

LOBSTER LAKE ASSOCIATION
May 7, 2016
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
LAGRAND TOWNSHIP HALL – 501 Town Hall Rd, Alexandria, MN 56308

9:00 AM – Registration - Coffee and Rolls

9:30 AM - President Bonnie Huettl called the Annual Meeting to order, welcoming 70 attendees.

- President Huettl gave an overview of the 32- year history of the Lobster Lake Association (LLA). Formed in 1984, Bonnie explained that at the conception of the LLA a ‘Lake Management Plan’ was implemented. Back then; having such a plan was not the norm. As a result of this visionary Lake Management Plan: Quality Water, Fisheries Management, and Land Use and Zoning continue to be priorities. Consequently, Lobster Lake continues to be a great Recreational lake of which we can be proud and enjoy.
- Eldon Holmes was introduced as the new *Lobster Lake Newsletter* editor. Scott Soderstrom was introduced as the new Area Director for Reuben’s Landing, West End & Sunrise Woods. Ed Fletcher was introduced as the new Area Director for Wildridge.
- Minutes from the 2015 Annual Meeting were printed for distribution and posted on the LLA website. Jerry Ellis moved and Luke Stemmer seconded that minutes from the 2015 Annual LLA Meeting be accepted. Passed.
- The 2015 Fiscal Year Income/Expense Report was available to attendees. The Treasurer’s Report was read by President Huettl. Cash-on-Hand: \$3,444.05; Walleye Fund: \$4,773.11. The report will be filed for audit review. Although the Walleye Fund has a goodly balance, President Huettl encouraged continued donations! Printing expense was larger than normal in 2015 because new directories were printed.

Committee Reports

Lake Captain – Harvey Strom passed around fliers for the West Central Hunters for Habitat 20th Annual Pork Chop Feed at Pioneer Park on Saturday, May 14, 2016. He also passed out a flier prepared by LLA for Walleye Funding. These fliers, along with a mail-in envelope will be placed in the Walleye Drop boxes at Wildridge, Happy's Landing, and Paulin's Paradise.

Harvey reported lake levels are consistent with last year – no change.

Water Quality - Rod Johnson exhibited graphs comparing phosphorous and Chlorophyll-*a* readings from Lobster Lake, Fish Lake, Eisland Slough and Mill Lake. Readings for both phosphorous and Chlorophyll- *a* are taken five (5) times per year. The readings compile trends in water quality. Monitoring our waters is important so as to catch a problem before it causes a real problem.

Lobster Lake has the lowest Phosphorus readings, of the four sites, for the past five years. Historical Phosphorus readings for Lobster Lake since 2005 have been low.

Chlorophyll- *a* readings for Lobster Lake are the lowest of the four sites tested. Rod said the 'lake looks good'. Rod's charts are available on the LLA website. Hardy Huettl spoke of Secchi disk readings being taken weekly, between May and October, since 1985 for water clarity. Weekly readings are taken at four sites: East Bay, Central Bay, West Bay and North Bay. In 2015, Pat Hanson and Hardy analyzed sixty-two recorded readings. The clearest reading was on 7/19/2015 at East Bay measuring 11.5'. The least clear readings were 6.5' at West Bay and North Bay. Average recordings: 8.77'. DNR recordings average 8-9'.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) – Hardy Huettl and 12 volunteer inspectors check for Curly-leaf Pondweed and Eurasian Water Milfoil. (a) Curly-leaf Pondweed – Have been checking for this since 2010, with only a few plants found. No evidence ever seen to indicate a serious invasion. (b) Eurasian Water Milfoil – Have been checking for this since 2005, and in the past 11 years none of this has ever been found. (c) Zebra Mussels – to date no Zebra Mussels found in Lobster Lake. Notify Hardy Huettl IMMEDIATELY if Zebra Mussels are found on your docks

and/or boats. Hardy will then notify the DNR. The two areas most likely to see the introduction of “Zebes” is near the public boat access and in the area where a stream from Mill Lake enters Lobster Lake. That stream runs through the lowland off the end of Brandt’s Beach Road.

Fish Habitat/Stocking – Kevin Weisel thanked everyone for their Walleye Fund Donations. Everything is going well. DNR stocked Lobster Lake last year (2015 – odd year). According to Dean Beck, Area Fisheries Supervisor, last year 1,942 pounds of fingerlings were stocked. The fingerlings were larger than normal – on average 3.2 fingerlings per pound. At the 2016 Spring Board of Directors Meeting, a motion passed to allocate money from the Walleye Fund for the Fall, 2016 Walleye Fingerling Stocking. The DNR approved the stocking. All is well and everything is on track.

Douglas County Lake Association (DCLA) – Steve Kogler, as LLA representative, attends monthly DCLA meetings. DCLA is having more speakers on Water Quality. For example, Paul Douglas was a guest speaker on ‘Climate Control’ at a recent meeting. KXRA – 1490 AM - Radio Station will host an open line broadcast on Water Quality on May 18th, at 9:00 AM. Steve Henry will moderate the broadcast. DCLA board meetings are open to the public. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 4:30 PM. The meetings are held in the Douglas County Public Works building at 526 Willow Drive, Alexandria, MN.

DCLA is a 501(c3) non-profit, tax-exempt organization. Donations are tax deductible.

Special Recognition - Bonnie gave special recognition to Pete Onstad for his 30 years of volunteer time/work to test for Water Quality on Lobster Lake. Mr. Onstad did this work solo for 30 years. Now we have a committee!

Lobster Lake Association Newsletter – Eldon Holmes thanked Jerry Ellis for his help in transitioning the LLA newsletter. Eldon will make every effort to publish an informative Newsletter and he asked for articles from the membership. Bonnie reminded everyone present that the Newsletter is FOR YOU...ask for or contribute articles that are of interest to YOU!

Membership – Tom and Nancy Wavrin – Nancy reported membership and incoming dues are going very well. Nancy announced there are **192 PAID** members, but there are 385 residents living around the lake. Nancy encouraged us to ask our friends and neighbors, living on Lobster Lake, who are not members to join our Association. There are costs to maintaining our Association and the more members we have, more good will/activities can be accomplished. Nancy expressed we need to be ‘good stewards’ of our lake. So she asked, again, that we spread the word...it is important to be part of the LLA and not very costly per member. A suggestion was made to identify LLA members in our Lobster Lake Directory with an asterisk or some other form of identification, so residents NOT members could be identified. We could then encourage those people to join. Bonnie noted that was a great suggestion and the suggestion would be implemented upon the next directory being printed. Nancy thanked everyone who contributed to the Walleye Fund. Nancy stressed anyone with questions should call her or Tom.

Lobster Wear – Cathy Johnson highlighted available Lobster Wear. Lobster Wear can be viewed on the LLA Website. Cathy resigned her post as Committee Chair of Lobster Wear as of this meeting. Bonnie asked if anyone was interested in being in charge of Lobster Wear, to please see her after the meeting. Bonnie thanked Cathy for all her work while being in charge of the Lobster Wear committee.

E-mail Addresses - Jim Barrett has approximately 285 email addresses. Please let Jim know of any email address changes. LLA does NOT share email addresses with any entity. The email addresses are only used to convey emergency/urgent messages and are sent via blind copies.

OLD BUSINESS

Area Picnics – Bonnie asked that members “press” their Area Directors to have an annual picnic. Area picnics are ‘a must’ so neighbors can get acquainted; making

it easier to discuss neighborhood questions and concerns. Many areas are in need of an Area Director. If you live on Shamrock Lane, Eternity Point, Hintermeister Road, Norlana Lane, Ironwood Pine Lane or Tall Timbers Road, your area needs an Area Director. Someone, please, from these areas come forward to represent your area!

Financial Audit – The LLA financial records for the past year were audited by Hardy Huettl and Rod Johnson. The financial records were found to be in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. Bonnie complimented Joleen for doing a ‘Superior Job’!! The Audit was filed.

NEW BUSINESS

Loon Tracking – Jim Barrett explained Artificial Loon Nests (ALN) have been in existence on Lobster Lake since 2001. Wayne Ek has had Twin Loons born on his artificial nest every year since 2001. Currently there are 10 ALN on Lobster Lake. Ten is the maximum amount the lake can maintain. The exact location of the 10 ALN is posted on the LLA website. The LLA furnished seven (7) of the nests prior to 2016 and two (2) additional nests were added this spring (2016). Wayne Ek furnished the other ALN. In 2015 five (5) new chicks were born. Jim asked that boaters do not get too close to the ALN. Use your binoculars, if you want close up viewing. Also, if you see the ALN being traumatized by jet skis or other motor craft, please report such abuse to Jim, the Sheriff’s Department or DNR.

NOTE: The average state survival rate of hatched loon chicks is 0.59%. This spring (2016), four of the ten ALN have nestings. This is another indication of a healthy, clear water lake. We will have better survival rates for hatched loon chicks for Lobster Lake as time goes on.

Report of State of Water Conference: - Bonnie Huettl and Rod Johnson attended the State of Water Conference in Alexandria on April 14 and 15. The keynote speaker was Governor Dayton. The importance of Water Sheds was discussed.

Minnesota is the head waters for water going north to Canada and south to Mississippi.

Rod Johnson said the conference was a real 'eye opener' regarding goings on in the State. The Park Rapids area is clearing forests for potato farms requiring irrigation; potentially putting more chemicals into the aquifer. Crow Wing County has implemented an aggressive water plan that Douglas County should mirror.

Bonnie commented that our county commissioners receive so much input from so many resources; they need to be 'spoon feed' to what is really important...to what the public really wants. Communication is critical to our local leadership.

No Wake Zones in Shallow Bays: - During the last 20 years, boats on Lobster Lake have become larger and faster, increasing the potential to effect water quality. Lobster Lake has four 'sensitive' bay areas. Going through these areas at high boat speeds, stirs up the bottom lake sediment, causing re-suspending nutrients (phosphorus) that are at the lake's bottom. Bonnie asked the membership present what they would like the LLA to do regarding no wake restrictions. "Personal Responsibility" would be the 'prevention of choice', but not likely to happen. The general concession was that Bonnie talk with the County Sheriff's office and that she write a surface water use ordinance and present it to the County Commissioners. The Sheriff's Water Patrol will then be responsible for taking the buoys in and out. No major fishing tournaments are scheduled.

AIS STATION: - Douglas County is offering additional AIS watercraft inspection hours at our public access. The cost is \$12 per hour for Level 1 – (cannot decontaminate), \$25 per hour for Level 2 (has decontamination unit, but must pay for 2 inspectors). The County will pick up 1/2 of the cost. Lobster Lake is already assigned 50 hours of Level 1 and 150 hours for Level 2. The inspection season runs from May 28 to October 2, 2016. Watercraft inspectors work between the hours of 5 am to 9 pm, seven days a week. Level 1 inspectors can be located at all accesses, but Level 2 inspectors with the decontamination unit may only be located at DNR approved public accesses. Decontamination units will always be scheduled with two staff for safety reasons. The total number of

additional hours of inspection will be limited to 300 hours per lake. We can choose times and days that we are not already assigned. The LLA Board of Directors allocated \$815.00 for additional labor hours.

Northern Pike: - The question was brought up about what to do with caught Northerns/Hammerhandles. Harvey Strom suggested pickling as a tasty treat. Or, have an area picnic and serve pickled Northern. Another option would be to use the fish for compost.

Kevin Weisel spoke up and strongly suggested harvesting and enjoying caught walleye. The DNR agrees!!

Guest Speaker: - Jeff Forester, Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates spoke on the importance of **LOCAL** citizen involvement to protect and preserve Minnesota Lakes and Rivers. Our lakes and waterways are a legacy to be passed on to the next generation. Forms were available to join the Advocates. See link on the LLA website.

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Florence Wieneke, Secretary