Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes --May 20, 2019

Meeting called to order by President Gisvold at 9:35 AM. Board members present: Bob Gisvold, Dave Laursen, Jeff Brockberg, Tom McGovern, John Eaton, Ray Gold, Steve Mortensen, Sharyn Nepsha, Bill Schultz Absent: Pat Mortale. Guests: Doug Schultz, DNR; Timm Rennecke, COE; Al Sanford.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: John Eaton moved to approve the April 15 Meeting Minutes as written. Tom McGovern seconded. Eaton's name was added as an attendee at the April 15 meeting. Unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Laursen reported that the LLA bank balance at the end of April, 2010, was $42,627.58. Checkbook balance was $25,223.26. Income during the month was $80 in member renewals. Expenses were $90 for website support, and $200 in dues to Minnesota Lakes and Rivers (MLR). Jeff Brockberg moved to approve Treasurer's Report. John Eaton seconded. Unanimous.

WATER LEVELS: Timm Rennecke reported that the lake level was at 1295.45, at the top of the summer band and going higher. Output at the dam has been increased to 600cps, but not enough to have any effect on the lake level anytime soon. Timm explained that outflows from the upper reservoirs: Leech, Winne, Pokegama -- are constrained by flooding conditions in the Aitkin area, and the Aitkin area is still experiencing high water. Until that changes, discharge at Federal Dam cannot be increased per the Corps Operating Plan. There was lengthy discussion by the board regarding the damage being caused by the present high water, including beach erosion, and damage to docks and boat lifts by recent high winds. The high water has led to some floating bogs in Kabekona Bay. If such bogs are a navigation hazard, call the Sheriff. If not, notify the DNR.

CORMORANTS: Steve Mortensen reported that application by the Tribe and the DNR to obtain permits to control cormorants to the 500 nesting pair level has been approved, and that some 3000 will be taken this summer. The diet studies will continue, with small perch the primary food source in past studies.

JOINT MLR, ACCL, AND MN COLA MEETING ON JUNE 17-18: John Eaton reported on his involvement in planning for this joint meeting and some of the activities planned during the all day meeting on the 18th. John has lined up some pontoon boats so DNR officials can take interested attendees on field trips after the formal program ends. ACCL has an hour allotted on the agenda for individual lake associations to do a show and tell on some of their important projects. The board agreed that our involvement with the Roosevelt Canal would be an apt subject for our portion of this hour. Jeff Brockberg has agreed to present this story on behalf of the Leech Lake Association. The time available to each speaker is undefined at this point. Tom McGovern has personally registered to attend this meeting and will be assisting as needed. There are apparently still openings at this meeting if other LLA members want to register and attend. All board members should have received an Agenda and Registration Form.

AIS FUNDING: Bill Schultz reported that 510K in AIS funding will be provided by the Heritage Foundation over the next two years. There is also continuing AIS funding in the present House bill.

LEECH LAKE AREA WATERSHED FOUNDATION : Has changed its name to the Northern Water Land Trust. Kathy Moore from the Brainerd area has been hired as its new Executive Director.

WATER TESTING: The water testing program is going as planned. Tom McGovern covering for Pat Mortale in his absence. Tom delivered the first algal samples to Doug Schultz at the meeting today. Doug will mail the sample to the testing laboratory in Duluth.

WOUNDED WARRIORS FISHING DAY: Hiawatha Beach Resorts hosts a Wounded Warriors fishing day and sent out a call for volunteers to take these vets out fishing on Saturday, June 1. Ray Gold volunteered himself and his boat for this very worthy event.

SPRING NEWSLETTER: Dave Laursen distributed copies of the newsletter at the meeting, and mailing to the entire list will take place today.

ANNUAL MEETING: DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen was contacted earlier by Bob to be the keynote speaker at our August 2 Annual Meeting. This needs to be followed up and confirmed by Bob or Doug Schultz.

Bill Schultz moved to adjourn at 11:15 AM. John Eaton seconded. Unanimous

Minutes submitted by Dave Laursen