Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes -- October 17, 2016

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

Board Members present: Robert Gisvold, Steve Mortensen, Pat Mortale, Gail Tufte, Bill Schultz, Bob Poirier, Mike Sievert, Tom McGovern, Dave Laursen. Absent: Jeff Brockberg, Teri Wiedemann, John Eaton, Ray Gold. Guests: Timm Rennecke, COE; Dennis Werling, John Owen, Mark VanderLinden

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Gail Tufte and Bill Schultz moved and seconded to approve September Meeting Minutes as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Laursen reported that LLA bank balance at end of September was $32,381.52. Income during September was $525 from membership renewals. Expenses during the month were $1319 for Board liability insurance, $500 to the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation, and $185 for Chamber dues and website connection. Bob Poirier and Pat Mortale moved and seconded approval of the Treasurer's Report.

LEECH LAKE WATER LEVELS: Timm Rennecke reported that LL water levels were at 1294.50, near the bottom of the summer band and just where it should be at this time of the year. The usual winter drawdown of the lake has started. How much to draw down the lake to make room for melting of the winter snowpack Is always fraught with uncertainty. Long range forecasts are calling for a snowy winter and cold weather.

AIS REPORTS: Bill Schultz attended both the Resort Dinner sponsored by ACCL at Northern Lights Casino and the statewide AIS Summit held in St Cloud. The resort dinner was lightly attended with about 50 resort owners present, only three or four from Leech Lake. Objective of the meeting was to give Cass County resort owners an opportunity to meet and dialogue on the subject of invasive species and other issues. Resort owners from Cass and Gull Lakes, which are already infected, attended. Short of closing all boat launches, eventual infestation seems inevitable.

The AIS Summit in St Cloud was attended by many lake associations, DNR people, and politicians, including Amy Klobuchar. Bill sat in with a workgroup discussing zebra mussels, spiny waterfleas, starry stonewart, and others. Bunk trailers appear to be conducive to AIS transmission. Redesign of boats and boat trailers desirable to reduce water retention. . Summit scientists discussed possible control of zebra mussels through study of the genome, using accelerated gene splicing methods. Spiny water fleas reported to have reduced zoo plankton by 50% in a Wisconsin lake, with unknown but likely negative impact on fry. Discussed cracking down on ballast dumping in Lake Superior. The Summit was sponsored by Legacy funds, U.S Fish & Wildlife, COLA's, and others.

EELPOUT TRASH: Pat Mortale reported on meeting with two people to brainstorm ideas for dealing with trash left behind after the Eelpout Festival. Many ideas proposed, including hiring a contractor for cleanup, posting larger bonds, obtaining grants, providing garbage bags with registration, etc. Future meetings will be with DNR and Sheriff's Dept. Our goal here should be to assist dealing with the trash issue, and not get involved in some lobbying effort to do away with the Festival itself, which some local people would like to do.

OSPREY CAMERA: Bob Poirier reported on discussions he has been having to get a camera installed in the osprey nest off Onigum Road, and possible grant money, possibly working with Bemidji State. More details to follow. Pat Mortale has acquired landowner permission and support.

CHRISTMAS PARTY; Details finalized for Christmas Party at Ranch House Supper Club. Invitations to be mailed to members on November 21. Conservation Officer Eric Sullivan has agreed to be guest speaker.

MEMBERSHIP MAILING: Dave Laursen reported that a reminder mailing would go out to the 150 members who have not yet renewed . Pat Mortale to help with renewal letter.

NEW PRINTER: Pat Mortale moved to approve $310 for the purchase of a new B &W printer for producing mailing labels and other Association work. Bob Poirier seconded.

Bob Poirier moved to adjourn at 11:15. Bill Schultz seconded.

Next meeting will be held on November 21.

Minutes provided by Dave Laursen