Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes -- May 16, 2022

Meeting called to order by Vice President McGovern at 9:312 AM.

Board Members Present: Dave Laursen, Tom McGovern, Jeff Brockerg, Jennifer O'Neill, Steve Mortensen, Bill Schultz, Mark Bovee, John Eaton, Jeff Holten Sharyn Nepsha. Absent: Robert Gisvold. Guests: Carl Pederson, DNR: Dana Gutzmann, ESD; Heidi Rantale, DNR (via Zoom).

SECRETARY'S REPORT: John Eaton moved to approve November 21 Meeting Minutes as written. Bill Schultz seconded. Unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Laursen reported that the LLA bank balance at the end of April was $57,803.79. Checkbook balance was $41,093.65. Major expenditures over the winter was a $10,000 donation towards the Miller Bay acquisition. During April 2022, $90 was disbursed to Phycotech for algae testing, and $200 to MN Lakes and Rivers for annual dues. Jeff Holten moved to approve Treasurer's Report. Jeff Brockberg seconded.

PHYTOPLANKTON REPORT: Heidi Rantala, the DNR phytoplankton expert, briefed the Board via zoom on the results of her analyses of Leech Lake algae during 2021. No significant changes yet due to zebra mussel infestation.

LEECH LAKE WATER LEVELS: Jason Hauser from the COE reported by email that the water level on Leech Lake is 1295.39. Normal for this time of the year is 1294.70, so water is presently high. Discharge from the dam is 850 cps. Water levels will remain high until flooding downstream (Aitkin area) abates.

DNR FISHING REPORT: Carl Pederson received reports of decent fishing on opening weekend. He notified the board that he has employed an intern for the summer (Bruce ?) He mentioned that zebra mussels are damaging trawling nets on Mille Lacs and other lakes, but Leech Lake is not yet affected by this issue and trawling will continue.

LAKE SAFETY: Jeff Brockberg reported that the Sheriff's department had received new buoys, some lighted, but that the late spring prevented all of them from being placed at the time of this writing. The Roosevelt Canal did not require dredging at this time but will continue to be monitored.

STARRY STONEWART: Steve Mortensen reported that a Dash unit was delivered to the tribe last week. The DNR has received funding to pull stems from infested boat harbor and beyond. Dana Gutzmann reports that inspectors are out but no new infestations found. Decontamination units placed on Cass, Norway Beach, and three on Winne.

Chamber Walleye Tournament: John Eaton asked for LLA volunteers to sign in tournament participants on Friday, before the June 3-4 tournament. Mark Bovee and Sharyn Nepsha volunteered. John also reported that the LLA Management Plan was nearly ready to print, and he asked for LLA Board who had input to review the Acknowledgement Page

ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC: This event is scheduled for August 5 at the Chase. We need to decide on whether the picnic dinner will be buffet or plated. We also need to identify a speaker. Sharyn Nepsha coordinating.

SPRING NEWSLETTER: Dave Laursen and Jennifer O'Neill collecting articles. Newsletter will be mailed in a large envelope along with a Starry Stonewart handout and a Spiny Waterflea swab purchased from ACCL.

Bill Swartz moved to adjourn at 11:10. Steve Mortensen seconded.

Minutes prepared by Dave Laursen