Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes --August 20, 2018

Meeting called to order at 9:35 AM by President Gisvold.

Board members present: Bob Gisvold, Dave Laursen, Ray Gold, Tom McGovern, Jeff Brockberg, John Eaton, Bill Schultz, Pat Mortale, Mike Frank. Absent: Steve Mortensen, Carl Pederson. Mike Sievert. Guests: Sharyn Nepsha, Dan Trustem, Al Sandford., Leslie Frank, Timm Rennecke, COE.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Ray Gold moved to approve July Meeting Minutes as written. Tom McGovern seconded. Unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Laursen reported that the Association bank balance on July 31 was $38,114.51. Checkbook balance was $21, 814.56. Income for the month was $5,830 in membership renewals. Various expenses amounted to $2,032.76. Jeff Brockberg moved to approve Treasure's Report. Bill Schultz seconded. Unanimous.

LEECH LAKE WATER LEVELS: Timm Rennecke reported that the water levels were at 1294.6, near the bottom of the summer band, due primarily to the lack of rain during August and normal evaporation. Discharge at the dam is 200 cps. Long range forecast for the winter is for above normal temperatures and precipitation, which will impact decisions regarding winter drawdown.

PORTAGE BREWERY FUNDRAISER: Five board members attended the fundraiser. Three new members were signed, plus many people were contacted and exposed to the Leech Lake Association and its objectives. Jeff Brockberg personally greeted each customer as they arrived. There was a large crowd at the gathering. As handouts, the new towels provided by the COE were popular and our newly printed brochures were handed out. An advertisement for the event was placed in the Walker Pilot for $163.90, and an Association banner was purchased for $102.48.

OJIBWE HIGHBANKS ASSOCIATION: Ray Gold reported on a talk he had given to the Highbanks Association explaining the goals and purpose of the Leech Lake Association. Dan Trustem, President of the Highbanks Association, explained to the Board the history and purpose of that organization.

HEALTHY LAKES: John Eaton reported on this meetings with the 1 Watershed 1 group which is developing a plan to protect this very important watershed, which is presently in great shape but faced with multiple threats including development, conversion of pinelands to potato farms, depletion of aquifers, and so forth. A goal is to get all resources together -- state, county, townships, lake associations - in a cooperative effort to protect this watershed. A report by the 1 Watershed 1 group is due out in October.

AIS MEETINGS: Bill Schultz will be attending the annual AIS meeting put on by the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities. This will be the fourth or fifth year of these meetings and presents the latest research on all AIS, including invasive carp, zebra mussels, and other invasives which are already here and those on the horizon. Good progress is being made on many fronts. The DNR is also presenting a program on AIS to be held in Hackensack on September 5. Admission is free.

MILLER BAY ACQUISITON: Tom McGovern has been in contact with Kathy Don Carlos regarding fundraising for the Miller Bay acquisition. The LLAWF needed to raise $42,000 by August and only $10,000 had been raised to date, so the fundraising effort will be abandoned for this year. The LLAWF is seeking national recognition which should enhance fundraising efforts in the future. The group is also seeking an Executive Director.

WATER SAMPLING: Sampling for this year has now been completed. The MPCA will be holding a social event for those interested on September 27. Water clarity has been significantly poorer this year than in 2016, possibly due to heavy rains and runoff into the lake.

ANNUAL MEETING: Board consensus was that the Annual Meeting and picnic at the Chase went very well. Food was good, the size of the room accommodated everyone, and service was good. There was a problem with the sound system and some discussion as to whether we ought to purchase our own. No decision made in this regard, The Chase was recommended as a place for future meetings. There was some confusion as to the number of meals served to guests (our number didn't match that of the Chase). We need to improve on our method for signing in guests and keeping track of meal tickets.

ROOSEVELT CANAL: Fencing gone. There was discussion on why the LLA should be paying for painting over graffiti on the bridge. Suggestion was to purchase paint that wouldn't flake off, since kids are apparently dumping flaked-off paint on passing boaters. Ray Gold complimented the Palmer letter to the Sheriff regarding his responsibility for monitoring the bridge and safe passage for boaters. Jeff Brockberg to solicit funds for bridge dredging next year from Turtle Lake and Shingobee townships.

John Eaton moved to adjourn at 11:20. Pat Mortale seconded.

Minutes submitted by Dave Laursen