Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes -- October 19, 2015

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

Board members present: Dave Laursen, Bob Gisvold, John Eaton, Gail Tufte, Jane Ekholm, Ray Gold, Chuck Allen, Jeff Brockberg. Absent: Pat Mortale, Bob Poirier, Steve Mortensen, Bill Schultz. Guests: Timm Rennecke, COE; Matt Ward, DNR Fisheries; Rima Smith Keprios, Cass Co. AIS.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Chuck Allen moved to approve Secretary's Report as written. Jeff Brockberg seconded.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Laursen reported that LLA checkbook balance at the end of September was $11,242. 70. Income during September was $440 in membership renewals. Expenses during the month were $4.37 for meeting donuts. Total bank balance at the end of September was $27, 405.54. Jane Ekholm moved to approve treasurers' report. Gail Tufte seconded.

FISHING TOURNAMENTS: At our September meeting, the sponsors of the local Leech Lake Walleye tournament were not sold on moving to a Catch, Photo, and Release (CPR) type tournament due to concerns that eliminating the live, city-park weigh-in would reduce interest and financial returns for this popular tournament. The sponsor did agree to survey future tournament participants regarding interest and acceptance of a CPR tournament in the future.

Ray Gold, after studying the DNR rules for walleye tournaments, asked if the DNR did not have the authority to require tournament sponsors to use the CPR format. There was lengthy discussion of this subject without resolution. Matt Ward to get reading from Henry Drewes on why the DNR lacks the authority to regulate such issues, when the DNR's own rules seem to indicate that they can.

AIS PREVENTION: Rima Smith Keprios, Cass County's full time AIS Supervisor, briefed the board on steps the county is taking to prevent the introduction of zebra mussels into Cass Co. lakes, as well as available funding sources and plans underway to train additional AIS inspectors and place decontamination equipment in strategic places. The lack of sufficient decontamination stations and uncertainty as to where and when this equipment is available has been an ongoing issue for boaters coming into the area.

LEGISLATIVE: Jane Ekholm notified the board that her present work schedule does not allow time for her to review all Leech Lake variance requests and make site visits, as well as attend hearings in Backus. Gail and Chuck Allen have both assisted with this responsibility in the past. The Board may want to review whether LLA participation in site visits and variance recommendations is a worthwhile use of our time (i.e., do county planners seriously consider our input when making their decisions?) Certainly, there will be times when serious lake environmental issues demand our critique and input.

Jane also mentioned that she is two years into a seminary program to become a Lutheran pastor.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS LIABILITY INSURANCE: Bob Gisvold sent out an email questionnaire asking board members to respond to the underwriter's request for information regarding whether any board member had been involved in any criminal or civil proceeding within the past five years while serving on a non-profit board. All board members responded in the negative. B

INTERNAL AUDIT: Former LLA board member Roseanne Budahl has informed Bob Gisvold that she will be available to participate in the audit of LLA books with Bob Poirier.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: The LLA Christmas Party is scheduled for Thursday, December 10. Chuck Allen to contact the Ranch House to check on availability, menus, and pricing.

Jeff Brockberg moved to adjourn at 11:55 AM. Gail Tufte seconded.

Minutes submitted by Dave Laursen