

LOBSTER LAKE ASSOCIATION

2017 FALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES

11922 TALL TIMBERS RD SW

Saturday, October 21, 2017

1. Call to Order: President Bonnie Huettl called the semi-annual Lobster Lake Association (LLA) Board of Directors meeting to order at 9:34 AM. In attendance were: Jim Barrett, Eldon Holmes, Hardy Huettl, Rod Johnson, Steve Kogler, Scott Soderstrom, John Stone, Amanda Topel, Nancy Wavrin, Sara Wevley, and Florence Wieneke.
2. Introduction of New Director: Sara Wevley was introduced as the new Area Director for Kraftheifers, Beauty Point and South Side. Board members, who were present, introduced themselves and stated their position on the Board.
3. Secretary's Report: A motion was made by John Stone and seconded by Hardy Huettl that minutes from the March 25, 2017 LLA Spring Board Meeting be approved as sent to the Board of Directors. Motion Passed.
4. Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Treasurer, Joleen Kogler; Steve Kogler gave the report. The September 30, 2017 bank statement showed a balance of \$5,862. Of this amount - \$3,215 was contributed to the Walleye Fund. As Joleen was not present to give a detailed report, no Treasurer's Report was filed for audit.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) – Hardy Huettl reported on four AIS and their significance to Lobster Lake. (A). Curley-leaf Pondweed (CLP) ~ Twelve volunteer inspectors checked their specific areas between June 6 – July 5, 2017. Six inspectors found plant specimens in eight different locations. No significant amounts of CLP were found in these eight areas. (B). Eurasian Watermilfoil (ESM) ~ Twelve volunteers checked their specific areas between August 12th and September 12th. There were NO findings for the 13th consecutive year. (C). Zebra Mussels (ZM) ~ Sightings were fairly common this year throughout the lake. There are many more two-year-old mussels than last year. Bonnie and Hardy collected samples to test for Veligers (microscopic ZM larva) on July 4th and 14th. Samples were analyzed by RMB Labs in Detroit Lakes. As expected, Veligers were found in both samples submitted. Currently, there is no economical treatment available. (D). Starry Stonewort (SS) ~ Starry Stonewort is macro algae first found in Lake Koronis near Paynesville in 2015. SS is currently known in 11 lakes in Minnesota. On August 5th Bonnie and Hardy took part in a Douglas County Land and Resource Office survey ... "Starry Trek". Six teams of 2-3 people each attended a training session before inspecting a total of 18 public lake accesses. There were no findings of SS by any of the teams. In late August, SS was confirmed in Lake Minnewaska. This is the only infested lake in our area.

2. Water Monitoring – Hardy Huettl and Rod Johnson ~ Hardy reported Water Clarity is tested using the Secchi Disk. Pat Hanson and Hardy tested four specific test sites between May 4th and October 6th; with a combined total of 62 readings. Seasonal average for 2017 was 10.6 feet. Clearest reading occurred May 4th at North Bay with a reading of 16.5 feet. Least clear reading occurred August 2nd at North Bay with a reading of 6.5 feet. 2012-2016 (5 year average) was 9.0 feet, thus clarity improved 1.6 feet from that timeframe average. Rod provided charts showing Phosphorus (ug/l) and Chlorophyll A (ug/l) comparisons for last year (Sept, 2016 – Sept, 2017) and for years 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 for Lobster Lake, Mill Lake, Fish Lake and Eisland. The purpose of the charts is trending averages. Of the four sites tested, Lobster Lake has the best water clarity and most consistent averages. Another set of charts showed historical reading for Chlorophyll A and Phosphorus for Lobster Lake alone for years 2005, 2015, 2016, and 2017. Again, consistent trending for our lake.
3. Newsletter – Eldon Holmes ~ Eldon requested articles for the Newsletter ASAP. Eldon will include pictures of the July 4th parade in the upcoming Newsletter. Discussion followed regarding the abuse of balloons thrown during this summer’s parade. Balloons are harmful to area fish and fowl as the balloons can become entangled in their digestive system. The DNR was contacted after this year’s excessive use of balloon-throwing during the parade. Next year a representative from the DNR will be on patrol. Anyone caught throwing balloons into the lake could be fined up to \$250.00.
4. Loon Nest – Jim Barrett ~ Eleven Artificial Loon Nests (ALN) were on Lobster Lake this summer. Three of the ALN reported a total of 6 hatchings. Last year there were 11 hatchings. Again, this year, there was a problem with boaters getting too close to the loon nests and disturbing the hatching process.
5. Membership – Nancy & Tom Wavrin ~ Nancy reported 2017 membership is at 230; up 14 members from last year. The biggest push for payment of dues is after the annual mailing and at the Annual Meeting. We are also getting large donations to the Walleye Fund. If anyone knows of new people moving into their neighborhoods, please let Nancy know and she will mail them a “Welcome to the Lake” packet of information. Discussion was held regarding electronic payment of dues. No decisions were made.
6. Douglas County Lakes Association (DCLA) – At the request of Bonnie, Jan Beliveau, President of the DCLA, came to our board meeting to explain the mission of DCLA, and what are the benefits of being a member of the DCLA. Jan said their main mission was to EDUCATE citizens on preserving water quality and environmental elements of area lakes. There are four entities contributing to the association: Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District, Douglas County Land & Resource Management, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and DCLA. The DCLA currently has 24 lake association members. Jan explained each lake association gets one (1) vote per issue, regardless of the number of members in their association. Bonnie thanked Jan for coming and our meeting continued.

LLA has not paid its due to the DCLA for 2017. John Stone explained the biggest advantage to belonging to the DCLA is the ability to obtain grants through the organization as they are a

501(c)(3) organization and LLA is not. As Steve Kogler is not always able to attend the DCLA meetings, Bonnie asked for a volunteer able to attend the second Wednesday of the month monthly meeting. Rod Johnson came forth. A motion was made by John Stone and seconded by Jim Barrett to pay the \$400.00 annual dues to DCLA for 2017. Motion Passed. As the meetings are open to the public, Bonnie will forward the monthly DCLA Agenda to all LLA Board Members. Minutes from previous meetings are posted on the DCLA website.

7. Fish Habitat/Walleye Stocking – Kevin Weisel ~ Kevin gave the report to Hardy as he was unavailable to come to the meeting. Kevin is working with Dean Beck from the DNR regarding Walleye Stocking. Plan is for 1,386 pounds of fingerlings to be stocked. A little over one-third (475 pounds) of the project is completed. Over the next two weeks the remaining fingerlings (911 pounds) will be stocked. The fingerlings are small -- approximately 40 per pound. Approximately 55,440 fingerlings will be stocked. Additionally, 347 Muskie fish (9 inches each) were stocked.
8. Lobster Wear – Amanda Topel ~ Amanda reported sales have been decent. Visit our website www.lobsterlake.org to see products available and pricing. Lobster Lake flags have been 'good sellers'. Amanda has some inventory on hand.
9. Water Levels – Harvey Strom ~ Harvey was not at the meeting and did not submit a report. General consensus was lake levels are up!!! 😊 John Stone commented the levels were 20" higher in 1986!!!

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Annual Meeting Speaker ~ Eldon Holmes suggested Mark Fisher, representing Rapala, as a speaker for our Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 5, 2018. The LLA Board asked Eldon to follow through and obtain Mark as the program speaker.
2. Membership Options DCLA ~ Discussed under Committee Reports - #6 DCLA—Steve Kogler
3. Location of Annual Meeting – LaGrand or Garfield? ~ The LLA Board agreed on the Garfield Community Center as a meeting place for our next Annual Meeting. Bonnie asked Florence to schedule our May 5, 2018 Annual Meeting with the Garfield Community Center.
4. Magnet Distribution Progress ~ Magnets are being distributed by Area Directors.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Visioning Group – The first meeting of the Visioning Group was held October 7, 2017. Members: Bonnie Huettl, Steve Kogler, Scott Soderstrom, John Stone, and Nancy Wavrin. The Committee asked the LLA Board for direction on how to proceed, on how to obtain information and ideas from Lobster Lake residents, completion date, and how much of a budget they had to work with. A motion was made by Scott Soderstrom and seconded by Eldon Holmes for The Visioning Group to proceed with the Lake Management Plan and allot up to \$2,500.00 to use as needed to complete the project. Motion Passed. The object of the Visioning Group is to build on the existing Lake Management Plan...addressing new concerns and future "visioning" for Lobster Lake. The full LLA Board will work with the Visioning Group as needed.

2. Annual Audit – Volunteers ~ Sara Wevley volunteered to help. Bonnie “volunteered Amanda Topel”!! If Amanda is not able to help, Bonnie will secure another volunteer!!! 😊
3. Private Access Abuse ~ Brian Van Nevel voiced concerns about incidents at Pedersen’s Access. Merrill Pedersen would need to be involved with any discussion concerning these incidents. Neither gentleman was at this LLA Board Meeting. The LLA Board has no legitimate authority to do anything concerning this situation.
4. Starry Stonewort Update: ~ This was covered in the Committee Reports under #1 – AIS –Hardy Huettl.
5. New Development on Lobster Lake: ~ There currently is a dispute of lot lines. New survey needs to be taken. Project currently on hold.

Meeting adjourned 11:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Florence Wieneke
Secretary