

Lobster Lake Association Annual Meeting
May 1, 2010
LaGrand Township Hall 9:30.a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 by President Bonnie Huettl. A welcome was expressed and special thanks was given to John Stone for all his work for our lake association. Township board members Gary Thoennes(LaGrand) & Bruce Strandskov,Hardy Huettl and Rod Johnson (Moe) were also introduced. Approximately 54 people were in attendance.

Bonnie introduced the new committee members Diane Kratz as the new secretary and Nancy & Tom Wavrin as Membership co chairs.

Secretary minutes from the 2009 annual meeting (mailed) were approved by Merrill Pedersen/Hardy Huettl

Treasurer's report (mailed) Total income \$5518.08, total expenses \$6372.88 leaving a balance of \$7,744.28. Richard Knutson moved and Jerry Ellis seconded to approve.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Lake Captain Harvey Strom reported that April 1 was the official ice-out date for this year. Since the ice has left, the water elevation has remained stable at 2.24 feet, which is approximately one foot lower than last year.

Water Quality—Richard Knutson reported that every 3 weeks a phosphorous and chlorophyll levels are read at one point on the lake and reported. The data can be found on the RMBL website.

DCLA—Bonnie Huettl reported that they have been approved for a \$10,000 grant to fund the program to Help Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers. The money will go toward signs, billboards, place mats for area restaurants, radio and TV ads and helping to pay for 900 hours of inspections at the infested lake public accesses. She also reported that public meetings will be held to determine if boating between the some of chain of lakes needs to be restricted.

Lobster Lake News—Jerry Ellis reported that the newsletter is issued twice a year and mailed out to members. The deadline for this upcoming newsletter is the end of May and anyone may contribute articles to the newsletter.

Membership—Tom and Nancy Wavrin reported that as of April 26, paid members total 81 so far. We had 240 members last year and are hoping to get at least 250 members this year. This has raised \$795 for the walleye fund. A new directory may be updated and printed next year.

Aquatic Invasive Species—Hardy Huettl reported that we have been monitoring for Eurasian milfoil since 2007 along the 16 miles of lake shore with the help of 12 volunteers at each point of inspection. This year they will also monitor curly leaf pondweed.

Lobster Wear—Liz Berens was unable to attend but her husband, Tim brought and sold samples of Lobster Wear that will be available through the website. The Association makes \$1-2 profit on the items. Happy's Landing has offered to sell some in their shop.

OLD BUSINESS:

By-law changes have been mailed out. John Stone explained that our by-laws were written in 1992 and updated in 1998. The main change at this time is to have only two mandatory meetings for the Board of Directors instead of four, along with some minor word changes. Bruce Strandskov moved and Hardy Huettl seconded approval of these changes.

Website: Township information including minutes and times, dates, and agendas for meetings for both townships has been added to the website.

Review Access Monitoring 2009—Arnie Vick reported that we applied for additional inspections and had a total of 57.5 hours, inspecting 51 boats of which 74.5% had not been inspected before. Boats are given a sticker upon inspection. This is helping with boater education and it was discussed about how all water from infected lakes must be completely drained, including minnow buckets, to prevent the spread of zebra mussels. We will not get any additional hours for inspection for this year since the infected lakes will be getting the extra monitoring.

E-mail addresses: Jim Barrett will continue to update e-mail addresses to keep lake residents informed of upcoming issues and events. He has 116 so far.

NEW BUSINESS:

Delta on NW side of Lobster—has been forming due to removal of a tree and is becoming detrimental. Grants have been applied for but rejected to help solve this problem. We are still looking into ways to helping to solve this problem, most likely trying to plant a rain garden in that area with the help of volunteers.

Photo Contest: Only two pictures were entered by Dave Stendahl who was declared a winner in both categories. The contest will run again to gather more pictures featuring Lobster Lake.

Walleye Fundraiser: Bruce reported that raffle tickets were available for sale for \$2.50 per ticket. Books of 10 can be checked out and sold before July 1 with the money going toward walleye stocking. Bruce explained that the DNR stocks every other year and we stock the off year in December to help keep the population up. Our efforts are matched by the Viking and Hospitality Associations. Kevin Weisel and Jason Peterson are also committee members and instrumental in forming this raffle effort.

Star Lake Program—Bonnie reported that we are in the process of applying to become a Star Lake which will help in getting future grants and we would get signs if we are approved.

Lake Association of the Year MN Waters—John Stone is nominating our association for this award since we have accomplished all of our goals in our plan of action and are a very active association.

Area meetings are encouraged and the association will help pay costs of these meetings. It was also suggested to have a picnic for the whole lake to honor our 25 years as an association. A sign-up sheet was passed around to form a committee. If there are volunteers for this, this will move forward. We still need directors for Foslien North Bay, Norlana Lane and Eternity Point.

Lake Management Plan: John Stone reported that this was drawn up with the help of a grant in 2004. No funds are available this year so it is recommended that we wait to go through this process again when money becomes available. We have accomplished 90% of our plan and are the only lake in Douglas County to have a Plan.

Excel Energy—Jim Barrett reported that he have placed an objection to having the power line cut through the North Bay but have not heard any decision at this point.

Educational Program: Mike Sheldon MN DNR Conservation Officer discussed issues that are harming our lakes such as fertilizing lawns and weed rollers. He advises to call before doing any removing of emergent vegetation. He explained that there are criminal and civil penalties for removing plants without permits up to \$1000 fines. He also advises using fertilizers with NO phosphorous and making a buffer zone so that fertilizers do not drain into the lake. He also discussed problems with invasive species such as zebra mussels. He passed around a sample of the mussels and explained that one female can produce between 100,000 and 500,000 eggs annually. These eggs are microscopic and can't be seen right away which is why it is so important to drain all water from boats and buckets before coming onto an uninfested lake. The mussels have 5 days to attach to something like docks or boats. The problem comes in that they eat algae and plankton which will make weed growth undesirable and crowd out fish habitats. He passed out the 2010 Fishing Booklets and answered questions.

A motion to adjourn was made by John Stone, with Bruce Strandskov seconding. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM

respectfully submitted,
Diane Kratz, Secretary