Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes -- July 18, 2016

Meeting called to order by President Gisvold at 9:30 AM. Board members present: Dave Laursen, Bob Gisvold, Chuck Allen, John Eaton, Gail Tufte, Bill Schultz, Pat Mortale, Bob Poirier, Steve Mortensen, Jeff Brockberg, Ray Gold. Guests: Doug Schultz DNR, Timm Rennecke COE, Teri Weidemann, Board applicant.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: John Eaton moved to approve Minutes of June 20 Meeting. Ray Gold seconded.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Laursen reported that LLA bank balance as of June 30 was $25, 448.58. Checkbook balance was $9,266.17. Bob Poirier asked that redacted bank statement be sent to all Board Members at each monthly meeting. Jeff Brockberg moved to approve Treasurer's Report. Gail Tufte seconded.

LEECH LAKE WATER LEVELS: Timm Rennecke reported that three to four inches of rain in July has brought lake levels to the middle of the summer band (1294.7) Minimum discharge at dam is 120 cps. Lake level presently where it ought to be.

DNR REPORT: Doug Schultz reported that DNR land swap with Bluewater Lodge is now complete, with ownership issues settled. Bluewater has put in the second dock agreed to in the land swap. Doug also mentioned that the summer creel census shows increased fishing pressure, though less than might be expected considering the shutdown of Lake Mille Lacs. Winter fishing pressure has been at record levels. Doug mentioned that the DNR is looking for another creel census clerk to replace a clerk(s) who resigned

Doug looked into the Conditional Use Permit requested by Leech Lake Development Partnership to consolidate land holdings and potentially build townhouses on property riparian to Leech Lake. The LLA was concerned about plans to put boardwalks to the lake across a wetland, and docks on the weedy shoreline. Doug said that a boardwalk across the wetland to access the lake is legal and would be permitted. Likewise, docks would be allowed as with any lakeshore property. Property may need to be rezoned to water-oriented commercial. However, no permit application has been received by DNR

HEALTHY LAKES: Pat Mortale to arrange meeting with Dan Dean group to follow-up on complaints regarding trash left on lake during Eelpout Festival.

AIS MEETINGS: John Eaton reported that ACCL is trying to arrange meeting and dinner on September 19 at the Northern Lights Casino for some 100 resorts, including Leech Lake resorts, to talk about AIS issues with boats coming to their resorts. Each Lake Association might be asked to cover the costs for resorts on their own lake. Details need to be further worked out. Retired BSU professor Pat Welle will be repeating visits he made last summer to resorts along the Boy River watershed to see what, if anything, has changed. Linda Blake to assist and serve as ambassador to resorts. The Corps and Cass County will be sharing costs to purchase an AIS decontamination station to be located at Federal Dam. The Corps will be the owners of this station.

TRIBAL PROJECTS: Steve Mortensen mentioned that the Tribe is working with the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation to obtain lakeshore acreage on the Two Points area which at one time was a tribal village. Steve also mentioned that the entrance to the fishing lagoon on Onigum is silted up and would need to be dredged by the tribe since the property is all tribal land. This lagoon is also the site of the old Shingobee Fishing Pier. Cormorant control nationwide is on hold pending a lawsuit, but control efforts for this year are already completed, and Leech Lake efforts will not be affected until next year.

BOARD MEMBER CHANGES: Teri Weidemann was elected to the Board of Directors by unanimous vote, replacing Jane Ekholm. Chuck Allen tendered his resignation from the Board effective at the time of the Annual Meeting. Chuck has served on the Board for 10 years and long been one of the Board's most active workers. John Eaton moved to accept Chuck's resignation with regret. Gail Tufte seconded. Ray Gold was appointed by the Board to the position of Vice President, replacing Dennis Leff. Pat Mortale moved to appoint Ray as Vice President. Jeff Brockberg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL MEETING: Chuck Allen finalizing details with the Ranch House Supper Club to host our Annual Meeting. Doug Schultz has agreed to be the keynote speaker if schedule allows. If not, Carl Pederson, the DNR Large Lake Specialist, will speak in Doug's stead. Subject: the effect of warming climate and AIS on the Leech Lake fishery.

Bob Poirier moved to adjourn at 11:30 AM. Jeff Brockberg seconded.

Minutes submitted by Dave Laursen