Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes -- April 18, 2016

Meeting called to order at 9:32 AM.

Board Members present: Dave Laursen, Bob Gisvold, Bob Poirier, Jeff Brockberg, Gail Tufte, Jane Ekholm, John Eaton, Bill Schultz, Chuck Allen, Steve Mortensen. Absent: Pat Mortale. Guests: Doug Schultz,DNR; Dennis Leff Gene Smith, LLA members; Rima Smith Keprios, Cass Co. AIS Coordinator.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: December Meeting Minutes should be corrected to mark Chuck Allen as present. With that correction, Bob Poirier moved to approve. Jeff Brockberg seconded.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Laursen reported a checkbook balance at the end of March 2016 of $26,660.42. Income during preceding three months was $180 for membership renewals. Expenses were $682.80 related to Christmas Party Invitations and guest dinners at Ranchhouse Supper Club.

HEALTHY LAKES: John Eaton reported on AIS meetings held over the winter with ACCL, Cass County ESD, and other groups and the receipt once again of grant money to pay for additional Inspections this summer on Leech Lake. Last summer the LLA grant covered 404 additional inspection hours (beyond that provided by DNR). This year the grant will cover 720 additional hours. The AIS inspection effort seems to be limited by trained manpower and additional dollars might be insufficient to much expand the effort. John also mentioned that he had attended the invitation-only DNR round table held annually in the twin cities to discuss ongoing DNR issues.

Rima Smith Keprios, Cass County AIS Coordinato,r answered the Board's questions regarding Cass County AIS efforts, including the locating of additional washing stations ( perhaps at Federal Dam or Bena) , planned training programs for AIS inspectors (33 new hires) and so forth. Patrick Welle, retired BSU professor, has completed his interviews of resorters along the Boy River Watershed regarding AIS knowledge among the resorters and their customers, and his report will be available soon. Jane Ekholm showed the Board photographs of zebra mussel incrusted docks on Cass Lake.

LEECH LAKE WALLEYE TOURNAMENT: John Eaton on Steering Committee for Leech Lake Walleye Tournament to be held on June 4 & 5. Additional volunteers needed to assist with Registrations, boats entering and leaving water before and after tournament, waterexchanges for those wanting to retain bait, etc. About four additional volunteers needed to assist, both during early morning launching and afternoons (2;30 to 3:00 PM),

DNR REPORT: Doug Schultz reported that he has found a new hire to replace Matt Ward as Large Lake Specialist, and is awaiting approval to extend offer. DNR budgets very tight and a fishing license increase may be in the offing. During last license increase, the DNR only received half of what was requested. The Walker Fishery office presently down two people. At a recent DNR inspection of the new boat harbor being dug at Hiawatha Beach Resort, some areas of the dig were found to be non-compliant with permits, and appropriate action will be taken. New dock complex at Bluewater Lodge now being installed.

LAKE SAFETY: Jeff Brockberg has been in touch with the Sheriff and Levi Brown from the Tribe regarding navigability of the Roosevelt Canal. At this point there appears to be sufficient depth. Bob Poirier to make a run through with his boat this week to check it out.

GOVERNMENT: Jane Ekholm reported on a Leech Lake property where four variances were requested: Too large a building, too tall a building, too close to the road. All were approved except a Septic too close to the bluff. Another example of zoning ordinances seeming to be almost meaningless. Jane briefed the board on her upcoming leave of absence and provided advice on ecological issues to be aware of (such as aquatic damage from increased Bluewater Lodge boat traffic).

CORMORANT CONTROL:

Steve Mortensen reported that cormorant control in 2016 will be similar to previous years. Objective is to maintain the flock at no more than 500 breeding pairs. Steve mentioned that some group in Washington D.C. is suing to stop cormorant control efforts but no further details were available.

NEWSLETTER: Dave Laursen passed out the Spring 2016 issue of the LLA Newsletter. This is a very informative newsletter thanks to contributions by DNR, COE, and others.

AUDIT: Dave Laursen to arrange meeting with Bob Poirier and Roseanne Budahl to audit LLA books. Bob unavailable until sometime in May.

LLA PICNIC SPEAKER: Bob Poirier mentioned that he will attempt to get Al Linder to speak at our picnic and business meeting in late July or early August depending on Al's availability.

MASS MAILING MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: Bob Poirier and Bill Schultz expressed interest in writing the solicitation letter which would go go all Leech Lake property owners (some 2400). Pat Mortale also has volunteered in the past to assist.

Jane Ekholm moved to adjourn at 11:30. Gail Tufte seconded.

Minutes prepared by Dave Laursen