LEECH LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES -- December 19, 2016

Meeting called to order by President Gisvold at 9:35. Board members present: Ray Gold, Mike Sievert, Bill Schultz ,Tom McGovern, Pat Mortale, Gail Tufte; Bob Gisvold, Dave Laursen; Board members absent: Steve Mortensen, Jeff Brockberg, Teri Weidemann, Bob Poirier, John Eaton, Jeff Brockberg. Guests: Carl Pederson, Timm Rennecke, Rima Smith Keprios, Ron Singewald.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Gail moved to approve November Meeting Minutes as written. Tom McGovern seconded. Unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Laursen reported a bank balance as of November 30 of $33,234.63 and a checkbook balance of $17,033.01. Deposits during November were $1438.92. Expenditures were $467.03, primarily for our Christmas Party Invitation printing and postage. Pat Mortale moved to approve Treasurer's Report. Bill Schultz seconded. Unanimous.

AIS UPDATE: Carl Pederson reported on the DNR finding through routine zooplankton sampling that zebra mussel veligers are now present in at least two locations in Leech Lake. The lake will now be designated as infested by zebra mussels. It may be eight to ten years before the effect on fishing is determined. AIS inspection efforts must continue because there are other nasty invasives still to come (i.e., spiny water fleas, starry stonewart).

Rima Smith Keprios briefed the Board on the county's AIS inspection plans for 2017 and distributed the published plan to board members. The University Extension office will be training 50 citizens as AIS detector/trackers to check lakes for AIS in 2017. AIS Inspector training by Cass County will continue, with another decontamination station slated to be put at Federal Dam.

LEECH LAKE WATER LEVELS: Timm Rennecke reported that water levels are appropriate for this time of year and there is presently about six inches of ice. There is only minimal discharge at the dam due to the present dry conditions and uncertainly about projected winter snow and spring rains. There is always a risk in drawing the lake down too much, or too little.

EELPOUT CLEANUP ISSUES: Pat Mortale reported on meetings he has had with local residents, the sheriff and County Commissioner Bruns on steps that might be taken to ensure adequate trash pickup during and after the Eelpout Festival. Many ideas came out of brainstorming meetings including hiring outside clean-up contractor, posting larger bond by promoter, determining who shares responsibility (e.g., Sheriff or DNR or John Ringle). Pat to meet with John Ringle to finalize plans.

LAKE WATER QUALITY MONITORING: Pat Mortale briefed the board on an article he had read discussing what lake associations can do in the way of testing to determine trends occurring on a lake as a result of infestations by zebra mussels and other AIS. Pat to establish a committee to investigate what testing would be necessary, and how often (every year, every two years? etc).

OSPREY NEST CAMERA: Bob Poirier pursuing project, including financing, software development, BSU assistance, etc. Permit from DNR required. Power needed to site. Mortale reported that landowner has granted access. Poirier to brief board at next regular meeting.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Board agreed that the Christmas Party went very well, though numbers were down slightly for whatever reason. Food was good and CO Eric Sullivan's talk was interesting and well received. The facilities at the Ranchhouse are well suited to hold a Christmas Party. Board felt that the Christmas Party was an event worth continuing, though discussions in this regard will continue in the future.

WINTER MEETINGS: It was tentatively planned not to hold a regular meeting in January and February (possibly March) while President Gisvold is in Florida. However, a special meeting could be called if the situation dictates. At any rate, board members are in contact by email and could quickly arrange a special meeting if required.

Pat moved to adjourn at 11:25. Bill Schultz seconded.

Minutes provided by Dave Laursen