

LOBSTER LAKE ASSOCIATION (LLA)
Saturday, May 4, 2019
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
GARFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER~101 Sanstead Street~Garfield MN 56332

9:00 AM – Registration ~ Coffee & Rolls

9:30 AM – President Bonnie Huettl called the LLA Annual Meeting to order and welcomed 59 attendees.

- President Huettl presented an overview of the agenda. Motion was made by Brian Van Nevel to accept the agenda as presented. Pete Onstad seconded. Motion Passed.
- President Huettl acknowledged the Board and the number of volunteer positions various LLA members held. Bonnie explained, currently, there are 380 possible residences on Lobster Lake; 216 card-carrying members; 54 volunteer positions; and 33 people doing the volunteering. A list of open volunteer positions was passed around to attendees in the hope of filling the open positions.
- Minutes from the 2018 Annual Meeting were printed for distribution and Minutes have been posted on the LLA Website since May, 2018. Motion was made by Amanda Topel to accept the minutes as recorded. Hardy Huettl seconded. Motion Passed.
- In the absence of Treasurer, Joleen Kogler, Bonnie Huettl presented the 2018 Fiscal Year Income/Expense Report. Copies were available to attendees. Proposed receipts for 2019-20 are \$6,840.00. Bonnie explained about the re-occurring expenses of postage, printing, water testing, and membership dues to various organizations to which the LLA belongs. Bonnie emphasized the Walleye Fund is TOTALLY kept separate from the general working budget. Motion was made by Brian Van Nevel to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Rod Johnson seconded. Motion Passed. The Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit review.
- Announcements: a) Garfield Fire Department will be hosting a French Toast & Pancake Fundraiser Breakfast tomorrow, and b) Garfield Metal Clean Up Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 18, 2019 - 8 AM to 12 PM at the Garfield Fire Hall.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Lake Captain ~ As Harvey Strom was not present, Hardy Huettl gave the report. Last summer's lake levels were up and down all season. This spring lake levels are up 14" from last fall. The State of Minnesota is considering 2- Line Fishing. The proposal passed the Minnesota Senate; now it goes to the Minnesota House.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) ~ Hardy Huettl reviewed his findings, along with those of 12 volunteer inspectors, during the 2018 season. 1) Curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) ~ seven areas found to have CLP; each area is relatively small – estimated two acres total area. Hardy checked into treatment procedure and costs. A pre-treatment survey performed by a DNR approved vendor is the first step (\$1,500.00); then a DNR permit is needed, and only DNR approved aquacide applicators can apply chemicals. Precise bids will be available after survey is completed. Hardy and his volunteers will keep monitoring the situation. 2) Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) ~ None found for the 14th consecutive year. Currently, five Douglas County Lakes are confirmed as having EWM. 3) Starry Stonewort ~ is a macro-alga that looks like a plant and forms dense mats. None found for the 2nd consecutive year on Lobster Lake. Last year, Hardy and Bonnie participated in training to identify this alga. They will do so again this year. Inspections are typically done in August, anyone wishing to join them; please, let them know. Currently, 13 lakes, statewide, are confirmed as having this AIS. 4) Zebra Mussels (ZM) ~ definitely exist throughout our lake. Previously, those seen were 1-year-olds; so expect to see older, larger ones this year. Currently 40 water bodies in Douglas County are listed as "infested" with ZM. There is still no economical method to rid a lake of them. Steve Voss brought a sample of a Zebra Mussel filtering device he found in Florida. He now uses this device for his own lawn irrigation system. **We are in need of two new AIS inspectors, as two long-standing members wish to retire after 2019. These two volunteers have been with the team since it began in 2007. Anyone wishing to volunteer in this capacity, please contact Hardy!!**

Water Clarity ~ Hardy Huettl reported on Water Clarity! Between May 6 and September 30, 2018, Pat Hanson and Hardy took a combined total of 40 Secchi Disk readings in the East, Center, West and North Bays. Clearest reading obtained was on June 10, 2018, in the East Bay at 21 feet. Least clear readings were taken on September 10, 2018, in both the West and North Bays at 7.5 feet. Seasonal average last summer was 12.3 feet. 2012-2016 five year seasonal average was 9.0

feet. 2017 seasonal average was 10.6 feet. Thus, seasonal average clarity last year improved by 1.7 feet over 2017. Changes will occur due to differences in water temps, rainfall, runoff, plant growth, and Zebra Mussels, etc.

Water Quality ~ Rod Johnson reported on Water Quality. Rod made available colored charts regarding 2018 Phosphorus Readings and Chlorophyll A Readings for Lobster Lake; 2005, and 2016-2018 Phosphorus and Chlorophyll A Readings for Lobster Lake; and Phosphorus and Chlorophyll A readings for Lobster Lake, Mill Lake, Fish Lake, and Eisland for years 2014-2018. Phosphorus Levels are improving, so we must be doing something right. Generally, the more phosphorus there is in the lake the lower the water quality for recreation.

Beginning in 2019, as recommended by the DCLA, we will establish a baseline for Chloride (road salt) in Lobster Lake. Cost to RMB Environmental Labs to test for this chloride base line is \$13.00.

Fish Habitat/Stocking ~ As neither Kevin Weisel nor Harvey Strom were present at the meeting, Brian Van Nevel read the report prepared by Kevin Weisel. On October 29, 2018, LLA stocked 448 pounds of Walleye fingerlings at about 10 fish per pound (approximately 4,500 fish). As far as Kevin knew, the DNR will be doing their regularly scheduled stocking this fall (2019). Lobster Lake is no longer a designated Muskie lake.

Douglas County Lakes Association (DCLA) ~ Steve Kogler reported as of October, 2018, a new slate of officers was elected to the DCLA board. Steve Henry is the new President, and our own Bonnie Huettl is the new secretary. Steve also reported on a new fund called the Douglas County WaterQualityLegacyFund, created by the DCLA, Douglas County Land and Resource Office, the Nature Conservancy, Douglas Soil and Water, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. This fund has been created to assist, with matching funds required, when receiving a grant for the protection and restoration of natural water resources in Douglas County, Minnesota. As the fund evolves, projects will be identified.

Lobster Lake Newsletter ~ Eldon Holmes was unable to be at today's meeting. In his absence, Bonnie asked for articles for the spring Newsletter which will be coming out the end of May. Currently, only paid LLA members receive the semi-annual Newsletter. A motion was made by Amanda Topel for the LLA Board to

discuss at their Fall Board Meeting the feasibility of sending all residents on Lobster Lake a Newsletter or the possibility of emailing the Newsletter to all residents or some compromised solution. Seconded by Ted Haar.
Motion Passed.

Membership ~ Nancy Wavrin reported one copy of the 2019 Lobster Lake Directory is available to LLA paid members. We had 216 paid members in 2018; down 15 from 2017. To date, we have 190 paid members for 2019. To save time and postage, Nancy distributed new directories to Area Directors to distribute to the paid members in their area. To keep her information current, Nancy asked that members supply her with new addresses and phone numbers should they make changes. The directory can only be as good as the information she has. Nancy was given a round of applause for her excellent work!!!

Lobster Wear ~ Amanda Topel modeled the latest Lobster Wear item...a baseball-style shirt. Amanda also had a kiosk set up for all attendees to purchase merchandise. Merchandise can be ordered through the LLA website or by emailing Amanda at: mattandamanda689@yahoo.com

E-mail Addresses ~ Jim Barrett asked everyone to let him know of any email address changes. LLA does not sell or make member email addresses public. They are used only to relay pertinent information regarding Lobster Lake.

Loon Nests ~ Jim reported 4 loon hatchings in 2018; down from previous years: 5-6 during 2017; 11 during 2016, and 6 during 2015. Jim reminded everyone not to get too close to the loon nests...either with boats, paddle boats, kayaks, etc.

OLD BUSINESS

- Speeding boats ~ Brian Van Nevel made note of speeding boats through bays and narrows. He encouraged everyone to watch speed and slow down when boating in these areas!! Fishing Tournaments may be the worst culprits regarding speed in these areas.
- Encroachment on Private Land ~ Brian Van Nevel noted there has been an increase of public use for parties/picnics on privately-owned lots on Lobster Lake...leaving trails of litter, loud noise, and lack of privacy for neighbors. Brian contacted the Sheriff's office and the DNR and was told there is no need to put up with this type of conduct. If this situation is happening on a vacant lot close to where you live or on a vacant lot you own; call the

Sheriff's office or the DNR. These law enforcement agencies will send out a water patrol to investigate. It is helpful to post signs indicating land as "Private Property" or take pictures of unauthorized use of private land while the unauthorized use is in progress.

- Financial Audit ~ Brian Van Nevel audited the LLA Financial Records. All items were accounted for and everything is in balance. The Audit will be filed.

NEW BUSINESS

Need Director for Paulin's Paradise and Member at Large ~ Kevin Weisel no longer wants to be the Area Director for Paulin's Paradise, Augdahl's Subdivision & Cherry Point. Carol Goemer resigned her position as Member at Large. With 216 LLA members, two people will certainly come forward to fill those positions!! J

Lake Management Plan—Floating Islands ~ Bonnie will continue to investigate the "floating island" project as an environmental solution for shoreline protection, wave reduction, habitat creation, and increasing water quality. More information will be contained in the Spring LLA Newsletter.

No Wake Areas ~ A motion was made by Brian Van Nevel to pursue course of action to petition a 'No Wake Zone' at the Wildridge Bay Entrance. Seconded by Rod Johnson. Motion Passed. Bonnie will pursue.

A motion was made by Dave Stendahl to explore, with the experts, the possibility of placing buoys in the Narrows Area. Motion Seconded by Pete Onstad. Motion Passed.

Election of Officers ~ Merrill Pedersen represented the Nominating Committee and introduced the candidates willing to serve on the board for the next two years.

President – Bonnie Huettl
Vice President – Brian Van Nevel
Secretary – Linda Dolan
Treasurer – Diane Soderstrom

Merrill Pedersen called three times for further nominations from the attendees for each position. No further nominations were expressed. A motion was made by Hardy Huettl for nominations to cease and accept the nominations/candidates as listed. Seconded by Rod Johnson. Motion passed.

New Loon Center ~ Jim Barrett announced a new National Loon Center is scheduled to be built in Crosslake, Minnesota to the tune of \$5,000,000.00. Jim contacted Christine Herwig, Minnesota DNR Non-game Wildlife Specialist, to offer the LLA's experiences and findings regarding loons should our information be helpful once the center is up and running.

There were no new items from the floor.

Guest Speaker ~ Dave Rush, Land and Water Resource Management Director, spoke on Shoreline Management, the new AlexAreaLakes.org website, County Permits, Private Vacation Rentals, and Aquatic Invasive Species prevention.

11:40 AM ~ Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Florence Wieneke, Secretary