MEETING MINUTES

Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes – August 21, 2023

Meeting called to order at 9:40 by President Gisvold. Board Members present: Dave Laursen, Bob Gisvold, Tom MvGovern, Jeff Holten Sharyn Nepsha, Jennifer O’Neill, John Eaton, Bill Schultz, Mark Bovee. Board Members absent: Jeff Brockberg, Steve Mortensen. Guest: Steve Henry ESD.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Jeff Holten moved to approve the July 17 Meeting Minutes with the corrected spelling of his name. Mark Bovee seconded.

TREASURER’S REPORT. Dave Laursen reported that the bank balance of the Leech Lake Association on July 31 was $77,066.75. Income during the month was $2540 from membership renewals. Expenses were $806.99, which included $300 to the Postoffice to replenish our balance there, $120 to Arrow Printing for the Annual Meeting Invitation, $205.00 to the Walker Area Food Shelf, $55 to ACCL for Drying Wipes, $62.55 to Dave Laursen for a check reorder, and $63.84 to Jennifer O’Neil for incurred expenses.

Dave also reported that he had paid Aquatic Plant Management (APM) $11,522 which did not appear on the July bank statement. A CD in the amount of $4772.32 renewed automatically on July 25 at a rate of 1.76%. John Eaton moved to approve the Treasurer’s report. John McGovern seconded. Motion carried.

ANNUAL MEETING; Eighty dinners were served. The Association paid for gratuities, taxes, and appetizers for all dinners , plus five dinners for special invites. Total cost to the Leech Lake Association was $2967,74. Seventy five attendees paid 25.00 each for their own dinners.

The board consensus was that the food and setting were good, though crowded. There were 80 attendees for a room designed to hold 50, so many needed to sit outside on the patio and may have had trouble hearing the speakers. Ole’s Bar & Grill offered to put us in a larger space next year, but predicting attendance at these Annual Meetings is difficult, and probably speaker and topic dependent.

WATER TESTING: Tom McGovern reported that water samples and secchi disc readings were taken the previous day. The seechi disc readings were 10.5 feet in Agency Bay, 17 feet in Kabekona, and 9 feet on the main lake, probably due to wind and algae blooms.

ROOSEVELT CANAL: Jeff Brockberg reported by phone that Ryan Bruns (our canal excavator) is monitoring the canal for need of dredging. Broad members who regularly use the canal say there is no problem getting through.

GIRL LAKE PROJECT: The proposed project to remove the dam on the Girl Lake outlet to allow fish passage via a free-flowing stream is still a year away according to John Eaton who has been in contact with Doug Schultz on this project. Doug will let us know how we might contribute once the project is better defined.

DONATIONS : Museum and Hope Lutheran. The Board approved becoming a member of the Cass County Museum at a booster level of $100, and also approved a donation of $100 to Hope Lutheran Church for use of their meeting room and AV equipment. Sharyn Nepsha moved to approve these donations. Jennifer O’Neil seconded. Motion carried.

INVASIVE SPECIES: Steve Henry, Cass AIS Technician, reported that the week of September17 will be the last week of launch site inspections. He also reported that a patch of Starry Stonwort had been found at Hiawatha Beech on the left side of the boat ramp. He went on to mention possible treatment options including a mat or wire mesh containing copper sulfate which can be draped on the bottom of the harbor, a method that still needs to be tested and approved by DNR and the Tribe. Steve also said that a decontamination station would be placed at Erickson’s Landing probably by 2025, preferably one powered by electricity rather than diesel which allows faster changes in temperature.

Steve and John Eaton discussed what our future role should be in the treatment of Starry Stonewort infestations on Leech Lake. Steve Henry to convene a task force this fall of outside experts and the Leech Lake Tribe to discuss a way forward.

ACCL SIGN AND TOOL PROJECT: ACCL is providing a sign and boat cleaning tools to place at Cass County boat landings. We waited to participate in this program until we saw how it worked in practice. Data is being gathered but not definitive at this point. John Eaton volunteered to place a sign and tool kit at Erickson’s Landing. The cost of each sign and tool kit is $37.

MEMBERSHIP: Jennifer O’Neill reported that the Leech Lake Association has 176 paid -up members at this point. She will be sending out a reminder mailing soon to those who have not paid. A reminder mailing is typically needed because our fiscal year ends on July 31 and members are often confused as to whether they have renewed. We also discussed a mass mailing to all Leech Lake homeowners (some 2200) as a way to increase membership. This has succeeded in the past.

ZONING & PLANNING: Mark Bovee reported no relevant activity on Leech Lake during the past month. He also reported on an investigation he is doing on AirB&Bs and how they are regulated in Cass and neighboring counties. It seems there are few or no regulations regarding these entities or their effect on lake neighborhoods. Mark to continue to follow up.

CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST LAND TRANSGER. Bob Gisvold discussed a recent Pilot Article discussing this transfer of Chippewa Forest Land to the Leech Lake Tribe. A website was given in the article where the public could see a map of the lands being transferred and make comments.

Jeff Holten moved to adjourn at 11:00. Bill Schultz seconded the motion.

Minutes submitted by Dave Laursen

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