

LOBSTER LAKE ASSOCIATION (unapproved)
ANNUAL MEETING

Garfield Community Center

May 4, 2024 at 9 am

Coffee and beverages were set up by the Winters prior to the meeting for the social hour at 9 am. Tables and chairs set up by board members and early attendees.

1. Call to Order: President Brian Van Nevel called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. He introduced the board members. The officers present were Brian Van Nevel, Linda Dolan, Jeff Winter and Pamela Carlson with a total of 80 + directors, committee chairs and members present. Brian proceeded to present the officers to the membership for election – Brian as President, Jeff Winter as Vice -President and Pamela Carlson as treasurer. The position of secretary is open currently. Chuck Obler made a motion to approve the current officers. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Several volunteer positions are open, so a list was sent around to sign up. The list was returned empty.
2. Secretary's Report: Mona made a motion to approve the secretary's report from May 6, 2023 Annual meeting. John Stone seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Linda filed the online annual renewal of the LLA with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State on 04/30/2024. There is no fee. Attached is a copy of the renewal and a copy of the roster.
3. Treasurer's Report: Pam reported that she has switched to a different operating system. She mentioned a grant we received for \$2500 and CLP expenses of \$7,929.77. Total account balance is approximately \$24,700 and \$4000 in the walleye fund. Rod made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and it was seconded by Don Auel and approved unanimously. See attached report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Lake Captain/Water levels: (Mike Harding) Mike reported the gauge was down for a while and it's deteriorating. He will work with the DNR. They will do a survey to make a determination to get a new gauge possibly in Hunter's Bay location. Lake levels are at 2.0 which is a gain of 8" from fall. The gauge is difficult to read as the measures are in 10ths and 100ths.
2. AIS: (Hardy Huettl) Hardy did a recap of past years treatment and costs. In 2022, five sites totaling 6.3 acres were treated with a net cost to LLA of \$1763. In 2023, a new survey of the 5 sites treated in 2022 was completed which found 3 of the sites were now acceptable but 2 needed more treatment. In addition, 1 new site located near the public access needed treatment. Thus 3 sites totaling 4.6 acres were treated with a net cost to the LLA, after applying a county grant of \$2500, of \$3027. Later in 2023, the county contracted to have 9 lakes surveyed (at the county's expense) strictly for AIS. Lobster Lake was one of the lakes chosen where 5 new sites were located. As the 3 sites treated in 2023 were found to need additional attention, there are now 8 sites totaling 11.4 acres to be treated. This was done with a net cost to the LLA of \$2281 after applying a grant from Douglas County. CLP starts growing under the ice. The water temperature needs to warm up to 55-60 degrees for treatment. The permit and a new survey are needed each year. The association was given a grant of \$3000 to help cover the costs this

year. Hardy will check survey costs for next year. This year's survey is already scheduled. An Aqua Weed Stick has been installed at the public access to help clean weeds off boats. It is 50ft in length and will help to reach weeds under the boat and trailer. Weeds should be tossed aside to dry out. Twelve AIS inspectors are returning this year and will be checking for Eurasian Milfoil during the survey. A member asked a question regarding chemical treatment on his own property. Hardy stated that a permit is needed and the DNR will look at the area and determine what chemicals can be used.

Brian followed up with comments that we will continue treatments unless members suggest otherwise. We will add a line on the dues form for AIS donations. Rod stated that CLP treatments have worked at his dock, but other weeds can take over.

3. Water Quality/ Monitoring: (Hardy Huettl & Rod Johnson) Hardy explained that a key indicator of water quality is water clarity. Secchi disk readings and water sampling are done once a month May - September. Lobster Lake has an average clarity of 13.9 feet. In 2022, the average was 12.4 feet, 2023 had the least clear reading of 10.5 feet. The clearest reading was 20.5 feet. Additionally, multiple Secchi readings are taken monthly by Hardy and Pat Hanson. Hardy and the volunteers take the readings and Rod tracks them and creates the graphs. Three volunteers are needed to take samples, place them in bottles and cooler and deliver to soil and water. The samples are taken to the lab on the 3rd Monday of the month and tested. Rod puts the reports together. Gene Van Nevel was the boat driver for 15 years. Brian thanked Gene for all his help and thanks to Rod and Hardy for all their work and dedication.
Rod reported that phosphorus has not changed much over the last 7-8 years. Lobster stays fairly low at 23-50 ug/l. We are in the normal range or lower. The guidelines for chlorophyll A are 5-22 ug/l. Lobster is at 4 ug/l so below the guideline. Stream testing is done at Mill Lake. Beauty Point is not flowing enough. Streams can be 3-4 times higher in phosphorus. We are below the guidelines in suspended solids testing. See attached charts and graphs.
4. DCLA: (Rod Johnson) LLA has been a member of DCLA for 20 + years. They meet from April – December although there was no April meeting this year. Rod thinks they have lost their focus as the outer lakes feel they are being left out. They have a new president that is a DNR guy (walleye program) so he's hoping for some changes. We get a \$2 discount on testing by being DCLA members. Brian thanked Rod for his work with DCLA.
5. Fish Habitat/Walleye Stocking: (Kevin Weisel & Chuck Obler) LLA stocks the lake in even numbered years, DNR in odd numbered years. In 2023, a total of 1500 lbs. of walleye fingerlings were stocked in October. They are 5-8" long. Walleye fingerling prices vary from \$15 -\$20 per pound. We stock less than the DNR. Test netting is done every 4 years. Lobster Lake numbers have gone up from 4 walleye per net to 6 per net. 2026 is the next test netting. The test numbers may start to reduce eventually which indicates we may not need to stock as much. Walleye have no natural reproduction areas in our lake. It's more of a panfish and bass lake. The walleye fund is approximately \$4000. In 2022, walleye price was \$15 per pound but price increases are expected in the fall.
6. Newsletter: (Jennifer DeCramer) Jennifer requested articles and pictures be sent to her by May 19. The newsletter will be mailed in early June.
7. Membership: (Mona Strege) Mona reported there are currently 208 members including 3 new members today. Membership was 237 in 2023.
8. Lobster Wear: (Mona Strege) Lots of items available for purchase today or you can place an order.

9. Loon nests: (Chuck Obler) Chuck maintains and checks the nests. Lori sends out email recommendations. He checked the nests on May 3rd. Eleven platforms were out and 4 had eggs and loons, 2 had eggs with no loons present, 1 was a messy nest with a loon and eggs. Chuck reported last year 14 chicks were possible, 10 chicks hatched with maybe 2-4 remaining. He saw 2 eagle attacks on loons – the loons won. He thanked the nest operators and said he would do repairs if needed – none this year so far. The cost for a nest is \$200. We are at about the DNR recommendation for the optimal number of nests per acre for Lobster Lake. We will discuss at the next meeting if we want 1 more nest. In the past, there was a waiting list for nests but not currently.

Volunteers needed. Do the nests need reflectors? There are no restrictions on placement and no reflectors are needed. They are not placed in boat traffic areas. Some nests tend to have loons each year. It doesn't take long for loons to select a nest. More piles of vegetation seem to attract them. An average of 9 chicks hatch each year. Kevin commented that a nest that looked like it had a muskrat on it was a root wad and there were eggs on the nest.

Chuck has discovered 2 spots of rocks and stumps that are dangerous to boaters. Water patrol will hopefully put out buoys to mark the sites and prevent problems.

10. Email addresses director: (Jennifer DeCramer) No report.

OLD BUSINESS

1. New Foslien Bay North & Wroslons Cove Area Directors: Directors needed for these areas. It doesn't require much work. An area picnic can be arranged each year. LLA will cover up to \$250 of the cost.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Items from the floor: A member commented that Zebra Mussels seem to be less. They reach a time when they eat themselves out of food. We had an explosion where they hit a peak, then a reduction and the population levels off.

Don Auel made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mona seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Brian thanked all who attended.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.

Natasha from the National Loon Center in Crosslake gave a very interesting and informative talk on loons, some of her work with them and the National Loon Center plans.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Dolan
LLA Secretary