

Allegan County Tourist Council



Allegan County Parks, Recreation &
Tourism
3283 122nd Ave
Allegan, MI 49010
269-686-9088
parks@allegancounty.org
<http://www.allegancounty.org>

Chairperson: Chris Dulac

Vice Chairperson: Rick Burn

TOURIST COUNCIL MEETING – MINUTES

**Maria
Albright**
269-686-6595
Allegan

Tuesday November 15, 2022 @ 10:00am
County Services Building – Board Conference Room – 3283 122nd Ave Allegan, MI 49010
Virtual Connectivity Option: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89024590875>

Scott Beltman
616-292-1414
Hopkins

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order by Dulac at 10:07 am

Rick Burn
678-296-1409
Holland

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Maria Albright, Scott Beltman, Rick Burn (via Zoom), Debbie Laraway, Ashley VanZee

Members Absent: Rick Cain, Matt Helmus, Tim Perrigo

Also Present: Brandy Gildea, Heather Bausick

Rick Cain
269-774-7918
Shelbyville

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Albright, seconded by Beltman to approve the August 16, 2022 minutes as presented. The motion carried.

Chris Dulac
269-673-4625
Allegan

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Several members of the public concerned about the Lake Allegan Dam were present and the following spoke:

- Ken Yocker residing at 3853 Forrest Trail Allegan, MI
 - a. Referenced an August 9th press release regarding hydropower being discontinued at the Allegan Dam. He states if this was to happen, then Lake Allegan would no longer be a lake and return to a river
 - b. He states there is currently a POW camp which is referenced at being a former CCC camp and he states this is inaccurate information and there should be accuracy if this is to be included as a stop on the Heritage Trail.
 - c. States Allegan used to have a Relocation Assistance camp and Allegan was a part of that and the county has a rich history and Lake Allegan was a big part of that and it should continue
- Phil Zigulich residing at 4003 Manor Ln Allegan, MI
 - a. He has lived here since 1951 on and off and spent summers here from Chicago.
 - b. Wanted the board to know about www.lakeallegan.org and the Lake Allegan Resident Facebook page which details the work being done to save Lake Allegan
- David Thomspson residing on Lake Allegan
 - a. He has resided on Lake Allegan for 34 years
 - b. He wanted the board to be aware of the Lake Allegan Association and that when it began, it had 150 residents to start and it now has 365 residents.
 - c. There are 2 launch sites at the lake with significant water activity and he is fighting for the property value and the lake itself with its vast aquatic life and bird population.

Scott Beltman states the Allegan City Council has passed a resolution and believe the tourist council should also pass a resolution.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS: Lake Allegan Discussion

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made by Albright, seconded by VanZee to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Matt Helmus
616-355-1031
Holland

**Debbie
Laraway**
269-416-0221
Pullman

Tim Perrigo
269-686-0276
Allegan

**Ashley
VanZee**
616-834-1270
Zeeland

PRESENTATION: None

REVIEW ITEMS:

1. Financial Statements - Gildea stated the financial reports are in the agenda packet and displayed on the monitor; spending is on track for the year with the majority of expenditures being the Shoreline Guide, WMTA, and the 800 number

RECOMMENDATION/ACTION ITEMS:

1. 2023 Meeting Schedule

All members present agreed on the proposed 2023 schedule.

DATE	TIME	PLACE
February 21	10:00am	Board Conference Room
May 16	10:00am	Board Conference Room
August 15	10:00am	Board Conference Room
November 14	10:00am	Board Conference Room

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Wayfinding Signage on Kalamazoo River

- Julie from Water Trail Ventures spoke at the last meeting. Did not hear back from Julie on her needs. Don Poppe with the DNR has been contacted and he needs to know where/what we would like to place but DNR doesn't have funding for signage but they are willing to work with placement.
- Need to know where, how many, and what type of signage is needed before costs can be determined.

2. Z-Card Design Review

- By end of 2023 we want to purchase more Z-Cards and need to start thinking about design and what else should be included on these cards.
- Dulac states the cards shouldn't be overbearing to read, but we do need something physical to have available to tourists

3. Lake Allegan

- Dulac states there are 13 hydroelectric dams in Michigan and the dam in Allegan is the youngest. Taking the Dam out and the clean-up process would be immense due to built up sediments.
- Albright states it is up to Consumers to do that cleanup
- Dulac states the timeline is the current lease is up in 2040 and in 2035 Consumers will have to provide their intentions.
- Beltman states Consumers will be making their decision in the 3rd Quarter in 2023 and we should be proactive instead of reactive.
- Burn asked if the dam can remain there without generating power and Albright replied that the Dam could remain but someone would need to be responsible to maintain it.

- Bill Cheney also spoke up and states that Valley Township will lose 90% of tax base if the lake is gone. That will drive off residents of the lake and shopping will significantly diminish in downtown Allegan. He states there is a committee that is currently looking at the difference between a river and lake environment in regards to birds, fish and aquatic life. There is also a concern for pollutants behind the dam.

A motion was made by Beltman and seconded by Burn to support the Board of Commissioners to move forward with the economic study on the benefits of Allegan Dam. Motion Carried. Yes – 5, No – 1, Absent – 3

4. Goals 2023

- Gildea states we will have funding for the Heritage Trail in 2024 but what are future needs?
- Gildea then introduced Melissa Brower with Lakeshore Networking whom has applied to be on the board beginning in 2023.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Joe and Tammy from the Bed & Breakfast in New Richmond

ROUND TABLE

Albright – None

Burn – None

Beltman – None

Laraway – Pleased with downtown Pullman outcome. Next project is Complete Streets and trying to make the roads in Pullman safer for pedestrians.

Bausick – None

Gildea – None

ADJOURNMENT: Next Meeting – Tuesday, February 21, 2023 @ 10:00 in County Services Building – Board Conference Room – 3283 122nd Ave, Allegan, MI 49010

A motion was made by Albright, seconded by Beltman to adjourn the meeting at 11:11 am. The motion carried.