

MOHEGAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

MOHEGAN LAKE ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes -- September 13, 1995

Present:

David Wright (Secretary)	Mohegan Colony Assn.
Betsy January	Mohegan Highlands
Bill Stevens	Mohegan Colony
Bob Connick	Lake Mgt. Supervisor
Denis Horbatuk	Mohegan Beach Park
Janet Rodzevik	Treasurer
Ray Davis	Amazon Beach Park

The meeting was held at the Mohegan Colony Schoolhouse and began at 8:05 p.m. Minutes of the August 9 meeting were reviewed and approved without change.

Mohegan East Sewers - Mention was made of the fact that Mr. and Mrs. Tarchoun of Alpine Woods are angry that their beach is going to be the site for the pump station for the Mohegan East sewer system. The pump station which is located in a small shed would be constructed somewhere on their beach property, probably up close to the road, and would take up very little space. They had help to circulate the petitions for the sewer project and were surprised to learn the pump station was on their beach. They apparently have sent various letters and releases to the local press. Dave suggested that he call them and show them where the pump station is supposed to be located, and take them to the pump station on the other side of the lake to see how innocuous it really is. We expect that the pump station will be located out by the road anyway.

Budget - Janet gave a presentation on the budget, which is roughly based upon last year's budget. There was discussion of various categories and transfers to be made among the categories. As revised, the budget was approved. Janet will revise it and she and Dave will submit it to Tom Stanley.

Oil Spill - Bob January noted that Judy Gordon had reported noticing dumping of oil and this should be reported to the DEC Spill Response Team.

Water Level - It was noted that the season has been very dry and that the water level was very low. In fact, it appears that water has been flowing back in through the "outlet," from the wetlands which are just north of the lake and go up behind the church on Route 6. There are some 25 acres of state wetlands there, and during dry seasons, the water actually flows back into the lake through the outlet which is located under Mohegan Ave. It is unclear whether this is better or worse for the lake.

Water Quality - In the absence of a VCR, Bob Connick led a general discussion on water quality and different aspects of the lake. He noted that Ann Swain of the Autobahn Society has visited with him and they have looked at a number of animals and vegetation around the lake with the view toward using natural approaches to make slight improvements. Dave noted that we had not used any copper-sulfate this year, perhaps the first time since 1930 that we have not used copper-sulfate. Water quality was quite good, despite the lack of chemical treatments. The water began to get quite dirty around labor Day, however, there was an algae bloom at that time. Dave noted that although he had prepared the permit application, he never bothered to even send it in, hoping not to have to use the chemicals. It seemed that it worked out well. The question was raised whether chlorine has been permitted to added to water at the beaches. The answer is that it is unclear. The DEC takes the position that anything that you put into the lake requires a permit, but they generally look the other way when it comes to small dosages of chlorine used on a localized basis at the beaches. It was noted that chlorine should be used at all the beaches, since our data over the years suggest that it reduces the bacterial level. There was discussion of getting the water test results, which the Westchester County Health Department contains but consistently refuses to give us. Dave noted that he had filed a Freedom of Information Act request some years ago, culminating in threats of litigation against the County, since they refused to produce them and ultimately produced one or two pages of illegible copies. We have seen the actual reports, they ar legible, they are available in a file drawer, but the Health Department does not allow them to be viewed by humans.

There was further discussions of general contributions to improved water quality, including increasing the depth (through dredging), hypolimnetic withdrawal -- taking dirty water from the lake bottom and pumping it out the outlet instead of allowing the good water to flow out; possibly introducing bacteria which will eat the phosphorous in the lake, causing the algae not to grow so vigorously; the effect of copper-sulfate and other chemicals (a quick fix which in the long-term hurts the lake); the aeration system, which provides oxygen so the fish can live, but stirs up the water and generally makes it dirtier and may actually encourage algae growth; lowering the lake level in the wintertime so that the roots of the weeds around the edges freeze and won't grow so much the next summer; introducing stocking of zooplankton to eat the algae and other issues.

The meeting closed at 10:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 11, 1995 at 8:00 p.m. at the Mohegan Colony Schoolhouse.

David O. Wright, Secretary