

LOBSTER LAKE ASSOCIATION
2023 ANNUAL MEETING
at Garfield Community Center
May 6, 2023 at 9:30 am

Refreshments were available at 9 am set up by Jeff & Melissa Winter.

Call to Order: President Brian Van Nevel called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. The meeting was well attended with 72 people signing the attendance sheet. Additional people attended who didn't sign. See attached.

1. Agenda: A motion was made by Mona and seconded by Rod to approve the agenda. The agenda was unanimously approved. The agenda was approved as written.
2. Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Bonnie and seconded by Don A. to approve the minutes from the 2022 Annual meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Treasurer's Report: Brian presented the report in Diane's absence. A motion was made by Chuck and seconded by Lori to approve the treasurer's report. The report was approved as submitted. See attached report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Lake Captain: Brian reported that Mike Harding volunteered to be our new Lake Captain. The lake is not as high as expected after all the winter snow. Harvey Strom commented that between December 2022 and May 2023 the lake was up 1 ½ inches. From June 2022, there has been 12 ½ " of normal fluctuations. There was a discussion on lake levels as they are lower than expected. There was possibly not enough frost in the ground so there was not enough run-off into the lake. A new gauge is needed in front of Brian's house or in the old spot. Brian will investigate this and keep us posted.
2. Aquatic Invasive Species: (Hardy Huettl) Hardy reported that the printer didn't put the AIS article in the fall 2022 newsletter. There isn't any Starry Stonewort but plenty of Zebra Mussels. They are still working on large scale control, but it is not available yet. A survey for Curly-Leaf Pondweed was conducted in 2021 and treatment done in 2022. Twenty-four sites were identified and 5 sites of 1-2 acres were treated. We received grants totaling \$5928 and paid \$1800 of LLA funds. Treatment is needed for 3 years for the greatest effectiveness. To continue CLP treatment, a new survey is required every year. To survey the 5 areas will cost \$1350 and treatment will cost \$5052 for a total of \$6402 for this year. We did not receive a DNR grant this year as we got one in 2022. Hardy has applied for a \$2500 Douglas County grant. John Stone made a motion to authorize the LLA Board to take care of the AIS expenses now and going forward. Bonnie seconded the motion. Motion passed. Chuck commented that it would be better to treat for the 3 years rather than quit and need to start over. Brian stated we should try and stay ahead of it. Merrill said Musky hide in the CLP. Hardy stated the survey in June will cost approximately \$1800.
3. Water Quality: (Rod Johnson/Hardy Huettl) Hardy announced there is a 27-year history of monitoring our lake for clarity. On June 17, 2022, clarity was 20 feet in East Bay. On September 7, 2022, it was 8 ½ feet in North Bay. The seasonal average was 12.4 feet. Clarity has improved

due to Zebra Mussels. In 2010, it was only 5.9 feet. Secchi Disc readings are taken once a month from May to September. Information regarding CLP treatment areas and testing is on the display board. Bonnie will put some of this information on the Facebook page. Rod reported that streams will be tested for phosphorus and suspended solids. Two sites in the lake will continue to be tested for chlorophyll A and phosphorus-one at 7 feet and one at 60 feet. Phosphorus history is following the same trend in Lobster from 2017-2022. Lobster Lake, Mill Lake and Eisland Slew results are the same. Mill Lake flow test was 3/4 full in the culvert. Water flowed twice as fast as any other area tested. DCLA wanted the flow test information. Regarding suspended solids, Eisland Slew had hardly any flow. There is a spike in the data but Rod isn't sure why. He doesn't have knowledge of suspended solids. Brian commented that we are in pretty good shape compared to other lakes. Others have much worse weed problems. Rod stated that we don't test for nitrogen.

4. Fish Habitat/Stocking: (Kevin Weisel/Chuck Obler) Chuck gave Kevin the credit for having all the knowledge on stocking and he applies for the permits. The DNR stocks our lake in odd numbered years. On September 26, 2022, Walleye of 6-8" were stocked at the public access by Bosek. In each pound, there are about 17 Walleye at a cost of \$15 per pound. Two hundred pounds of Walleye were stocked at a cost of \$3000. Then in December, Klug stocked 212 pounds through a hole cut in the ice. (Bosek ran out.) In this case, there were 22 fish per pound at a cost of \$19 so approximately 4664 fish for \$4000. Chuck asked for suggestions on raising money for the Walleye fund. A minnow bucket is on the membership table for donations. During the fall 2022, the DNR stocked 53 pounds of Musky fingerlings. Chuck stated that they are trying to maximize success by using different locations to stock. John Stone presented a check for \$520.13 for the Walleye fund. This was money left over from the Tent Worm spraying fund. Since we are no longer spraying, he felt it would be best used for the Walleye stocking program. A question was asked and Kevin W. responded referencing a 4-year survey index starting in 2017. Walleye numbers increased from 4 per net to 6 per net, which is good for us. Lobster Lake has no spawning areas for them so there is not much natural reproduction. Gravel is needed for spawning. Brian remarked that fisherman coming in at the public access are mostly Musky fisherman.
5. DCLA: (Rod Johnson) Rod reported there are 22 members mostly centered around Alexandria chain of lakes. The meeting in April was the first one since November 2022. Rod thinks outside lake areas are losing interest. There's not a lot of participation and he doesn't feel we are represented. What does DCLA do? They work very hard to raise money for the Water Quality Legacy Fund and that's one thing I give them a lot of credit on. They assist lake associations on where to go to get grants for weed issues, AIS, soil erosion, etc. Lake Irene is an example of a member lake association finding grants from the county and state to help fund some of the cost of removing Curly-Leaf Pondweed issues they have (It covers about 60% of the lake.) The cost of treating that lake was over \$100,000 and the property owners paid the majority of that cost. Douglas County Soil and Water (DCSW) gets the grants. A conversation on how to get rid of weeds followed.
6. Loon Nests: (Chuck Obler) Chuck stated that we have had 12 Loon nests for the last 20 years with an average of 7 ½ chicks per year. A later ice out may mean less success as some Loons will go farther north. We had only 6 chicks in 2022 possibly because there were 3 huge windstorms. LLA pays for materials to repair nests. He is working on 1 that needs repair. One nest per 100 acres is recommended as Loons are territorial so 12 nests is optimal for Lobster Lake. Chuck has

a couple of nests that may be available for people. A nest needs to be put out soon after ice out and removed after the chicks are out of it.

7. Newsletter: (Jennifer DeCramer) Jennifer informed us that she needs information for the newsletter by May 19th.
8. Membership: (Mona Strege) Mona reported on membership numbers. 221 members in 2021, 245 members in 2022 and 230 so far in 2023. Palmer Creation will be the new printer.
9. Lobster Wear: (Amanda Topel) Amanda announced the availability of Lobster Wear at the table. Amanda is retiring from the Co-VP position and the Lobster Wear Sales Position.
10. Email Addresses: (Jennifer DeCramer) Jim Barrett handed e-mail addresses over to Jennifer DeCramer. He stated it is tough to get e-mail addresses. If you want to be on the list, get your address to Jennifer.

OLD BUSINESS

1. AIS Treatment – see report above in AIS committee reports.
2. New Foslien Bay North & Wroslons Cove Area Directors – Brian announced we need directors for both areas.
3. Need 3 AIS Inspectors - Brian expressed our need to fill the positions of treasurer, Lobster Wear apparel sales, area directors and AIS inspectors. He announced Jim Barrett as our new member-at-large. A volunteer sheet is being passed around to sign up.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Lobster Wear – Amanda is retiring... new administrator needed.
2. Treasurer – Seeking new treasurer to replace Diane Soderstrom.
3. Items from the floor – 4th of July Boat Parade – We need a parade Captain to lead the parade. Talk to Brian if you want to be the captain.

A motion was made by Amanda to adjourn the meeting. Kevin seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

The meeting was followed by a guest speaker Justin Swart and a period of questions and answers. Justin spoke about Lakeshore: What you can & cannot do.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Dolan

LLA Secretary