

**LOBSTER LAKE ASSOCIATION**  
**FALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

At Common Ground Coffee Shop

October 31, 2020 at 9:30 am

1. Call to Order: President Bonnie Huettl called the meeting to order at 9:28 am. In attendance were Bonnie Huettl, Linda Dolan, Diane Soderstrom, Mona Strege, Don Auel, Hardy Huettl, Sara Wevley, Harvey Strom, Rod Johnson and Jim Barrett.
2. Approve Agenda: Don Auel made a motion to approve the agenda and Hardy Huettl seconded the motion and it was approved.
3. Secretary's Report: Rod Johnson made a motion to approve the 2020 Spring Board of Director's Meeting Minutes as written and sent to each board member and Don Auel seconded the motion. Motion passed and minutes were approved.
4. Treasurer's Report: Diane Soderstrom presented the treasurer's report stating that we are in good financial standing with a balance of approximately \$6900 in the general fund. Kevin Weisel was not present to speak about the walleye funds. Logo wear did very well and there should be sales picking up around the upcoming holidays. A question came up as to whether we should raise prices on logo items or not. Diane asked for permission to purge records over 7 years old. The board agreed that she should do that. She has older hardware and has concerns regarding the safety of records. Duplicate checks are the primary record. Sara Wevley made a motion to have Diane do the research on the cost of a new computer so we could discuss at the spring meeting. Mona Strege seconded the motion and it passed. Treasurer's report attached. Don Auel made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and Hardy Huettl seconded the motion and it was approved as presented. See attached report.
5. Welcome: Bonnie welcomed Mona Strege as our new membership chairperson. She is updating records and asked to consolidate records and purge older data that was no longer needed. The board agreed. Sara had a question if some of the people who had recently bought property had become members of LLA.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. AIS: (Hardy Huettl) Monitoring was done between May 25- June 22. We have Curly-leaf Pondweed and Zebra Mussels. Zebra Mussels are all over. Curly-leaf Pondweed is clearly on the rise. Pondweed is now in 10 areas and 27 locations within those areas. There is no Starry Stonewort or Eurasian Milfoil. On August 19, Blue Water Science completed a lake wide survey of Lobster Lake for Douglas County. Hardy Huettl accompanied the survey team for 2 ½ hours of the day-long survey to learn the process used. Twenty species of vegetation were found during the survey. The full report should be available in February. We are short one AIS inspector.
2. Water Monitoring: (Hardy Huettl & Rod Johnson) Secchi disc readings were done from May - September. Forty-eight combined readings were taken with a 14.39 ft. seasonal average. Water is getting clearer since the presence of the Zebra Mussels. Rod reported on Chlorophyll A and Phosphorus. There have been problems getting quality water samples from Fish Lake and Eisland Slough due to low water flow volumes. Chlorophyll A has a spike in the charts. It is also tracked by history and averages trend the same yearly. Lobster Lake is low compared to other sites. Chloride testing was done on 4/11 and 7/19. Testing is done near 114 right after ice out and then a couple of months later. It is measured by milligrams/liter. We are 23 mg/liter. There

were concerns regarding road salt but we don't seem to have a problem. Lobster Lake will continue to be tested once a year. We are looking for trends in testing rather than spikes. See attached charts on chlorophyll A & phosphorus readings.

3. Newsletter: (Bonnie reporting for Eldon Holmes) Bonnie will proof-read the newsletter and take it in for printing. She will order 225 newsletters for printing at Quality Printing.
4. Membership: (Mona Strege) There are 209 total members. Mona will let Sara Know about who are the new members in her area.
5. Fish Habitat/Walleye Stocking: (Kevin Weisel & Harvey Strom) Harvey reported that we got a better deal on stocking and it will be done next week at the Golden Drive Access. There was a question as to why the board voted no on the question of using money from the general fund to add to the walleye fund so we could stock more. We have a dedicated walleye fund and have other needs for the funds. We could've sent out an email to supporters to collect more money or approach other groups for donations but there wasn't time for that as it came up at the last minute. It was suggested that the chairpersons have their own email lists in case something like this comes up again. Also look for other groups to approach for donations. Harvey will look into this.
6. Lobster Wear: (Amanda Topel) Bonnie reported for Amanda. She is expecting a surge of sales at Christmas. Mona Strege made a motion to raise prices by \$2.00 per item. Rod Johnson seconded the motion and it passed.
7. Water Levels: (Harvey Strom) Harvey reported that a culvert clear-out was done on 10/06/2020 as it was backed up from a beaver jam-up and there was a lack of flow. This area is about 100 yards from 114 and runs under Hunter's Bay Road. The water flows from Lobster Lake into Lake Mina. Lobster Lake water levels haven't been this low since 2008-09. Water levels have dropped 1.3 feet since ice out and dropped an inch overnight after the clear-out. He is trying to find someone to trap the beaver. Rod will get Harvey a name. Sara's husband has also trapped. The area will need a new measure stick in the spring. It was noted that there are a lot of questions regarding lake levels that come to the board members and the board desires to make it clear that the LLA does not have any control over lake levels. It is all natural. This information should be in the newsletter.
8. DCLA: (Rod Johnson) Rod reported that the DCLA is only having Zoom meetings now. He had computer trouble so was unable to participate. No meeting in September. There is very little participation due to COVID. They will be having less meetings over the winter months.
9. Email/Loon nests: (Jim Barrett) Jim is still having trouble with people not updating him with current or changes in email addresses. Mona will update him with the new ones. There were ten loon nests. Three nests had 2 babies. There was a lot of excitement over the new chicks. Eight chicks hatched this year. There was a report that some kids were harassing loons from paddleboards. People need to stay away from the nests. He needs new people to participate this year. Mona is interested and the Dolan's will take over Gene Van Nevel's nest. Jim gave some instruction on how to prepare the nests and will send out information.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. No Wake Bouys: Bonnie reported we will be getting a large No Wake buoy for Wildridge and 2 channel markers. Bonnie is persistent in following through with this difficult process. She is trying

to get a buoy for shallow North End. In some areas, these will not work as there is no enforcement. In other areas, the waves are smaller if the boat is driven faster.

2. Boat Parade: The boat parade was a success and was well attended with 40 boats to start. Mona thanked them for passing by Happy's Landing. Several suggestions were made for improvement such as having a color guard or more obvious lead boat, drive closer to the shore and go farther and have a map of the parade route. The parade is not quite ready for prizes yet. Bonnie mentioned that it is difficult to get the proper speed for all the boats. It is under advisement to do a test route for next years parade.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Curly-Leaf Pondweed funding: Hardy Huettl reported that the lake has 3 large areas that could be treated. The question is what to do about funding. First, we need a permit which is free. A survey needs to be done and then a separate company is hired to do the treatment. Only areas under 15 feet are surveyed but half of Lobster Lake is under 15 feet deep. Costs for the survey range from \$1386-\$7871. Costs for treatment are \$2693-\$8724 (covers a 6 acre area at a 6 ft depth.) Grants are available through the state DNR and Douglas County. A grant can be received from both as long as it doesn't exceed the costs. Most of the companies that do the surveying and treatment are from the St. Cloud area. There is no one locally. Hardy has found one that is new and certified. Because they are a new company, they don't charge as much. Don Auel made a motion to spend up to \$1500 for the survey. Diane Soderstrom seconded the motion and it passed. We will apply for the grants to help with the costs. The state can contribute up to \$1000 for up to 10 acres. The county is more generous. This issue will be brought up at the 2021 Annual meeting. CLP develops under the ice so the survey needs to be done in May or early June and then treated. The General fund will pay for the costs along with the grants received. Hardy made it clear that this is a control method and it takes 3 years of treatment to get control but it will not eliminate CLP. Education about CLP and control measures and costs will be part of the annual meeting. Rod Johnson made a motion to support the future treatment of CLP and Don Auel seconded the motion and it passed.
2. Issue on Shamrock Lane: Bonnie reported that she had received calls complaining about farmland runoff and had pictures of a culvert where there is a delta forming in the lake as a result. The water drains through a culvert and through the yards along the lake. The farmer across the street removed a berm which increased the water flow. The Douglas County Soil & Water is helping with this problem. Rod Johnson mentioned that this issue came up at the township meeting as well. It has been a problem with the hard rains we had been having. Nothing has been done to date to resolve the issue.
3. Election change terms/By-Laws change: Bonnie brought up the fact that all 4 board positions change in the same year and that it might be better to have 2 of the positions change in alternate years. We would have to change the by-laws so this will be brought up at the annual meeting.
4. New Director for Steve Kogler's spot: This director position is still open and we are looking for a replacement. Steve Kogler's name needs to be removed from the email lists.

5. Speaker for annual meeting: Bonnie passed out a list of previous speakers. See attached. We need a speaker for the annual meeting. Mona suggested a speaker to talk about Curly-leaf pondweed. Linda Dolan will ask Carolyn Dindorf, limnologist, if she is available. We could have a county commissioner as a speaker or Keith Englund was suggested.
6. Renewal of LLA: Linda Dolan completed the MN Secretary of State Renewal in October. It is free to renew.
7. Dues: Diane reported that we pay dues to MN Conservation, MN Rivers & Lakes and DCLA. Bonnie added that we get lots of information from MN Rivers & Lakes and DCLA is necessary for grants and fees for water testing. The MN Conservation has no value for us. We pay \$600 in dues to be members of these organizations.
8. Sara Wevley Resignation: Sara gave the board her verbal resignation from the Director position. She has started working full time. She will help find a replacement for Krafthefers & Beauty Point.
9. Items from the floor: Mona had a question about getting membership data to Bonnie for the newsletter. She will send a list to all directors. Diane will purge the files. The LLA will cover the costs for the coffee at the meetings.

Don Auel made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Hardy Huettl seconded the motion and it passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Dolan

LLA Secretary