Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes - June 20, 2022

Meeting called to order by Vice President Tom McGovern at 9:35 AM.

Board members present: Dave Laursen, Tom McGovern, Bill Schultz, John Eaton, Mark Bovee, Sharyn Nepsha, Jeff Holten, Jennifer O'Neill. Absent: Jeff Brockberg, Steve Mortensen, Robert Gisvold. Guests: Carl Pederson DNR, Dana Gutzmann ESD, Kate Hegsten Leech Lake Tribe( by zoom)

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Jeff Holten moved to approved May meeting minutes as written. Mark Bovee seconded. Unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Laursen reported that the Leech Lake Association bank balance at the end of May was $57,566.05. Checkbook balance was $40,855.81. Expenses during May were $177.84 to Grassy Lake Images for printing of AIS brochure to be distributed with newsletter mailing(half of which will be reimbursed by ESD), and $90 to Dave Laursen for annual hosting of website domain. Not shown in the May bank statement is deposits in the amount of $4800 in membership renewals. Bill Schultz moved to approve Treasurer's Report. John Eaton seconded. Unanimous.

MILLER BAY; Jennifer O'Neill worked with Northern Waters Land Trust (NWLT) to serve as the Leech Lake Association contact on Miller Bay press release. No feedback to date. The press release gave good credit to LLA's contribution to this critical habitat acquisition.

STARRY STONEWORT: Katie Hegsten representing the Leech Lake Tribe briefed the Board via zoom on the acquisition of DASH equipment and operations in and adjacent to the infestation at Anderson's Cove. Divers are being trained and sought to hand pull emerging stonewort From Anderson's harbor and adjacent area during July. Dana Gutzmann compiling list of volunteers. During this discussion the issue of diver safety arose and the issue or providing mats to transport (float) divers in distress. Mark Bovee to check on what kinds or commercial mats are available and their cost. Jennifer O'Neill suggested purchasing such a mat for the Dash operations. Jeff Holten moved to limit expenditures for such a mat to under $750. Jennifer O'Neill seconded. Motion carried.

LEECH LAKE ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT PLAN: John Eaton reported that the Leech Lake Association Management Plan is complete and ready to be printed. The Board agreed that this is such a unique and comprehensive document about the Leech Lake area that it deserves wider distribution, and particularly to people new to the area. The present plan is to mail the revised document or our membership, and after that look for other ways to distribute it, possibly through the chamber, and groups that welcome new residents to the area. Printing of the revised plan will be done by Arrow printing who printed the original. It will have a four color cover. After much discussion, Sharyn Nepsha moved to print 600 copies initially. Jeff Holten seconded. Motion carried. The initial plan is to mail it to our membership along with the wildflower booklet.

ELECTROFISHING: Carl Pederson reported that the DNR is presently conducting electrofishing on Leech Lake to sample crappie, sunfish, and bass populations. With the new and more stringent panfish regulations it is important to establish baseline data to see how the new regulations affect populations and size structure over time. The late spring and cold water is likely affecting survey numbers.

LAKE SAFETY: The sheriff's department received grants to purchase new buoys, some lighted, but the late spring apparently affected their distribution around the lake. Board members mentioned that some areas, like Agency and Walker narrows, are still not well marked. Jeff Brockberg to check on this and report at the July meeting.

ZONING: Jeff Holten reported an increase in requests by property owners to reclassify property in Cass County, but nothing specifically affecting Leech Lake. He also followed up on board questions regarding the large development with harbor on Ottertail Point. The property was developed by a Chicago group and all the necessary permits for the harbor and setbacks were obtained and followed Early pictures of the property before development showed few trees on the property that needed to be removed. This is a large single home with a harbor. The alternative might have been multiple homes on this large property, each with 100 foot lots and individual docks. So the environmental trade-off is debatable.

AIS ACTIVITIES: Dana Gutzmann reported on her many projects on the AIS front. She recently sent out updated AIS warning signs to resorts, as well as signing up Starry Trackers and training volunteers. She reports good cooperation from the resort community.

ANNUAL MEETING: Sharyn Nepsha has been meeting with the Chase to finalize menus for the Annual Meeting and Banquet. The menu will be similar to last year and the Board voted to have the meal plated rather than as a buffet. LLA will pick up tax and gratuities and subsidize costs over $30 per meal. Tom McGovern moved to cover these subsidies. Jeff Holten seconded. Motion carried. A speaker for the meeting needs to be found, with several suggestions forthcoming, included a DNR Conservation Officer with an AIS sniffing dog. Jennifer will contact this CO.

Bill Schultz moved to adjourn at 11:25. Mark Bovee seconded.

Minutes submitted by Dave Laursen