

Minutes

LCRA October 1, 2003 Meeting

Attendees: See attached list

Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM.

Guest Speakers: Sgt. Don Jakrzewski
Livingston County Sheriff's Department.
Traffic & Marine Safety Supervisor

Scott Harrington, Unit Supervisor
DNR Parks & Recreation
Brighton Recreation Area

Jason Fleming
DNR Parks & Recreation-Bureau Office (Lansing)

Guest Introductions were made by Ginny Himich.

Scott Harrington - DNR Representative –Brighton Recreation Area:

The DNR (Parks and Recreation) is responsible for the Lake Chemung boat launch including maintenance, upgrades, dock units, safety issues and is the main point of contact for questions/concerns. They have future plans for this site to improve the surroundings. They have plans to increase the hours of operation for the manned booth at the entrance to the launch. There should be someone in the booth on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from approximately 7:00 am until 9:00 pm (from Memorial Day through Labor Day). The Lake Chemung launch is actually open for public use from 4:00 am until 11:00 pm seven days a week every day of the year. This launch is strictly for launching. There should not be boats moored along the shoreline. DNR/Sheriff tries to enforce this law when they are on the lake.

Lake residents do not get preferential treatment over the public to launch their boats. The state regulations that apply to the launch mandate the DNR to treat visitors (the public) and homeowners equally. There are twenty-four (24) parking spaces at the launch and the spots are filled on a first-come first-served basis. Once the parking spots are filled, the park is closed to visitors until a parking spot is vacated. If launch spots are filled, a resident may not enter the park to launch their boat even if the resident plans to immediately leave the launch with their boat trailer. No more than two boats can be launched from each vehicle and/or boat trailer.

Jason Fleming – DNR Representative – Lansing:

The Lansing Branch of the DNR deals with all boating issues throughout Michigan. Jason is also a back up for Scott. Jason does get calls on Marine safety; however, he deals primarily with land-use. Currently there are 780 access sites in Michigan.

To get more information on exactly what the DNR does and what their responsibilities are, go to the Michigan Recreation Boating Information System (Mr Bis) located on the DNR website at <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>. This website provides information and identifies who to contact for problems/questions.

Sgt. Don Jakrzewski – Livingston County Sheriff's Dept. Traffic & Marine Safety

Sgt. Don reports to the DNR. This division is currently working under a grant. Don distributed information regarding tickets, stops, warnings, etc. on Lake Chemung for the past several years. Data has not been fully compiled for 2003 because of the timeline for reporting to the DNR (the data that Don reported for 2003 is from January through June-prior to the heaviest boating season).

Lake Chemung is the #1 patrolled lake. It has proven to be the most active lake during the summer months. Sgt. Don has seen a significant increase in boat traffic over the years.

To report marine safety complaints, call 911. Calls can be made 24/7. State Police and DNR can respond to these calls. If any citizen sees a watercraft that is not operating safely, they should note the boat description and try to get the MC numbers and any other identifying information that they can and give this information to the 911 dispatcher.

Operations from the Sheriff's Dept run from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Scheduled patrols are normally Saturday and Sunday, however, if necessary, extra patrols can be sent out. If there is a complaint that needs to be investigated, and there is not a patrol on the lake, there are boats that are available 24/7. PWC's have also been used to patrol the lake. Sgt. Don finds these very effective. Sgt. Don does not feel that having a boat on patrol after dark is generally a good way to use his resources—based upon past complaints and response experiences.

Sgt. Don's organization is also in responsible for boater safety classes.

The Sheriff's department abides by the Marine Safety Act. This act can be found on-line at <http://michiganlegislation.gov> .

Question and Answer Session was opened up to the floor.

Are there any easement laws?

No, there is not a clear definition as to who can use the easements, or how they can be used. This issue is a DEQ issue-the DNR handles land based issues.

What is being done to control erosion from the boating activity?

There has been a noticeable increase in erosion, specifically around the boat launch area. Such things as limiting fishing tournaments (high boat traffic events) may help. The DNR is also looking at what can be done to help decrease the erosion problem around the boat launch (i.e. rip-rap, etc).

How many boats can be moored in front of someone's house at a one time?

Unknown. This will need to be investigated with the DEQ and/or the township.

Who has jurisdiction over the roadside park?

The county. Everyone agreed that the park requirements (no boat docking, no swimming) are not monitored enough and the rules are not being enforced.

Who is responsible for the overflow/drainage that is going into Lake Chemung?

The DEQ and/or the County Drain Commissioner will need to be contacted. Ginny will post the phone number for the DEQ pollution complaints on the Lake Chemung website. This information can also be posted in the Association's next newsletter.

Are there any laws in effect to regulate boat size, noise levels, engine size, number of boats on Lake Chemung?

No. However, the Sheriff's dept. is looking into a device for measuring noise. At this time there is no way to monitor or enforce excess engine noise.

Is there any way to get the boat launch closed?

There are, as long as it does not include state money. Example, the lake residents could purchase the property, or it could be sold and run by the township.

Tankers have been seen pulling water from the lake at the public launch. Is this legal, and what can be done?

No, this is not legal. If anyone sees this happening, they can call the RAP line (Report All Poachers). The number is 1-800-292-7800. The citizen should try to get the license number, description, and any company name from the truck. A conservation office will be dispatched. Office hours are from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday.

There seems to be many more dead walleye washing up on shore. What could be the cause?

The DEQ (Fisheries) will need to be contacted to check into this. It could be a normal cycle. Ginny will look into this.

Can we post signage/posters at the boat launch with reminders such as direction of boat travel and simple boating practices such as when PWCs can be on the lake, etc?

Yes, we can post such notices. It is not a good idea to hand out flyers/booklets containing boating information as it might end up littering the launch and/or end up in the lake.

Closing Comment:

All residents can contact any of the three guest speakers if they have any questions, complaints, compliments or concerns.

Scott Harrington-810-229-6566 (harrinsa@michigan.gov)

Jason Fleming-517-241-2054 (fleminja@michigan.gov)

Sgt. Don Jakrzewski-517-546-2440

For Marine Safety Complaints—Call 911

Meeting adjourned: 9:05 PM