Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes -- September 17, 2018

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

Board Members Present: Dave Laursen, Bob Gisvold, Ray Gold, Tom McGovern, Bill Schultz, Mike Frank, Pat Mortale, Steve Mortensen, John Eaton, Jeff Brockberg, Sharyn Nepsha. Absent: Mike Sievert. Guests: Doug Schultz, DNR; Timm Rennecke, COE; Al Sanford, Steve Haugan, Roberta Haugan, John Haugan.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Tom McGovern moved to approve August Meeting Minutes as written. John Eaton seconded. Unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Laursen reported that the Association's bank balance on August 31 was $40,391.08. Checkbook balance was $24,0541.80. Income for the month was $4,270.00 in membership renewals. Major expenses were $735 to RMB Labs, $597 to the Chase Hotel, $371 for printing and mailing expenses, and $152 for a banner. Jeff Brockberg moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Pat Mortale seconded. Unanimous.

MILLER BAY ACQUISITION: The Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation was unable to raise the 10% matching funds necessary to pursue the purchase of the Miller Bay property and will put on hold fundraising efforts for this year while seeking a new Executive Director. The Board agreed that a sunset provision should be attached to our $5000 pledge. Tom McGovern to convey this decision to Kathy Don Carlos. Board will vote next meeting on putting a sunset date on the $5000 pledge.

LEECH LAKE WATER LEVELS: Recent rain has put the lake back in the summer band at 1294.6, which is good news for keeled sailboats. Discharge from the dam remains at 200 cps.

DNR FISHERIES REPORT: Doug Schultz passed out a handout summarizing results of fall gill netting dating back to the early 1980's for walleyes, perch, pike and cisco. Walleye numbers meet and exceed Management Plan objectives. Perch numbers remain below plan objectives and have been for some time -- particularly on the main lake. The DNR's plan to loosen the walleye slot and remove some biomass from the lake is partially aimed at facilitating perch recovery. Historically, perch numbers recover quickly with a good year class or two. The DNR has no plans to put slot restrictions on perch. The Board discussed at some length whether additional steps should be taken to improve perch numbers. Pat Mortale to prepare a resolution in that regard for review at the October meeting. The Board agreed that the previous aquatic vegetation study needed updating. Doug provided the Board with a name to contact in that regard.

ONE WATERSHED ONE PLAN: John Eaton received this morning a draft report of the plan and shared its Table of Contents with the group. He will email the draft plan to the entire board. There will be public hearings on the plan in February, with a final report probably coming out in March. The 1 watershed 1 committee still seeking public input. ACCL to hold public meeting in Hackensack this week to talk about AIS treatment and monitoring. The ACCL Board is presently down three board members.

AIS MEETINGS: Bill Schultz reported on the University sponsored AIS Meeting he had attended in the Twin Cities. This year's meeting, now in its 5th year, had some 235 attendees, and is making good progress in developing models on different lakes and how best to deploy resources, including boat inspections. A key effort is on how to deal with zebra mussels, including biological controls which are still some years away. Eurasian watermilfoil is apparently hybridizing, making treatment more difficult. Studies ongoing on seven lakes to determine the effect of spiny waterfleas on perch and growth rates. Lots of focus also on starry stonewart.

WATERSAMPLING AND DIET STUDIES: Water collection efforts wrapped up today with a report due out next week. Steve Mortensen reported that cormorant diet studies were completed for the year.

MEMBERSHIP: Pat Mortale reported that 197 households have so far renewed. There were 341 paying households last year. A reminder mailing will be sent out in the next two weeks to those who haven't paid. A similar reminder mailing last year garnered an additional 100 households. Pat reported that to date we have 13 fewer sponsors than last year. Business membership remains the same. We have acquired some new members.

Mike Frank to contact BSU to see if someone there can provide advice on ways to increase memberships. He reported on ways Lake Vermillion used to gain new members, including placing brochures at resorts. Their association has 110 volunteers on lake.

BOARD ADDITION: Jeff Brockberg moved to appoint Sharon Nepsha to the Leech Lake Association Board. Mike Frank seconded. Unanimous.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Discussions were held on where and when to hold the Christmas Party. Tianna Farms was mentioned as a possibility, with the Chase Hotel a preferred site. Suggestion was made to hold our December meeting on the 14th, with the Christimas Party to be held on the 15th. Mike Frank and Sharon Nepsha to make recommendations.

Ray Gold moved to adjourn at 11:50. Pat Mortale seconded. Unanimous

Minutes submitted by Dave Laursen