

LOBSTER LAKE ASSOCIATION
2021 FALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

at Brian's home

October 27, 2021 at 10:00 am

1. Call to Order: New President Brian Van Nevel called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. In attendance were Brian Van Nevel, Linda Dolan, Amanda Topel, Jeff Winter, Bonnie Huettl, Chuck Obler, Debbie Connelly, Harvey Strom, Hardy Huettl, Kevin Weisel, Rod Johnson, Merrill Pedersen and Jim Barrett. Ed Fletcher attempted to attend via Zoom but was unable to get connected. Brian complimented our new newsletter editor, Jennifer DeCramer, for the great job on her first newsletter.
2. Approval of Agenda: Bonnie had 2 items to add to the agenda – the boat parade to old business and the new directory to new business. Hardy made a motion to approve the agenda as corrected. Rod seconded the motion and it was approved.
3. Secretary's Report: Bonnie had 1 correction for the report in the AIS section to change 7 days to 21 days. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion passed.
4. Treasurer's Report: Notice the \$1386 grant for CLP offset by the CLP survey. We are paid up on walleye stocking. The balance is good. We made money on logo wear. Merrill made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Amanda seconded and the report was accepted.
5. Introduce new directors: Everyone introduced themselves as we have a couple of new board members and directors.

OLD BUSINESS

1. New computer & software for treasurer: Diane was not present for discussion. Bonnie made a motion to authorize up to \$500 for a new computer. Rod seconded and the motion passed. Looking at Quicken for software but still needs investigation. Brian will talk to Diane.
2. John Stone looking for person to make loon nests for 2022: We need a new person to take charge of this. Loon nests can be made as needed. We can request a volunteer at the annual meeting in May.
3. Boat Parade: Bonnie reported. We missed a section of the lake and we start to lose people as we go around the bays. It was very windy and people had trouble with keeping in line. Should we do sections of the lake on alternating years so we don't miss any areas? We need a new boat parade leader for 2022. We will ask for a volunteer at the annual meeting and in the spring newsletter.
4. Items from the floor: none

NEW BUSINESS

1. Water Levels: Brian had a good conversation with Dave Rush regarding Lobster Lake's very low water levels. Dave said it's the unofficial position of the Douglas County Land and Resource office that it's everyone's water and we can't do anything to keep it in our lake. We can't do anything about the water levels – we all share the water. Brian also talked to the DNR's local hydrologist who repeated what Dave Rush said. She indicated that Lobster Lake cannot change the outflow to Mina without a signature from every single landowner on the Lake and even then it would be at the DNR's discretion and very unlikely that they would allow a change. The entire water shed is affected by the highs and lows. At one point a few years ago, the water was so

high, we had wake restrictions. Linda had a picture to pass around showing the lake when it was low enough to be 3 lakes back in the 1930's. We will try to find pictures and information for the spring newsletter for education on the highs and lows of the lake.

2. Vrbo on the Lake: Amanda reported it is actually an Airbnb on Tall Timbers Lane. They have an Instagram account – Lobster Lake Lodge. There are concerns about the constant change of people coming and going. There's nothing we can do about it as it is legal. The county has licensing, rules and regulations that must be followed. Neighbors on either side need to know who to contact if any problems arise. The hosts/owners should be contacted first if any issues come up. This topic came up as a conversation at the DCLA meeting also.
3. 501(c)3: No new information. Everything should be done on our end. We are a non-profit but changing to a 501(c)3 gives more protection for the directors.
4. Weed harvesting: Bonnie reported a permit is needed to harvest weeds. Contact Paul Friedrich, Aquatic Weed Harvesting, 218-689-1486 or email – aquaticweedharvesting@gmail.com. Chemicals work better for control. To the right of the boat landing is a bad patch of weeds but by trying to make it better, we may make it worse by trying to harvest. Chuck stated the downside of harvesting CLP is if it's broken in pieces, you create more plants. Seeds are like an auger and screw into the bottom of the lake. It's very labor intensive to pull them by hand. The LLA should not be involved but it's an option for individual lake homeowners. Mill Lake which is part of our watershed is an area with a lot of weeds.
5. New Directories: It is time for a new directory for 2022. It needs to be started in January so it's ready for the annual meeting. Brian will contact Mona. We will print 25 extra directories for any new people. There is a \$5 charge for any extra directories. The total cost should be approximately \$1200.
6. Items from the floor: Debbie Connelly would like a replacement person for her position as area director for Foslien Bay North, Norlana Lane & Eternity Point. We will bring this up at the annual meeting as well as in the spring newsletter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. AIS: (Hardy Huettl) Hardy reported we still have no Eurasian Milfoil. Zebra mussels are down. Some members commented that they were up and bigger in their areas. No Starry Stonewort. As far as our Curly Leaf Pondweed, there was a professional survey done concluding we have 24 areas of 1/10 – 2 acres in size for a total of 16 acres with CLP. That is 1.3 % of the lake. CLP is in areas 2-11 feet deep. We cannot eradicate it but we can control it. The recommendation is that we pick 5 areas that are 1 acre or larger for treatment. We are allowed to treat up to 97 acres at a cost of approximately \$1500 per acre. There is a possibility of a county reimbursement up to 75% so the cost to us would be approximately \$2500 if we did about 6 acres of treatment. To do this, we need signatures of people in the nearby area of treatment that would be affected. We would have to do treatment 3 years in a row to be effective. Hardy will have to check into the legalities of the signatures especially if someone doesn't respond. Ice out is when treatment needs to begin before water temperatures get to 50 degrees. Bonnie stated the DCLA could be an extra source of funding. Rod said the Water Legacy Fund helps cover the cost of treatment and they may commit money up front.
2. Water Monitoring: (Hardy Huettl & Rod Johnson) Secchi disc reading is at 14.8 ft clarity which is the highest reading for the lake. 2019 and 2021 both had this clarity. Chuck asked if anyone else noticed the most recent algae bloom. It was probably brought on by the warmer temperatures.

Rod reported that there were 3 dry streams so no testing could be done on those. For both Phosphorus and Chlorophyll A, we have good readings, as good if not better than most lakes in the area. Testing is done in the deepest spot of the area being tested. With the low water levels, he may need to test in shallower areas to get a sample. The trend line on Phosphorus is down so that's great news.

3. Newsletter: (Jennifer DeCramer) no report. There were many comments on how nice the newsletter looked.
4. Membership: (Mona Strege) Bonnie reported for Mona that we have 221 members of the LLA. There were 15-16 changes in housing. We may need a new process for greeting new members. Directors should greet in person any new people who move in homes or cabins. She passed out pamphlets to give them titled, "Owning Lakeshore in Douglas County." Linda will work on updating new member packets for the directors.
5. Fish Habitat/Walleye Stocking: (Kevin Weisel & Harvey Strom) There was a discussion on the fish survey. There are 2 ways to count fish. They use trap nets or gill nets. Using the gill nets kills the fish but they are given to local anglers or places that can use them if they are still edible. The fish caught looked good as far as size and condition. Walleye numbers were up. Northern Pike numbers were down. Kevin had a question on the treasurer's report on where the \$500 donation was recorded which was clarified.
6. Lobster Wear: (Amanda Topel) Amanda stated there is a long lead time to get orders. If you want to order, you'll need to make 2 color choices.
7. Water Levels: (Harvey Strom) For 2021, April 29 had the high reading on the gauge. August 22 had the lowest reading and he was standing in mud and silt. In September the water had gone up only a couple inches. Some readings could not be taken due to low water. The water level dropped 1.52 feet. We still haven't gotten the new measuring gauge from the DNR.
8. DCLA: (Rod Johnson) Rod reported there is not good attendance at the meetings and they are not doing much right now. ALASD is causing lots of chloride problems but nothing gets done to make any changes. Rod did a survey on topics for DCLA discussion and reported on the results. Excessive weeds were the number one concern with the respondents. Rod is no longer the treasurer of DCLA. They had a speaker on Zebra Mussels who was excellent so it was suggested we try to get her for the annual meeting. We need to get her name and phone number.
9. Email/Loon nests: (Jim Barrett) Jim stated he would like to retire his position and find someone to take his place. He has trouble with the e-mails lists due to his Norton program. Chuck asked about the duties. Jim said he keeps 5 e-mail lists and has security issues. He keeps track of the chicks born in the loon nests. Chuck said he would think about it.

Bonnie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeff seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Dolan

LLA Secretary