**Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes -- June 19, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 9:30 by Bob Gisvold. Board members present: Bob Gisvold, Jeff Brockberg, Bob Poirier, John Eaton, Bill Schultz, Gail Tufte, Tom McGovern,

Ray Gold, Mike Seivert. Guests: Carl Pederson-DNR; Timm Rennecke-COE;

Guest, Sharyn Nepsha, Oak Point Association. Absent: Dave Laursen, Steve Mortensen and Pat Mortale

**Secretary’s Report:** Tom McGovern moved to approve the minutes of the May 15th meeting as written. Ray Gold seconded. Unanimous.

Tom McGovern filled in as Secretary in the absence of Dave Laursen

**Treasurer’s Report:** Tom McGovern reported an end of May 2017 balance at First National Bank of $28,236.36. $60 has been deposited from two new members dues.

Checks have cleared:

$255 for Newsletter Design

$90.53 for Newsletter Mailing

$255 for Permit to dredge the Roosevelt Canal

$2,500 for Roosevelt Canal dredging

$834.57 for Newsletter Printing

Jeff Brockberg reported that the First National Bank will donate $500 towards the Roosevelt Canal dredging.

Jeff Brockberg moved to approve the treasurer’s report. Gail Tufte seconded.

Unanimous.

**DNR Report:** Carl Pederson reported on the Leech Lake Walleye Tournament June 3-4. Walleye mortality rate was reported at 8% at the weigh-in station. More may have died after being released. Tournaments held early in the spring when water is colder typically have a smaller mortality rate. Carl stated that walleye mortality is more a political issue then a Fisheries concern. Pros and cons of Photo Tourneys were discussed. Main con is the lack of excitement weighing the fish in front of a crowd and loss of volunteer jobs.

LLA will receive $500 donation from the Leech Lake Walleye Tournament.

John Eaton will work with tournament Director, Gretchen Gibbon, on tourney rules and procedures effecting walleye mortality.

Tournaments with 25 boats or fewer do not need a DNR permit. For a complete list of permitted tournaments go to: http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/recreation/fishing/tournaments/tourneylist.pdf

**Leech Lake Water Levels:** Timm Rennecke reported water levels are now at standard 1294.50. The dam is closed to minimum flow. 4-1/2” of July rain will keep up with normal evaporation.

**New member solicitation mailing:** Mike Seivert reported on the mailing to property owners on the North end of the lake. 188 mailings at a cost of $250. 6% success rate was reported from last mailing to all property owners. Motion to approve mailing and expense made by Bob Poirier and seconded by John Eaton. Unanimous

Mike Sievert also reported that he signed up with the MPCA to perform Secchi disk readings at Portage Bay Site # 105

**AIS Detector Tracker Program:** Bill Schultz reported that he and Pat Mortale completed the training and are certified volunteers. Training consisted of an online component and 8 hours in Bemidji. The participants covered all costs. There are only 11 AIS paid specialists in the state so these extra volunteers are needed. When a citizen wants to report a possible sighting of AIS, they are to contact the DNR. DNR will then refer to volunteers to perform initial investigation.

**Cormorants:** No update as Steve Mortensen was absent

**Osprey Nest Camera:** Bob Poirier reported that the project is still on track to go live this spring. Website development, equipment, pole and power are all on schedule.

**Water Sampling report:** Tom McGovern reported that RMB Labs received the first samples submitted on June 5th successfully. Future dates are 6/26, 7/24, 8/28 and 9/25. Summary reports distributed showed no significant changes in water chemistry and Secchi disk readings compared to 2008 lab reports.

**Roosevelt Canal update:** Jeff Brockberg reported that the First National Bank of Walker generously donated $500 toward the $2,500 cost of dredging. A suggested article in the Pilot may garner more donations.

The NRCS (National Resources Conservation Service) could re-engineer both entry points and may have funds available. Rough estimate of costs to remove rocks on the Traders Bay side is $8 to $10k.

**Legislative/Rulemaking:** Carl reported that very late in the legislative process, license fee increases finally passed. Results will be one more local staff person and normal creel survey back on schedule. Carl asked for volunteers for trawling etc. and almost everyone raised their hand!

**By-Laws for LLA:** Being reviewed by Bob Gisvold, Dave Laursen and Ray Gold.

**Leech Lake Watershed:** John Eaton reported on the “Upper Mississippi River Large River and Basin Restoration Strategies” from Itasca to Hastings. The 14-page pdf is attached to the emailing of these minutes.

**Annual Meeting:** August 2nd with Happy Hour beginning at 4:30, followed by the business meeting with dinner about 6:30. Cost will be $25/person. Phil Kelly will speak on the history of Leech Lake and his experiences since his arrival in 1946.

Carl Pederson will do his lake status report and have a Q&A session.

Board members with terms expiring are: Bob Poirier, Pat Mortale, Jeff Brockberg and Dave Laursen. They have till the annual meeting to state intent to continue for another 3-year term.

John Eaton moved to adjourn at 11:40. Jeff Brockberg seconded.

Draft of minutes prepared by Tom McGovern.