

LOBSTER LAKE ASSOCIATION
2021 ANNUAL MEETING
at Garfield Community Center
May 1, 2021 at 9:30 am

Call to Order: President Bonnie called the meeting to order at 9:32 am. The meeting was well attended with 56 people signing the attendance sheet. Many names are missing as 68 people were counted at the meeting. See attached attendance sign up.

1. Approve Agenda: A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved as written.
2. Secretary's Report: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting. The minutes were approved as written.
3. Treasurer's Report: A motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report. The report was approved as submitted. See attached report.
4. Introduce new directors: President Bonnie introduced Chuck & Lori Obler and Anne & Tom Bell as new area directors.

ELECTIONS

Bonnie informed everyone that Robert's Rules of Order states elections are to be the first priority of the meeting and that the new president must come from the board. All other positions can be filled from the membership. Merrill Pedersen is the Nominating Chair.

A motion was made, seconded & passed to nominate Brian Van Nevel for President. Bonnie stated her appreciation. A motion was made, seconded and passed to nominate Linda Dolan for Secretary. A motion was made, seconded and passed to nominate Diane Soderstrom for Treasurer. Motions were made to nominate Jeff Winter and Amanda Topel for Vice President. They each told the membership about themselves. Brian made a motion to have them both serve as Co-Vice Presidents. Rod seconded the motion and it passed. The newly elected board members are President Brian Van Nevel, Secretary Linda Dolan, Co-Vice Presidents Amanda Topel and Jeff Winter, Treasurer Diane Soderstrom and Past President Bonnie Huettl. Linda will update the list of Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs. See attached lists.

Merrill talked about how he has enjoyed the lake and the LLA and expressed his appreciation of Bonnie's 11 years of service on the LLA Board and the many positive changes that occurred during the time she has been President.

Bonnie announced that we need volunteers to be Newsletter Editor and Refreshment Coordinator. A sign-up list was passed around.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. AIS: (Hardy Huettl) Hardy gave a brief recap of information from the board meeting. Zebra Mussels have been active in the lake since 2016. Studies are being done but so far there is not a way to treat a whole lake to control them. They eat until their food source diminishes, then their population decreases. No Eurasian Milfoil or Starry Stonewort (SSW) has been found in the lake. In 2018, Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) was discovered and has spread to 27 areas over the last 3 years. Hardy discussed CLP funding and that it will take 3 years of treatment to institute control. He is working with the AIS person in Fergus Falls to get through the paperwork, mapping and

receive a permit number. DC Environmental Consulting will do a lake survey on May 8-9. This will cost \$1500. The DNR grant is \$1500 which will cover the cost of the survey. Douglas County has AIS grants available and LLA is applying for one in the amount of approximately \$8000. This has not been approved yet but covers up to 75% of the cost of treatment per acre. Blue Water Science Steve MaComas (Lake Detective) surveyed 15 lakes in 2020 including Lobster Lake. Hardy joined him as they checked 238 points under 18 feet on the lake. Aquatic Vegetation and AIS surveys were completed on August 19, 2020 by Blue Water Science. Plant growth was found to a depth of 18 feet and aquatic plants were estimated to cover 722 acres or 54% of Lobster Lake. The most common submerged aquatic plants were Coontail followed by Northern Watermilfoil and Bladderwort. The aquatic plant community in 2020 had 19 species of submerged, 1 species of floating-leaf and 1 species of emergent aquatic plants. Zebra mussels were found attached to aquatic plants at 109 survey sites. No Starry Stonewort or other unknown AIS were found. In conclusion, Lobster Lake has above average water quality. A diverse native aquatic plant population will help sustain good water quality in the long term. The presence of native aquatic plants that currently cover an estimated 54% of the lake area will help reduce open water phosphorus and yield good lake clarity. A 23-page report is available and information displayed on back table. Chuck Obler stated that he found 10 CLPs, pulled and disposed of them. You are allowed to remove CLP and they can grow in muck or sand. Hardy thanked the 3 retiring AIS inspectors and welcomed 2 new replacements, those being Dan Welsh and Troy Schmitz and announced that we need one more inspector. It only requires 3 hours per year of time. Scott

Setzepfandt stated that there is a problem on his lot at the West end where runoff flowing into the lake from the farm across the street is eroding sides getting deeper and wider causing silt to flow into the lake. Bonnie said we will see if there is a file on this issue.

2. Water Monitoring: (Hardy Huettl & Rod Johnson) Hardy reported the Secchi Disc reading is 14.39 feet which is down slightly. Readings for phosphorus and chlorophyll-a are taken once a month May through September. Rod compiles the information and the reports are displayed on the table in back. Rod reported a spike in phosphorus levels at Eisland Slough off Beauty Point Road. He thinks it is stagnant water and not a good sample. Fish Lake could not be tested this year due to insufficient water flow. The phosphorus history chart from 2005 is going up slightly but nothing to be concerned about yet. Five years of testing shows Mill Lake a little higher and Eisland Slough all over the charts. We are in the North Central Hardwood Area where 23-50 ug/L is the range to be in. Lobster Lake is at 25 so we are on the low end of the range. Chlorophyll A range is between 5 -22 ug/L. We are at 5. The lake was tested for salt twice with a reading of 21 ug/L which is low. The sewerage plant puts out high concentrations of chloride affecting Lake Winona causing high readings. Le Homme Dieu is under 100 ug/L and Lake Carlos is 35-36 ug/L. See attached charts for more detailed information. Charts are also on the LLA website. Brian asked if septic systems are affected by water softeners. Rod said he doesn't believe there is any data showing they are as related to Lobster Lake.
3. Newsletter: (Eldon Holmes) Eldon talked about the need for a newsletter editor as he wants to retire from the job. It is not difficult. He uses an Apple computer, but it can also be done on a PC in Publisher. Jennifer DeCramer volunteered for the position. Eldon will do May's newsletter and help Jennifer with the transition.
4. Membership: (Mona Strege) Mona reported we currently have 178 members with 20 new memberships. Last year we had 212 members. See Mona to sign-up.

5. Fish Habitat/Walleye Stocking: (Kevin Weisel) Harvey announced that 400 lbs. of walleye were stocked in 2020 and we received \$500 from Alexandria Sportsman to help pay for them. In 2021, the DNR will do the stocking and LLA in 2022. Is there anywhere to get additional funding? Bonnie suggested Alexandria Area Lakes.
6. Water Levels: (Harvey Strom) Harvey reported we measure lake levels under County 114 off Hunter's Bay Road. We had beaver issues causing the flow to shut down. A DNR trapper took out 5 beavers in the fall and the dam was cleared out by DOT which reopened the flow and the lake levels dropped. Three more beavers were trapped this spring. A dam blew out on Lake Carlos so water is flowing into Long Prairie River. There are 70 square miles in our watershed. There is a big culvert under 94 and a small one at County 114. There have been lots of phone calls asking about the water levels of the lake. The lake is up 7 ½". There was a question regarding wooden boards having been placed years ago to block the water flow. Harvey said there were never boards in that area.
7. Lobster Wear: (Amanda Topel) Sales are good. There is a new ¼ zip shirt. Items are available for sale at the meeting table or for custom order.
8. DCLA: (Rod Johnson) Rod reported the DCLA has not met in person for over a year and Zoom does not work well for them. They are hoping to meet in person next month. They have discussed No Wake zones and vacation rentals. Are there restrictions? None that are known. Nelson Lake in Ottertail County floods over the road so they are talking about draining it down. This will be discussed in depth at the next meeting.
9. Email/Loon nests: (Jim Barrett) Jim reported there were 10 loon nests in 2020 with 8 new chicks. Volunteers will be putting out 11 nests in 2021. Scott and Jennifer DeCramer will take over Jim's nest. He read an email about 1 of the nests. Scott DeCramer shared an incident they witnessed in front of their home on the lake. Two eagles attacked 2-4 loons. Fortunately, the loons were able to protect themselves by diving under water. Jim said things are happening slowly at the National Loon Center. John Stone helped make the original loon's nests and he is ready to turn this job over to someone else next season 2022. LLA pays for the materials at \$80-\$100 per nest. Mona reported that everyone at Happy's Landing is excited about their nest. There is one more nest available for someone. Ron Dolan said he will be checking their nest for grand loons soon.

SPEAKER: Carolyn Dindorf, Limnologist, gave a presentation on "Restore & Enhance Lakeshore's Natural Filters & Wildlife Habitat. See attached introduction. You can access "Restore Your Shore" information for free on the DNR website. There is a cost share program that helps pay up to 75% of shoreline restoration.

OLD BUSINESS

1. CLP funding: This discussion is under committee reports above.
2. Slow/No Wake Zone Status: Bonnie clarified that Boxcar Bay is behind Wildridge and the DNR will be placing channel markers there.
3. Boat Parade: Information will be in the May newsletter. Parade map on back table.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Items from the floor:

Bonnie reported Marjorie Holsten has volunteered to help with the 501c3 application. Becoming a 501c3 will help us get more funding. It generally takes 2 months-2 years to complete but Mary thinks it will be 4-6 months. We will need to look at our articles of incorporation. Melissa Winter volunteered to be our refreshment Coordinator. We also need a new AIS inspector. We can purchase hand pickers to help. Hand-outs and information available on the back table.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.27 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Dolan, LLA Secretary