

LOBSTER LAKE ASSOCIATION
2022 ANNUAL MEETING
at Garfield Community Center
May 7, 2022 at 9:30 am

Call to Order: President Brian Van Nevel called the meeting to order at 9:28 am and welcomed everyone. The meeting was well attended with 59 people signing the attendance sheet. I believe more than that were in attendance who didn't sign. See attached.

1. Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Diane and seconded by Hardy to approve the minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting. The minutes were approved as written.
2. Treasurer's Report: A motion was made by Don A. and seconded by Mona to approve the treasurer's report. The report was approved as submitted. See attached report. Expenses are down and there was no walleye stocking expense. Curly Leaf Pondweed expenses were offset by a grant in 2021.

ELECTIONS - No elections this year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Lake Captain: (Harvey Strom) Harvey is retiring so need a volunteer to take his place. In 08/2021 the water level rose 2 feet. He has requested a new gauge for the measuring lake levels but is having difficulty getting a response. A new program will put the gauge at your own shore. It must be taken out before freeze and replaced after ice out. He asked about liability if someone were to hit it. There is no answer for that question as it hasn't happened yet. He has been doing this job for 20 years.
2. Aquatic Invasive Species: (Hardy Huettl) Hardy stated they look for 4 things: Eurasian Milfoil – none, Starry Stonewort – none, Zebra Mussels – we have a lot but no way to control them and Curly Leaf Pondweed – we have CLP and can try to control larger areas of it. To do this, he arranged for a DNR approved survey on depths 15 feet or less. A DNR certified permit for treatment is needed but the treatment company must be different than the survey company. Two hundred sixty-six (266) sites were tested – 24 areas from 1/10 to 2 acres. He got 3 bids ranging from \$3500 to \$12000 to apply the herbicide. We have a signed contract with Limnopro. We are still waiting for final approval and signature on the permit. The LLA received a grant last year. Hardy applied and received a \$1500 grant from DNR and a \$2702 Douglas County Grant. CLP is now ready for treatment. If we want to treat again next year, we will have to do another survey. Hardy has been doing AIS since 2007. He needs 3 AIS surveyors. It requires 1 ½ hour of time in August.
3. Water Quality: (Rod Johnson/Hardy Huettl) Hardy reported the Secchi Disc reading for May-Oct 2021 is 14.8 feet clarity. This is tied with the 2019 reading. Lobster Lake has a 35-year history of Secchi Disc readings. Rod reported on water testing. Fish Lake was only tested once due to low water. He has decided to discontinue testing there but will add a new testing site in 6-7 feet of water and see what is found. Phosphorus is holding at the same levels. Mill Lake is higher than normal. The culvert at 27, water is too low. Eisland Slew has multiple spikes with non-moving water and inaccurate samples. Lobster Lake is below the normal in Chlorophyll A, which is good. This is due to less farming. The Phosphorus levels haven't changed much in 20 years. Mill Lake

matches Lobster closely. Rod pulls a summary of all lakes tested in Douglas County for comparison.

4. Fish Habitat/Stocking: (Kevin Weisel/Harvey Strom) There will be walleye stocking this year. The cost is unknown yet.
5. DCLA: (Rod Johnson) Rod is on the executive council. Lately the meetings are mainly by Zoom. DCLA has decided to meet monthly from April- October. Rod is struggling to understand what they are doing. Ditch 23 in Lake IDA is high in phosphorus and has gotten a lot of attention. Garfield was blamed for the problem but it goes through farmland. The cost was \$900,000 to fix the problem. To research these topics and more go to Lobsterlake.org.
6. Lobster Lake Newsletter: (Jennifer DeCramer) Jennifer asked to let her know if you want to see particular information in the newsletter. Get articles to her by June 1 for the next one. Brian discussed having a photo contest with Lobster wear prizes – sweatshirt, t-shirt, and hat. To be determined.
7. Membership: (Mona Strege) Shout out to Mona for all her hard work on the directories and to Katie Woody for her help. Directories are at tables for the current members. It's \$5 extra for a directory. Mona reported there are 199 members with 3 new members signing up today.
8. Lobster Wear: (Amanda Topel) Amanda says Lobster wear is selling well and selling now at the meeting. Table is set up for purchases or you can call her to order.
9. E-mail Addresses: Volunteer needed to replace Jim Barrett as keeper of email lists. Lisa S. announced that members are welcome to join the Facebook page – Lobster Lake Association.
10. Loon Nests: (Chuck Obler) Chuck is the new volunteer taking over Loon nests. He reported that the oldest nests are from 2001. He rebuilt one and repaired one already this year. Costs are up 35% and more repairs will be needed in the future. He has applied for a REA Operation Round-up grant to help cover costs of nests and repairs. On May 21st they will vote to distribute the grants. Chuck would like to see a fund set up for loon nests. He reported that so far there are no loons with bird flu but some eagles have died. Loons have been looking at the nests that are out. They have lots of predators. Chuck talked about the test netting that is done on important lakes in the area. The office in Glenwood checks populations every 4 years most recently in 2017 and 2021. It is done in the middle of July by GPS location: 8-9" crappies are stable, 6-7" bluegill have slight increase, 12-14" large-mouth bass declined significantly, 15-19" pike are stable, 15-19" walleye increased, 6-7" perch had a slight increase and carp and bullhead are stable. A larger net is used for musky and that is being done currently and next week. Musky can be microchipped with a unique number. A question was asked if you eat musky and what if you eat the chip. Musky are normally catch and release.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Weed Harvesting –Bonnie reported weed harvesting can be done in a 50 x 50 ft area by hand otherwise a permit is needed. A weed razor works well.
2. Boat Parade 4th of July – Bonnie stated the parade will start and end at Cherry Point and will cover the whole lake. Parade map on table in back and see attached.
3. Volunteers needed – Brian made an announcement on the volunteers that are needed. A sign-up list is going around the room.
4. Encroachment on private land – Brian reported that people/boats pull up on the sand at Beauty Point to party. Water belongs to everyone but they are not allowed to go on the land. The Sherriff can be called if they do.

5. 501(3)c – Brian reported it has been approved for LLA. It will help our eligibility for more grants. We are a legitimate non-profit.
6. Water Levels Generally – Brian has received lots of calls regarding lake levels. Lobster Lake is part of one big watershed. Three years ago, we had high water levels. We cannot keep or block any inlets or outlets. We hope for a normal year this year.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Items from the floor: Merrill Pederson is retiring so Brian presented him with a gift of wine glasses for all his years of service and wise counsel on the LLA. Merrill thanked everyone and talked about his enjoyment of the lake.

A motion was made by Bonnie to adjourn the meeting. Chuck seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.

The meeting was followed by a guest speaker and period of questions and answers – Mitch Lawler, DNR Conservation Officer in Douglas County.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Dolan, LLA Secretary