Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes --August 16, 2021

Meeting called to order by President Gisvold at 9:45

Board Members present: Bob Gisvold, Dave Laursen, Mark Bovee, Jennifer O'Neill, Sharyn Nepsha, Bill Schultz . .Absent: Jeff Holten, Jeff Brockberg, John Eaton, Steve Mortensen. Guests: Dana Gutzmann.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mark Bovee moved to approve July Meeting Minutes as written. Bill Schultz seconded. Unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Laursen reported that the LLA Bank Balance at the end of July was $60,570.04. Checkbook balance was $43,918.45. Income was $3905 in membership renewals. Expenses were $573.65, including $448 to RMB Labs for water testing, and the balance for printing and mailing of the banquet invitations. Jennifer O'Neill moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Sharyn Nepsha seconded. Unanimous.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS MEETING: Mark Bovee reported on the meeting that he and John Eaton attended with the Corps at the Walker Community Center.on July 24. The Corps was seeking public input on what improvements the Corps could make to better manage operation of the northern reservoirs, including Leech Lake. These input gathering meetings, which the Corps have been holding at various locations in northern Minnesota, was not well publicized locally, and John and Mark were about the only attendees from the public. Needless to say, it is difficult to suggest improvements to the present system without understanding the present system. Mark has volunteered to gather information on the northern reservoirs, which includes Leech, Winnie, Pokegama, Big Sandy, Gull, and Pine Rivver/Cross Lake, and share it with the board. The board is already well aware of the perennial flood risk at Aitkin which impacts the ability of the Corps to release water from the northern reservoirs.

AIS UPDATES: Dana Gutzmann reported on on-going AIS efforts. Starry trekker efforts will begin this weekend with three routes identified: Leech Lake, Baby Lake, and one other. She is also seeking volunteers to drag small nets to gather phytoplankton. Efforts are underway to expand the AIS Detectors program, which includes training for those who volunteer. Bill Schultz has been involved with this program in the past.

In regard to the Stony Stonewart infestation found in a Leech Lake harbor, the DNR will pay divers to remove plants found outside the harbor, but the resort owner will be responsible for dealing with infestations inside the harbor. The DNR has agreed to fund five days using divers from Wisconsin for this removal effort.

WATER TESTING: Tom McGovern reported that he has introduced Sharyn Nepsha and Jennifer O'Neill to the finer points of collecting water samples in four-foot waves. Quite exciting so the reports go. The final collection for the summer will take place in September.

LEECH LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN: The Leech Lake Management, written by John Eaton, is now several years old and should be updated. Jennifer O'Neill has volunteered to review the document and coordinate with John Eaton on what parts of the document require update.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: Dave Laursen reported that 155 households had renewed as a result of the Annual Meeting mailing. A reminder letter will be sent out in September to those who have not renewed their 2021-2022 dues, which run from August 1 through July 31 of the following year.

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP: Board consensus was that the meeting was quite successful considering that nobody knew what to expect after a year of Covid shutdown. Sixty-two meals were served. The Leech Lake Association covered tax and gratuity for each meal, plus ballroom rental, appetizers, bartender and sales taxes, for a total outlay of $2984.69. Meal service was good, with comments regarding the main course varying. Overall, we like the setting at the Chase and were satisfied.

In the business meeting, the terms of Dave Laursen and Jeff Brockberg, which had expired in 2020, were extended through 2023, and Bill Schultz, Jennifer O'Neill and Bob Gisvold were re-elected for three more years.

Bill Schultz moved to adjourn at 11:10. Jennifer O'Neill seconded. unanimous.

Minutes submitted by Dave Laursen