Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes --June 14, 2021

Meeting called to order by President Gisvold at 9:30 AM

Board Members present: Dave Laursen, Bob Gisvold,Tom McGovern, John Eaton, Mark Bovee, Bill Schultz, Sharyn Nepsha, Steve Mortensen, Absent: Jeff Holten, Jeff Brockberg. Guests: Jennifer O' Neill, Timm Rennecke

SECRETARY'S REPORT: There was a brief review of the Minutes from our last meeting on December 16, 2019. Unfinished business from that time included planned meetings with the US Corps of Engineers St Paul office regarding potential upgrades to the Aitkin bypass on the Mississippi River which is occasionally a bottleneck to releasing water from the northern reservoirs during spring flood conditions at Aitkin. Because of Covid shutdowns these meetings were put on hold. Board consensus was that these meetings should be pursued. Steve Mortensen reported that the Tribe is pursuing this issue on a separate track. A planned Keep it Clean project with Cass County involving placing dumpsters at certain boat landings was not implemented due to bad ice preventing travel during the winter/spring of 2019/2020 and the Covid shutdown during 2020/21. Project presently under review.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Laursen reported that the LLA bank balance at the end of May 2021 was $57,093.26. The checkbook balance was $40, 453.64. The bank balance has increased by $7000 since December 2019, mainly from membership renewals. Our $10,000 pledge towards the Miller Bay property has not yet been dispersed.

NEW LEECH LAKE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE: Tom McGovern and Jennifer O'Neill give a presentation to the Board on the new website developed by Jennifer O'Neill. Tom was able to scroll through the actual website using new A-V equipment in the Commissioner's Conference Room. The website was well received and is already producing leads and new members. Thank you Tom and Jennifer for your work on this important project.

Bob Gisvold asked Dave and Jennifer to meet to consider publishing a second Newsletter during the year, perhaps during the summer

BOARD CHANGES: Ray Gold has resigned as LLA Vice President due to health reasons. We thank Ray for his many years of service, and more recently, for his work collecting water samples. We wish him many more happy years at his home on Leech Lake.

In Ray's absence, Tom McGovern has served as acting Vice President. Sharyn Nepsha moved to appoint Tom as vice president to replace Ray. Bill Schultz seconded the nomination. The motion to appoint Tom as Ray's replacement was approved unanimously.

Mark Bovee was approved as a new board member before the Covid shutdown but was never formally voted on. Jennifer O'Neill has been functioning as a board member with her website work for the past year without being formally nominated to the board. Tom McGovern moved to formally appoint Mark and Jennifer to the Leech Lake Board. Sharyn Nepsha seconded. Unanimous.

WATER TESTING: Tom McGovern reapplied for grants to cover water chemistry testing and algae testing during 2021 under a cost sharing arrangement with Cass County. These grants were approved. RMB Labs will continue to handle water chemistry testing. Tom has contracted with a lab in Michigan to do the algae testing, since the lab at UMD will no longer be doing this, or anyone else in Minnesota.

With Ray Gold no longer available for water collection, that leaves only Tom and Bill Schultz presently available to collect water samples at the four sites. Tom is in discussion with Sharyn Nepsha and Jennifer O'Neill regarding help with water collection. Samples are collected the third Sunday of the month, a day before our monthly board meetings.

LAKE SAFETY: Tom McGovern and Sharyn Nepsha mentioned that the buoys on Agency Narrows and Walker narrows are both difficult to see. These buoys may once have had lights, but no longer, perhaps because the lights were stolen. The Leech Lake Association had once purchased buoys for the Sheriff's department, and the question was raised whether we should get involved again with replacing certain buoys. Tom McGovern to discuss this with Jeff Brockberg who works closely with the Sheriff on Roosevelt Canal.

LEECH LAKE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS: Tom Mcgovern reported that our membership presently includes 315 families, nine businesses, 49 sponsors, and eight lifetime members. Present memberships expire on August 6, and a renewal letter will be sent with our invitation to the Annual Meeting.

HEALTHY LAKES: John Eaton reported on recent activities at the Association of Cass County Lakes (ACCL). The organization has a new president (Kathy Wagner) and meets twice a month at the Hub in Hackensack. ACCL has some 44 lake associations as members. Doug Schultz will be giving presentations on the fishery situation on other area lakes which LLA Board Members should find interesting, and encouraged our attendance at some of the ACCL meetings, which start at 9:30.

NEW CASS COUNTY AIS LAKE TECHNICIAN: Cass County hired Dana Gutzman in March as its new AIS Lake Technician. Dana joined our Board Meeting to introduce herself and describe her responsibilites. We encouraged Dana to attend our future Board Meetings as her time allows.

NEW GAME WARDEN IN WALKER DISTRICT: Dave Laursen reported that after several years, the CO vacancy in the Walker District has been filled by Patrict McGown. I know this personally because Pat checked our boat on opening weekend for licenses, life jackets, a throw floater, and fire extinguisher. I mention this because we were in compliance on all counts.

ANNUAL MEETING: Our Annual Meeting will take place on Friday, August 6 at the Chase ballroom. Sharyn Nepsha has been making the arrangements. Invitations to the event must be sent to members no later than July 12 to allow time for responses and provide attendance numbers to the Chase. Dave Laursen to work on preparing Invitations.

Bill Schultz moved to adjourn at 11:25. Sharyn Nepsha seconded. Minutes submitted by Dave Laursen