LEECH LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES – October 23, 2017

Meeting called to order at 9:35AM. **Board Members Present:** Bob Gisvold, Tom McGovern, Pat Mortale, Gail Tufte, Jeff Brockberg, Bill Schultz, Ray Gold and John Eaton

**Guests:** Carl Pederson, DNR; Steve Mortensen, Leech Lake Band Rep; Timm Rennecke, COE; Sharyn Nepsha from Oak Point Association, Dennis & Judy Werling and Mike Frank

**SECRETARY's REPORT:** John Eaton moved to approve Sept. Meeting Minutes as amended. Bill Schultz seconded. Unanimous. Tom McGovern will take the minutes for Dave Laursen.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Bob Gisvold reported that LLA bank balance as of 9/29/17 was $35,812.61. Checkbook balance was $19,565.03. Deposits from memberships were $1,350. Expenses were $1,319 for Board Liability Insurance and $190 for Walker Chamber of Commerce dues and website listing. Gail Tufte moved to approve Treasurer's Report. Jeff Brockberg seconded. Unanimous.

**DNR Fisheries Report** by Carl Pederson: Fishery Survey Results show record high Young of the Year Walleye population. Gill Net results show population goals were met. Perch population is up with good size displayed. Northern Pike population is down. Refer to reports handed out and attached. Zooplankton tests show no AIS Veliger’s this year but Adult Zebra Mussels were found on a sailboat moored in Blue Water harbor. A camera search of the harbor yielded no evidence of more AIS. Fishery trend is in good shape and getting better. Electronic Ticks showing boat activity at Walker City dock at 10,000 and Erickson’s at 8,000. Both locations show consistent numbers over the past few years.

New Northern Pike Regulations for 2018 will be: 20-26” protected slot with a 10 fish bag limit. 2 over 26”. See two attached documents from Carl.

**LEECH LAKE WATER LEVELS**; Timm Rennecke reported that the lake level in September was 1294.10 and now is 1294.30 No change in the standard flow over the dam. The Northern Hemisphere is presently on a La Nina Watch, which could lead to a 60% stormier, colder winter.

**LEECH LAKE RIVER 1 WATERSHED 1 PLAN:** The results of this meeting (that was reported on in the last minutes by Pat Mortale and Tom McGovern) will be presented October 27th at 9:00 AM in our same meeting room in the Cass County Court House.

**ROOSEVELT CANAL**: Chamber of Commerce planned to host a meeting in October to discuss who should be taking responsibility for dredging the Roosevelt Canal. Resorts, local businesses, and the Leech Lake Tribe were invited. The meeting has been postponed till spring due to lack of response. The Leech Lake Association does not believe that it should assume ongoing responsibility for the cost of canal dredging.

**VEGETATION /HABITAT:** Ray Gold talked about the lack of Perch in the main basin. Carl Pederson and Bill Schultz discussed that Rusty Cray Fish have reduced the cabbage weeds, thus changing the fish environment.

**LEECH LAKE WALLEYE TOURNAMENT:** The tournament organizers have decided against making this tournament a catch, photo, and release tournament. They believe it’s important to maintain the present excitement and audience at the weigh-in. Also, sponsors wouldn’t commit because they believe enough potential customers would not view their advertising sign. The tournament might be tweaked to add more oxygenated holding tanks for fish, since many more fish are being caught and fish are dying in the tanks, or upon release.

John Eaton is resigning from the Walleye Tournament board. The board will not have a representative on the committee, however Pat Mortale and Bill Schultz volunteered to inspect boats each day for AIS. The LLA receives a $500 donation from the tournament funds. Jeff Brockberg will attend the next Walleye Tournament meeting to ask for a Roosevelt Canal dredging donation as those boats travel the canal.

John handed out the results of the Accelerated Walleye Stocking Program (AWP) from the Game and Fish Oversight Committee that are attached. John has been on the MNDNR Budget and Fisheries Oversight Committees for the past two years.

**Cormorant Control:** Steve Mortensen reported current population of about 1,800 adults down from 10,000 in 2004. 700 have recently been taken for a diet study. Next year this will be repeated to establish a pattern. Diet appears to be mostly tullibee, trout minnows and shiners.

**ASSOCIATION OF CASS COUNTY LAKES (ACCL):** John Eaton asked Bill Schultz if he would contact ACCL Board Member Vic Rinke, or vice-versa, about working on a new ACCL project aimed at informing lake associations on how they might deal with AIS infestations, or not, based on experiences elsewhere with earlier infestations.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER:** Reminder letters have been sent to 256 (2017) members. We have about 220 (2018) paid members to date.

**FUND RAISING EVENT:**  Gail Tufte informed the board of a Fund Raising Event proposal hosted by Portage Brewing for next summer. Gail and Jeff will work on this as a possible event to raise funds for Roosevelt Canal dredging.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY**: Gail is working on location, possibly the Ranch House and maybe second Thursday in December.

Next LLA meeting is Monday, November 20th. Motion to adjourn at 11:30 by Jeff Brockberg, second by Gail Tufte. Unanimous

Draft of Minutes prepared by Tom McGovern