

**LOBSTER LAKE ASSOCIATION (unapproved)
FALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

Brian Van Nevel's home
September 27, 2023 at 5 pm

1. Call to Order: President Brian Van Nevel called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm. In attendance were Brian Van Nevel, Linda Dolan, Jeff Winter, Pamela Manzke, Bonnie Huettl, Mona Strege, Don Auel, Hardy Huettl, Jennifer DeCramer, Mike Harding & Rod Johnson. Brian introduced Pamela Manzke as the new treasurer.
2. Approve Agenda: Several changes and additions were made to the agenda. A motion was made by Hardy and seconded by Jennifer to approve the agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Treasurer's Report: Pam reported the balance as \$20,128.00. Pamela will work with our former treasurer, Diane, to learn what needs to be done. She is more familiar with QuickBooks than Excel. If it is decided to purchase a license for QuickBooks, it will need approval. LLA received another bill from Insty Prints. Brian said he had already spoken with them so disregard it. A full treasurer's report was provided after the meeting and is attached.
4. Secretary's Report: Bonnie made a motion to approve the spring 2023 secretary's report. Mona seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Attached is a copy of the updated roster and annual filing for the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Need 3 AIS Inspectors: Hardy reported that we have a full complement of inspectors.
2. Water Level Gauge: Mike Harding is our new Lake Captain so reported on the gauge. The DNR tried cleaning the gauge which didn't help so Mike was referred to Emily. He has put in a request for a new one and we will hopefully get it in the spring. Rod asked if the new one would be in a different location. Mike thinks it will go in the same place. Mike doesn't have past reports so doesn't know exactly how far down the water levels are. A discussion followed about low water issues in North Bay and the construction trucks removing thousands of gallons of water from the lake. Brian commented on the carp trap removal and the new culvert that was put in. The water may now be flowing in reverse or not at all.
3. Items from the floor: none

NEW BUSINESS

1. New Treasurer, Captain and Lobster Wear: Brian thanked Pamela, Mike and Mona for taking on their new positions of treasurer, Lake Captain and Lobster Wear Specialist respectively.
2. Water levels: Lobster Lake has a lot of low water areas and rocks, logs and sand bars that can't be seen under the low water. Bonnie talked about the Surface Water Ordinance in that nothing can be put in the lake without being licensed by the DNR. Bonnie has forms if someone wants to take this task on. Don A. will talk to Chuck and see if we want to pursue this application process to get buoys to mark danger areas.
3. QuickBooks: see above treasurer's report.

4. Items from the floor: Jennifer asked about access to the lake – the public and private accesses/landings and the problems created by the low water and removing boats. Another discussion on the low water and access problems ensued.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. AIS: (Hardy Huettl) The volunteer inspectors for LLA are concerned with 4 aquatic invasive species. 2023's findings were: Zebra Mussels are throughout the lake. Starry Stonewort had none found by the county. Eurasian Watermilfoil was checked by our 12 volunteers with none found. Curly Leaf Pondweed was surveyed for, and some treatment efforts were taken. 2022 LLA's survey and treatment costs for 6.37 acres was \$340 after 2 grants were applied. In 2023, the 5 areas of treatment were surveyed finding that 3 of them were no longer a problem. A large area near the public access needed treatment. In 2023, total cost for new survey and treatment of 4.62 acres was \$5527. Of that, Douglas County paid a \$2500 grant and cost to LLA was \$3027. We will need a new survey in 2024 and will proceed from there in early spring. We will discuss more at the spring meeting.
2. Water Monitoring: (Hardy Huettl & Rod Johnson) Pat Hanson and Hardy do the Secchi disc readings 9 times during summer, 2 times each month. They monitor 4 very specific sites on the lake each time out and take an average of them to determine lake clarity. This year the reading is 13.9 feet of clarity. In 2022 it was 12.4 feet and in 2021 it was 14.8 feet. Rod reported that after 4 months of testing, phosphorus is still following the same trend. We are well below other lakes. It's never bad to be low in phosphorus. He doesn't believe phosphorus is causing the weed problems so it must be something else, but he doesn't know the cause. He is waiting for other testing results from the lab.
3. Newsletter: (Jennifer DeCramer) Jennifer needs any information or articles for the fall newsletter by October 22. The newsletter on the website needs to be updated to the Spring 2023 newsletter.
4. Membership: (Mona Strege) Mona reported on yearly membership numbers. She will automatically send out new member packets to areas with no directors. Brian will contact Amanda Topel to see if she still wants to be the Tall Timbers Director.

2021 – 220 members

2022 – 244 members

2023 – 251 members as of this meeting

Next directory will be done in 2025. Rod had a question regarding our payment of dues to the DCLA. The fee is \$2 /member. Since dues of \$400 were already paid in 2023, the board will address and adjust this in 2024.

5. Fish Habitat/Walleye Stocking: (Kevin Weisel & Chuck Obler) No report.
6. Water Levels: (Mike Harding) see above discussions.
7. Lobster Wear: (Mona Strege) Mona reported it is going well.
8. DCLA: (Rod Johnson) Rod reported on the newly elected DCLA board. Their meeting time was changed to 5 pm instead of 4 pm. President Jay Seiling (Miltona), VP Janet Zastrow (Miltona), Secretary Barbra Benson (CTSU) are the new board members. Treasurer Carole Weber-Brown (Le Homme Du) will serve through 2023.

9. Email addresses director: (Jennifer DeCramer) Jennifer and Mona discussed and created a new and updated list for emails. She got quite a few kickbacks and will update those.
10. Loon Nests: (Chuck Obler) No report.

Don Auel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mike Harding seconded the motion. The motion passed with the meeting adjourned at 6 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Dolan
LLA Secretary