

## Lobster Lake Association Annual Meeting

May 5, 2012 9:30 AM

LaGrand Township Hall

Welcome and overview given by President Bonnie Huettl to approximately 50-60 members. She awarded Pete Onstad a plaque for his 25 years of water testing as he retires from this position. President Bonnie also made mention that the Association has had several vacancies which need filling, such as the treasurer, vice-president, and three director positions.

The **secretary's** report-Minutes from the 2011 meeting were distributed. Jerry Ellis moved and Don Auel seconded approval. Passed.

Copies of the **Treasurer's** report were handed out. Total income 12-31-11 was \$11, 447.35 Total expenses \$8,730.72. There is \$3431.66 in checking and \$6,467.26 in savings for total cash on hand as of January 1, 2012 of \$9,898.02. Hardy Huettl moved and Rod Johnson seconded approval. Passed.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Lake Captain, Harvey Strom, reported that August 2, 2011, was the highest water level we have had for a long time. The water level dropped 1.44 feet in March but at the present time we are just 8 inches lower than last year.

Water Quality: Rod Johnson reported that the 5-year average for water clarity appears to be trending to be more and clearer. Mid-summer last year clarity was poor due to the amount of rainfall but by fall this had cleared up. Presently we are at 9.2 feet visibility. He also reported that samples have been done where Mill Lake and Fish Lake enter Lobster Lake to determine how these impact the lake. Actually, these two bodies of water were clearer than Lobster so are not a problem. Island's slough will be monitored to see how this affecting water quality in that area.

Fish Habitat/Stocking: Kevin Weisel was awarded the 2011 Volunteer Award for his work last year by the Soil and Water Department. Kevin reported that the walleye stocking was not completed until last spring because of the mild winter. At that time they stocked 400 pounds or about 6000 walleyes. Matching funds were available for this stocking through the Alexandria Hospitality tax and the Viking Sportsmen.

DCLA: Bonnie Huettl reported that a newsletter has been send out to all landowners and reported that the DCLA has sponsored radio ads, Kids Fishing program, Eco-Fair, billboards and signage and co-sponsored the decontamination unit that will be moving from lake to lake, especially by infested lakes, to help stop the spread of zebra mussels. We are the first in the state to have our own program.

Lobster Lake News: Jerry Ellis reported that he sends out two newsletters per year, one in April and one in October. He asked for ideas for topics and submissions from members.

Membership: Nancy Wavrin reported that we had 230 members last year and to date we have 160 paid members with memberships still coming in. As of May 4, \$3080 has been collected for dues and \$1195 has been donated to the walleye fund. She asked for help from members to keep track of new people moving in and out of the area. The new directory is finished and a copy will be given to every paid member. If a second copy is needed, the charge will be an additional \$3.

Aquatic Invasive Species: Hardy Huettl reported that after 2004 when the first Eurasian milfoil was found near the access, no more has been discovered since. In 2007 a formal committee of 12 has been formed to monitor weed levels every spring and fall. They have been monitoring 7 spots where curly leaf pondweed has been found. At this time there appears to be only 3 of these areas infested. This year the Association has agreed to hire professionals to do a complete survey of our entire shoreline measured at 400 foot intervals. The first survey will be from May 21-June and the second will be July to August with a summary report to be compiled for the DNR as well as our association. This will be helpful to find out where problems areas are located and get grants to help eradicate the problems.

Lobster Wear: Liz Behrens reported that she has some inventory for sale today and can take orders by October for Christmas gifts. There will be an extra charge for special orders. She is working on eliminating her current inventory.

Social: Steve and Jolene Kogler reported that they would like to see a lake-wide picnic sometime this summer as well as area picnics taking place. They were thanked for being in charge of coffee and rolls this morning.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Jim Barrett is still collecting e-mail addresses to help spread important news to landowners such as the no-wake zones and open water areas during the winter. These addresses will not be shared and will be used only in blind copies so no spam will be involved in sharing addresses.

Loon's nests: John Stone will be building loon nests for a charge of \$1, with the rest of the costs paid for by the Association, for liability reasons. This will be available this fall.

Review Updated Lake Management Plan: Marilyn Bayerl, the coordinator of last year's visioning session reported the results from our session. She handed out copies of her reports and went over goals and objectives and pointed out that these findings can also be viewed on the website.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Rod Johnson gave us a presentation of the Township Right of Way rules which are essentially controlled by the state. He said that to find the area designated as the right of way, go to the center of the road and measure 33 feet in each direction. He pointed out that these areas can legally be used for utilities, mailboxes, drain tiles, snowmobile and ATV paths. However, home owners cannot fill these

areas, plant trees or gardens, put up fences, etc. He said that the township can enforce these rules and people need to be aware of the regulations.

We have received our Star Lake sign; however the state regulations state that it must be larger in order to be posted along with our Lobster Lake sign so it was agreed to put this sign at the landing instead.

Lt. Shane Sultana, MN DNR AIS Enforcement, gave a presentation of what his unit will be doing in the upcoming year. Their goal is to prevent new infestations and to contain the infestations we already have. They have hired more workers to help enforce the rules and there will be 13,000 hours and 300 work crews throughout the state. Very few warnings will be given and the fines have increased considerably for violations. Docks and lifts must be out of the water for at least 21 days before putting them into new waters. The notification stickers are no longer a requirement since this part of the law was not passed. He also recommended that jet skis run the motor for a few seconds when they are out of the water to rid the engine of any remaining water.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Katz, Secretary