

LOBSTER LAKE ASSOCIATION (LLA)  
May 6, 2017  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
MOE TOWNSHIP HALL – 14641 Pioneer Rd SW, Farwell, MN 56327

**9:00 AM** – Registration – Coffee & Rolls

**9:30 AM** – President Bonnie Huettl called the Annual Meeting to order, welcoming 77 attendees.

- President Huettl gave an overview of the Lobster Lake history from 1910 to present. Copies of the overview were available.
- Amanda Topel was introduced as the new director for Tall Timbers.
- Lynn Bushard was introduced as Chairman of the Moe Township Board.
- Bonnie Huettl explained directors are still needed for Fosliens North Bay, Norlana Lane, Eternity Point, Krafthefters, Beauty Point, and South Side.
- Minutes from the 2016 Annual Meeting were printed for distribution and posted on the LLA website since May, 2016. Ed Fletcher moved and Don Auel seconded that minutes from the 2016 LLA General Membership Meeting be approved. Passed.
- The 2016 Fiscal Year Income/Expense Report was available to attendees. The January 1 – December 31, 2016 Treasurer’s Report, prepared by Joleen Kogler, was given by President Huettl. Cash on Hand as of 12/31/2016: \$6,867.95; Walleye Fund: \$5,312.00. Cash on Hand as of 05/06/2017: \$6,673.48. Motion was made by Don Auel and seconded by Kevin Wiesel to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Treasurer’s Report will be filed for audit review. A motion was made by Jerry Ellis and seconded by Eldon Holmes to pay outstanding bills.

**Committee Reports**

Lake Captain – Harvey Strom reported lake levels fluctuate during the year, but the Lake was up 8” from last fall. The DNR did a 10-day survey regarding Muskie population in our Lake. As the survey was done during the “cold” part of the year only 34 muskies were found in 10 different areas. In the past the number was as high as 100.

Once the lake water temperature reaches 50-60 degrees, the DNR will be doing “night work” patrolling for Bass. Don’t be alarmed at seeing boats with ‘flood lights’ cruising shoreline. It is the DNR at their finest.

Around July 24<sup>th</sup>, the DNR will be working for 3-4 days using nets along the shoreline looking for Sunfish and Crappies. During that same timeframe, in the middle of the lake, the DNR will be searching for Northern, Walleye, and Perch.

These surveys are done routinely every four years by the DNR.

**Water Quality** – Committee members include: Hardy Huettl and Rod Johnson (co-chairmen) plus Pat Hanson and Gene VanNevel. Quality of lake water is measured using 2 methods.

1. Secchi Disk – Hardy explained how an 8” diameter Secchi disk is used. The disk is dropped in the water and a “see/no see” process is implemented. Four identical locations are tested every one-two weeks. In 2016, 58 total tests were completed. Average test result for the season = approximately 9 ¾’. Best clarity was seen on May 21, 2016 – East Bay -15 ½’; least clarity seen on September 29, 2016 – West Bay 5 ½’. The 2016 average improved over years 2012, 2014, and 2015. The approximate test results for those years were 7 ½’ to 8 ¾’. Year 2013, was somewhat better than 2016, at a reading of 10 ¼’. Lake levels, temperatures, and runoff can affect clarity.
2. Lake Monitoring for Phosphorus and Chlorophyll A – Hardy reported 5 samplings are done mid-May through mid-September. Samples are taken from Lobster Lake, plus from streams entering the lake from Mill Lake, Fish Lake, and Eisland Slough. Samples are analyzed by RMB Environment Labs in Detroit Lake. The committee created visual colored charts showing month-to-month as well as year-to-year trends. This graphing is extremely helpful in interpreting large variations that may occur and continue.

**Aquatic Invasive Species** – Hardy Huettl explained the committee is made up of himself and 12 volunteer inspectors. Each inspector makes two inspections each summer season. Chairperson Huettl recruits inspectors and summarizes their reports. Hardy gave a brief recap of the 2016 season. A full report was in the Fall 2016 LLA Newsletter. **1)** A small infestation of Curly-leaf pondweed was found in 3 of the 12 inspection areas. The committee will continue to monitor these areas. **2)** No Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) was found for the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. **3)** In 2013, Lobster Lake was designated as infested with Zebra Mussels as the lake is connected with Lake Mary. May 11, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> mussel found at Wildridge Bay. August 14<sup>th</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> found on rock in West Bay, and as of October 1, 2016 eleven locations around the lake had citing of Zebra Mussels. Currently, there is no economical method to control the mussels. Their shells are sharp, so begin considering wearing water shoes and gloves when working with docks, boat lifts, or anything that has been in the water for some time.

**Fish Habitat/Stocking** – Kevin Weisel explained since 1980 the DNR has been stocking Lobster Lake with walleye fingerlings. In 2001, the Lobster Lake Association (LLA) started supplementing the lake with walleye fingerlings alternating with the DNR. The DNR stocks in odd-numbered years and LLA stocks in even-numbered years. 2016 was the LLA year to stock. For various reasons, this stocking was not completed until this Spring, 2017. Six hundred pounds of fingerlings were stocked; 15 fingerlings per pound; approximately 9,000 fingerlings. Stocking of these fingerlings is possible through donations to the Walleye Fund. The DNR is still on schedule to stock this fall.

**Douglas County Lake Association (DCLA)** - Steve Kogler reported the DCLA meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The meetings are open to the public. Steve and Bonnie get the Agenda each month. The purpose of the DCLA is to educate and inform the general public about issues concerning area lakes. As such, there are five to six talks/seminars given each year.

**Lobster Lake Newsletter** – Eldon Holmes asked for articles and pictures for the Newsletter. Newsletter is published semi-annually.

**Membership** – Nancy Wavrin thanked everyone who joined the Association. The Association has had a tremendous response with 185 members paying their dues. Normal membership is 213-226; but it is early in the annual membership drive. The potential for complete membership is: 340. Nancy encouraged everyone to ask their friends, who are not members, to join our Association. Plans are being made to print a new directory in 2018. President Huettl complimented Nancy on the fine job she is doing. Being Membership Chairman is a large commitment!! ☺

**Lobster Wear** – Amanda Topel has created a new merchandise and price list that is posted on the LLA website. Email or call Amanda with your orders. She also has the ability to do custom orders. Amanda is open to suggestions as to marketing and new merchandise.

**E-mail Addresses** – Jim Barrett has 240 LLA email addresses that are used for lake reporting purposes ONLY. The list is not sold or used for purposes other than to communicate lake information.

**Loon Nest Update** – Since 2001 there have been 10 various loon nests on Lobster Lake. Six nests are occupied from time to time. One nest has been supporting twins. Another nest was added this spring, bringing the total to 11. Eleven nests are the maximum number our lake can support. At the time of today's meeting, four nests are occupied.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Directors needed for: Fosliens North Bay, Norlana Lane, Eternity Point, Krafthevers, Beauty Point, and South Side – Bonnie, again, asked the residents in these areas to, please, come forward to represent their area. It is not a difficult position. The job description for Area Directors is printed on today's agenda.

Financial Audit – The LLA financial records for the 2016 calendar year were audited by Florence Wieneke and Amanda Topel. The financial records were found to be in balance. The Audit was filed.

2016 Public 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 6<sup>th</sup> highest in the county last season.

At the 2017 Spring Board of Directors Meeting, a motion was passed to participate in the Douglas County Watercraft Inspection at the same level (not higher) in 2017 as in 2016.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

New Development on Lake: 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. When the plat is presented, LLA will follow the progress. President Huettl is our Douglas County Liaison. Scott Soderstrom will stay alert to sensitive areas; i.e. fish spawning areas, etc.

Board Members Needed – AGAIN, a plea went out for Area Directors for the areas needing them and for a Member-at-Large (MAL). A member-at-large represents the general membership on issues of interest or concern. The MAL conducts projects to further the goals of the organization or to develop services for the membership.

Appoint Web Site Coordinator – LLA needs a website coordinator(s). A sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers to commit. Volunteers were also implored to set up a Facebook site.

Distribution of New Magnets – THIS IS WHY WE NEED AREA DIRECTORS!!!! The LLA Board of Directors voted to give magnets in the shape of Minnesota to paid members. The magnet also identifies Lobster Lake and lists the phone number of the Sheriff Water Patrol. Area Directors are to distribute said magnets.

Strategic Visioning – The LLA is in the process of forming volunteer committees for future Lake Management Plans. Volunteers are to come from Lobster Lake residents. President Huettl encouraged interested parties to come forward.

Election of Officers – Merrill Pedersen, selected from the Nominating Committee, came forward and explained the beauty and benefits of being on the LLA Board of Directors. Merrill also introduced the candidates willing to serve an additional two years at their current positions.

President – Bonnie Huettl

Treasurer – Joleen Kogler

Secretary – Florence Wieneke

LLA is in need of a Vice – President. Jim Barrett made a motion to nominate Brian VanNevel for Vice President. Harvey Strom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Vice President – Brian VanNevel

Merrill Pedersen called three more times for further nominations. No further nominations were expressed.

Eldon Holmes made a motion for nominations to cease and accept the nominations/candidates as listed. Don Auel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

There were no new items from the floor.

GUEST SPEAKER – Christine Herwig, DNR Non-game Wildlife Specialist gave a slide show presentation: *'ALL ABOUT LOONS'*

Drawings for door prizes followed!!

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Florence Wieneke, Secretary