggestions were made that links be added for ADEM and for Alabama Graphite Company.

State Water Policy Update – Scott Phillips reported that the Alabama Water Agencies Working Group (AWAWG) submitted a document to the Governor (now close to 400 pages) related to state water policy. Scott stated that action on this matter is unlikely for another year. Scott says we should continue to monitor any movement on this important subject and AWAWG's work.

Regarding the Clanton Waste Water Treatment Plant, an extension on the city's order has been allowed by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) for approximately another year. This is primarily due to the fact that Clanton and ADEM have determined that one of the three metal plating industries in Clanton is contributing to the copper and zinc exceedances at the waste water treatment plant. ADEM is issuing an order to O-Flex, and a 30-day comment period will need to pass before the order is final. Then O-Flex will be required to make improvements to their discharges to the city's sewer system. This should help the waste water treatment plant return to compliance. We will continue to monitor this situation and any other issues that continue to cause problems in Walnut Creek.

Scott also reported that he met with the owners of the proposed graphite mine on the Coosa County side of our lake. He was told that they are approximately one year away from finishing their assessment process and at least two years away from applying for Alabama Surface Mine and ADEM permits. This would be the soonest that they would be operating and it could be up to three years they begin operation. Scott also communicated that the Alabama Graphite Company representatives volunteered to make a presentation to the Board in the future.

Scott suggested that perhaps we should ask ADEM to attend a future Board meeting to discuss their web site, their e-file system and the process of how they monitor and list stream segments for their designated use classification.

Secretary Report – Minutes of the last Board of Directors meeting were accepted without objection. Patsy Wideman called attention to recent ADEM notices of “significant non-compliance” related to Clanton businesses discharging into Walnut Creek. She reported that the Coosa Riverkeeper, Frank Chitwood, provided a thorough and detailed response to her inquiry regarding those notices,

including a wealth of related information. Based on this experience, Patsy encourages HOBO's support of the Coosa Riverkeeper organization as another way to protect Lake Mitchell.

New Business:

Marie Butts from the Coosa County side of Lake Mitchell has been added to the Board of Directors and received a warm welcome.

A **banner advertising the HOBO web site** was proposed and approved to be hung at Higgins Ferry and possibly also at the lake marinas.

Johnye Woodrow suggested that HOBO present a plaque or some other form of acknowledgement to **Frank Atkinson** for his support of HOBO during his years as park ranger at Higgins Ferry.

Johnye also suggested a records search to find the HOBO member (non-officer) with the longest consecutive membership and that we acknowledge that person's **longstanding support of HOBO**.

Old business:

The **fireworks** at Lake Mitchell will probably be on Saturday, July 5. Lee Poe will confirm with Jim McCormick.

The **Water Festival** is scheduled for March 14, 2014 at Jefferson State. Applications for attendance have been received from 600 Chilton County and 65 Coosa County fourth graders for this year's festival. Jim Woodrow's proposal that HOBO contribute an additional \$500 toward the inclusion of Coosa County fourth graders (two classrooms/two buses) was accepted without objection and approved. Ralph Mason reported that more volunteers are needed from 8:00 until 1:00 or 2:00 to make this year's festival a big success. Volunteer applications are on our new web site under activities/water festival.

The **creek signs** for the lake proposed by Steve Miles at the November 1, 2013 board meeting (for intersections of major creeks to ease navigation and location by visitors and emergency responders) were discussed. Steve has talked with Alabama Power about allowing HOBO to post these signs (24 inches by 36 inches) at Bird Creek, Big Y Slough, Weogufka, Hatchett Creek and Finger Slough with the possibly more signs to be added in the future. Alabama Power will notify Steve when or if the signs are approved.

Treasury report – Jim McCormick had nothing new to report.

Coosa River Basin Update – Doug Powell who worked for Alabama Power doing Renew our Rivers has retired and Mike Clelland has taken Doug's place. Candy Hayes with Alabama Power stated that if you dig a key hole, you can build an enclosed boathouse on Lay Lake. The assumption is that this might also be true on Lake Mitchell, but should be investigated and approved before investing in such a plan. Discussion was held about the possibility of presidents and vice presidents of lake homeowner organizations in Alabama drafting a joint letter regarding Alabama's water policy. Dan Murchison encouraged increased participation in meetings of the Clean Water Partnership, which initiated the Water Festival.

Lake Clean-ups – Dale Vann reminded us that the next lake clean up will be April 12 at Higgins Ferry and that more pontoon boats are needed on site to get the maximum benefit for our efforts.

HOBO Annual Picnic – Johnye Woodrow reminded us that our annual picnic will be on June 7, with plans for a band again this year. (Dan Murchison recommended more dancing this year.)

Publicity – Peggy Bullard, who prepares the scrapbooks for the HOBO presidents, reported that she had 327 photographs in the 2013 scrapbook. Peggy has provided good and welcome publicity for HOBO through the articles she writes for the Clanton Advertiser. A suggestion was made that those articles also be included on our web site. An additional suggestion was that the scrapbooks be made available for viewing at our annual meetings in November.

Scholarships – The deadline to apply for a HOBO scholarship is March 1. As of this meeting of the Board of Directors, no applications had yet been filed.

Water monitoring – The suggestion was made that the web site be updated monthly with the test results from our water monitors.

Fire boat – Steve Miles brought for review the log of calls received by Marine 9 in 2013. Steve reported concern regarding the need to make changes to keep Marine 9's props out of the water to protect them from acidity and suggested that the boathouse be extended out into the lake an additional few feet.

Business cards – Dan Murchison commissioned the printing of 500 business cards for the use of HOBO board members and area representatives when attending meetings or calling on potential new members.

The meeting of the Board of Directors was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Patsy Wideman