Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes --September 20, 2021

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

Board Members Present: Dave Laursen, Bob Gisvold, Tom McGovern, Jennifer O'Neill, Bill Schultz, Jeff Brockberg, John Eaton, Mark Bovee, Sharyn Nepsha. Board Members absent: Jeff Holten, Steve Mortensen. Guests Attending: Timm Renneke, Dana Gutzmann ESD; Carl Pederson DNR. Attending by Zoom: Wes Glissen, Meg Duhr, Dan Larkin MAISRC;

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Tom McGovern moved to approve the August 16 Meeting Minutes as written: Jeff Brockberg seconded. Unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Laursen reported that the LLA bank balance at the end of August was $62,076.21. Income during the month was $4520 in membership renewal dues. Expenses were $3040, which included $2984.69 to Chase on the Lake for LLA' s Annual Meeting, and $56 for mailing out Meeting Invitations. Mark Bovee moved to approve Treasurer's Report. Jeff Brockberg seconded.. Unanimous.

DNR REPORT; Carl Pederson reported that the fall gillnetting had wrapped up for the year, with good numbers of walleyes of all sizes taken in the nets, including one particularly large walleye of 31 inches, which was found alive and released. The number of YOY walleyes taken during shocking operations were fewer in number than in previous years, but of good size (over six inches) which increases their odds of making it though the winter. Perch numbers remain below the long term average and the management goal, though there seems to be large numbers of smaller perch which do not show up in the nets. Northern numbers remain good and consistent with previous years.

LEECH LAKE WATER LEVELS AND ROOSEVELT CANAL: The lake level is still low (93.6) with minimum discharge at the dam. The low water levels have created problems with navigating the Roosevelt Canal and getting boats off boatlifts in certain areas. The usual fall drawdown of the lake will obviously not be necessary or take place absent heavy fall rains.

Responding to reports of boaters damaging props while traversing the Roosevelt Canal, Jeff Brockberg inspected the Canal along with excavator Ryan Bruns to consider whether it made sense to dredge the canal yet this fall. Considering the lateness of the season and in discussions with the DNR and the Sheriff's Department, it was decided to hold off any dredging until spring when dredging would likely need to be repeated.

Jeff Brockberg is also in discussion with the Sheriff regarding the need to replace some buoys next year on Agency Narrows and also possibly in the Walker Narrows. Perhaps lighted buoys. The Leech Lake Association has purchased buoys in the past and would consider doing so again.

STARRY STONEWORT PRESENTATION: Wes Glisson, Meg Duhr, and Dan Larkin from the Minnesota AIS Research Center (MAISRC) briefed the Board via Zoom on Starry Stonewort infestations on other lakes, and the results of various treatments applied over a number of years, including chemical, mechanical, and doing nothing. The group took questions from the board in regard to various methods of treatment and the optimum timing. September seems to be best time for mechanical harvesting.

We also discussed in detail specific treatments planned to control Starry Stonewort both inside and outside of the present infestation at Anderson's Harbor. The present plan is to use divers to physically remove plants and vacuum them unto a barge designed for this purpose. The DNR has agreed to pay for five days of this diving removal operation outside the harbor. The harbor owner (Anderson) is responsible for treating the infestation inside the harbor.

If the five days of DNR financed diving operation requires more time to complete, John Eaton moved that the Leech Lake Association finance two additional days of removal, in an amount not to exceed $5200/day. Jeff Brockberg seconded. Motion carried.

STARRY TREKKER PROGRAM: Dana Gutzmann reported that the Starry Trekkers had visited three sites. No infestations were found.

WATER TESTING: Tom McGovern reported that the water collection had wrapped up for the year and the samples were being shipped to RMB Labs. Tom has also been collecting and treating the separate algae samples and will be shipping these off to the Michigan lab in the next week or so. These samples need to be kept cool and shipped by overnight express to prevent degradation.

Tom McGovern moved to adjourn at 11:20. Bill Schultz seconded.

Minutes submitted by Dave Laursen