

LOBSTER LAKE ASSOCIATION

2017 SPRING BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

11922 TALL TIMBERS RD SW

SATURDAY, MARCH, 25, 2017

1. Call to order: President Bonnie Huettl called the semi-annual Lobster Lake Association (LLA) Board of Directors meeting to order at 10:04 AM. In attendance were: Jim Barrett, Eldon Holmes, Hardy Huettl, Rod Johnson, Joleen Kogler, Steve Kogler, Merrill Pedersen, Scott Soderstrom, John Stone, Amanda Topel, Nancy Wavrin, Kevin Weisel, and Florence Wieneke.
2. Introduction of New Director: Amanda Topel was introduced as the new Area Director for Tall Timbers. Board Members, who were present, introduced themselves and stated their position on the Board.
3. Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Merrill Pedersen and seconded by John Stone that minutes from the October 8, 2016 Fall Board Meeting be approved as sent to the Board of Directors. Motion Passed.
4. Treasurer's Report: Joleen Kogler handed out an Income/Expense Report from 01/01/2016 to 12/31/2016. Cash-on-Hand in General Fund as of 12/31/2016: \$6,867.95. Treasurer's report was filed for audit.
5. Bonnie passed around the 2017 LLA Officers and Directors list for review and correction. After final review, copies will be printed and available at the Annual General Membership Meeting.
6. A motion was made by Eldon Holmes and seconded by Merrill Pedersen to pay LaGrand Township \$75.00 for rental of their township facility. The LLA General Membership Meeting will be held at their facility on Saturday, May 6, 2017. Motion Passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) – Hardy Huettl stated there was nothing to report on AIS since the Fall Board of Directors meeting. A full report was given at that meeting and in the Fall, 2016 Lobster Lake Newsletter. Hardy is always looking for volunteers to help with monitoring water quality and other AIS projects.
2. Water Monitoring – Hardy Huettl and Rod Johnson – Rod shared graphs of Phosphorus & Chlorophyll from four area lake test sites through 2016. Phosphorus Readings are high in Fish Lake and Eisland, but that is because water flow is low. RMB suggests not testing unless flow is strong. Levels remain stable at this point. Looking for trends in all the testing we do. Testing will continue in 2017.
3. LL Newsletter – Eldon Holmes reported the next newsletter will be sent out after the May General Membership Meeting. Eldon requested articles making the newsletter attention-getting and a real page turner. Suggestions were condensing larger articles from metropolitan

newspapers regarding lake issues relative to our area and a larger portion devoted to promoting Lobster Wear.

4. E-Mail – Jim Barrett reported he has a total of 253 emails for Lobster Lake residents.
5. Membership – Nancy Wavrin reported current membership at 211; down 11 from 2015. Annual letters regarding dues/Walleye Funding have been mailed. Nancy shared a report of the 2016 Membership and Walleye Fund Deposits. Nancy also requested help in identifying ownership of certain properties. Nancy is working with personnel at Douglas County using an Interactive Map in gathering new property/change of ownership as a means of getting more members. Nancy requested help from Area Directors in recruiting new member and telling her of changes of property ownership as to keep records current.
6. Douglas County Lakes Association (DCLA) – Steve Kogler is the LLA representative to this association. Steve shared some of the goings-on of the organization: Decisions on how DCLA's funding is used and how appropriating funds is contingent on area lake association members attending meetings. With that being said, it may behoove LLA representation at each monthly DCLA meeting. If Steve is unable to attend, possibly another LLA Board Member would be available to attend. Steve will email agendas for upcoming DCLA meetings to all LLA Board members. Anyone interested in attending, please contact Steve.
7. Walleye Stocking – Kevin Weisel reported last fall, 2016 was a terrible season to get walleye fingerlings. They just were not available and then the lake froze. Kevin is cautiously optimistic that the spring of 2017 will produce better results in the walleye fingerling harvest. The good news with a later catch is that the fingerlings will be bigger and the net result will be better because of a lower mortality rate. Kevin returned the check he received from the LLA allotted for Walleye stocking, as it never occurred. Should stocking be successful during spring, 2017, the allocated amount will be given back to Kevin. The DNR will still stock Lobster Lake during fall, 2017. The best case scenario is Lobster Lake will be stocked with walleye fingerlings both in the spring and fall of 2017.
8. Lobster Wear – Amanda Topel volunteered to be the new Lobster Wear Chairman. Ideas were tossed around on how to promote/increase sales. There will be a full display of Lobster Wear at the General Membership Meeting on Saturday, May 6th.
9. Water Levels – Harvey Strom was unable to attend, so no report was given!

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Report from Land & Resource (L&R) Access Monitoring - Bonnie reported in 2016, Douglas County allocated 50 Level 1 hours (Level I inspection hours require one inspector to be on site), and 150 Level II hours (Level II hours indicate two staff people are on site along with one of the Douglas County portable decontamination units) to the Lobster Lake public water access area. The LLA requested an additional 65 Level I hours through a cost-share grant application with Douglas County Land and Resource Management for a total of 115 Level I hours and 150 Level II hours. During 2016, Douglas County staff worked 140 Level I hours and 170 Level II hours at Lobster Lake, thereby meeting the allocated and grant hours goal. The total of 583 inspections

was conducted for an average of 1.9 inspections per hour. The inspection per hour rate was the 6th highest in the county last season.

In 2016, the LLA paid Douglas County LRM \$812.50 for an additional 65 Level I hours (\$12.50 per hour x 65 hours). Bonnie has not received word if/if not Douglas County LRM will offer the same monitoring for 2017. The question was raised if the LLA wanted to invest the same level of additional hours of monitoring in 2017 as in 2016. A motion was made by Eldon Holmes and seconded by John Stone to participate in the Douglas County Watercraft Inspection at the same level (not higher) in 2017 as in 2016.

2. Review Annual Meeting – Kristin Herwig, a Non-Game Wildlife Specialist from the Minnesota DNR, Bemidji, will be our featured speaker at the May 6th Annual Meeting. She will offer hand outs and be available for questions. A motion was made by Hardy Huettl and seconded by Merrill Pedersen to pay \$50.00 to our Annual Meeting Speaker. Motion Passed.

Bonnie, recently on the East Coast, purchased various promotional items featuring ‘lobsters’. These items will be used as door prizes at the annual meeting. A motion was made by Merrill Pedersen and seconded by Eldon Holmes to reimburse Bonnie \$40.00 for these items. Jim Barrett and Steve Kogler will be responsible for picking up breakfast rolls and making coffee for the Annual Membership Meeting.

3. Loon Nest Replacement – Locations of and construction of loon nests were discussed. Wayne Ek has an established loon nest (in need of repair) that he is willing to donate to the LLA. A motion was made by Amanda Topel and seconded by Eldon Holmes to spend no more than \$30.00 to repair the loon nest donated by Wayne Ek. John Stone and Jim Barrett will be making the necessary repairs. Once the repair work is completed on the donated loon nest, there will be a total of 11 nests on Lobster Lake.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Request for LLA Approval of Bill to Raise License Fees: Essentially we were asked as an organization if we wanted to support an increase in license fees to supplement DNR management activities. After discussion, it was decided not to support this cause as an organization. If LLA members wanted to support the proposed legislation as individuals that would be fine.
2. Lake Management Review: A review of the current Lake Management Plan concluded every “practical” item has been completed. Now is the time to revisit the Lake Management Plan as times have changed, new members have been added, and new issues have developed. Nancy Wavrin, Bonnie Huettl, John Stone, Scott Soderstrom, and Steve Kogler agreed to coordinate a new “Visionary Group” to pilot a new Lake Management strategy. Their group would initially start outside of the General Membership Meeting. Lake residents’ input could be through surveys, Lobster Lake Newsletter feedback forms and/or however the committee decides.
3. Review Proposed New Development: A new proposed development along Wildridge Court has come into being. Eight proposed lots would have lake access; and an additional eight lots would

not have lake access. As proposed, the lots are plotted according to Land Management Resource regulation. While the LLA is not opposed to developments we, as an organization, want to monitor the process of new developments as to minimize the impact additional developments have on our beloved Lobster Lake. Photos will be taken of the land as it is currently exists and Board Members will monitor changes to the environment. When the plat is presented, LLA will follow the progress.

4. Annual Audit: Florence Wieneke and Amanda Topel volunteered to audit the Treasurer's books.
5. Election Volunteer for Nominating Committee: Merrill Pedersen agreed to announce candidates for the upcoming election at the Annual Membership Meeting on May 6th. To date these are the candidates and the office that are willing to continue: Bonnie Huettl- President; Joleen Kogler, Treasurer; Florence Wieneke, Secretary. The Board is in need of a Vice – President.
6. Need for Web Site Update: Basically we need to get “old stuff – OFF” and “news stuff – ON”. A suggestion was made that possibly at the General Membership meeting, Bonnie could ask for a volunteer to help ‘update’ the website and look at the particulars of putting the LLA on Facebook.
7. Magnets – Bonnie will have the State of Minnesota-shaped magnets ready for distribution at the May 6th General Membership Meeting for paid up members to the LLA.

Meeting adjourned at 12:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Florence Wieneke, Secretary