**Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes -- August 21, 2017**

Meeting called to order at 9:31 by Bob Gisvold. Board members present: Bob Gisvold, Bob Poirier, John Eaton, Bill Schultz, Tom McGovern, Ray Gold, and Pat Mortale.

Guests: Carl Pederson-DNR; Sharyn Nepsha-Oak Point Association.

**Secretary’s Report:** Bill Schultz moved to approve the minutes of the July 17th meeting as written. Bob Poirier seconded. Unanimous.

Tom McGovern filled in as Secretary in the absence of Dave Laursen.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Bob Gisvold reported an end of July 2017 balance at First National Bank of $28,536.31. $7,950 has been deposited from 200 renewing members’ dues in August. Cost of the Annual Meeting at the Lucky Moose was $462.96.

Ray Gold moved to approve the treasurer’s report. Bill Schultz seconded.

Unanimous. Bob Poirier suggested moving to the Casino next year as they are set up better for accommodating 50 plus people. Members agreed.

**DNR Report:** Carl Pederson reported trawling results. Young of the Year Perch are showing the highest population ever reported. Spot Tail Shiners are in abundance also.

Trawling nets are showing a trend of less Crayfish than recent years.

The DNR will be assessing Bass, Blue Gill and Crappies next year.

Ray Gold introduced the letter (attached) from Brad Arndt, who has a cabin on Traders Bay, and is a LLA member. Discussion topics were: Lack of *Conservation Officers* on the lake, (new officers are graduating from Academy soon and one is interested in Walker area). *Tullibee* natural mortality rate continues. No changes in limits are under consideration. *Perch* fishing pressure is rising. The Leech Lake Fisheries Input group will be discussing panfish regulation changes at their next meeting. Regarding Mille Lacs, the food chain is disrupted by many different AIS, and that is impacting the walleye fishing. Carl has agreed to write a response to Brad Arndt regarding all points and copy the LLA. *Copy of Carl’s response is attached*

Ray Gold asked Carl about the Leech Lake vegetation (fish habitat) evaluation.

Carl said that the evaluation of vegetation is a very big process. None is scheduled but is overdue based on the LL management plan. Budget cuts are the cause. Spot surveys may be possible in the future.

**Leech Lake Water Levels:** Timm Rennecke sent a report to all as he was absent. Water levels are now at 1294.15. The dam is still at minimum flow. We are still in “Moderate Drought”. *See attached report*. John Eaton spoke regarding the Leech Lake Regatta low water issues. Carl Pederson said Stony Point boat ramp harbor is too shallow for larger boats.

**Cormorants:** No update as Steve Mortensen was absent

**Osprey Nest Camera:** Bob Poirier reported that the project is still on track to go live this spring. Website development, equipment, pole and power are all on schedule.

Arvig is providing equipment at 50% off regular pricing. Arvig is also considering helping with the project financially. Two private foundations will cover ongoing costs.

**Water Sampling report:** Tom McGovern reported future dates are 8/28 and 9/25. Summary reports will be available in October.

**Roosevelt Canal update:** Discussion started regarding how often the canal may need to be dredged and who should be paying for it. The LLA Board doesn’t feel it has sole responsibility to maintain the canal. Birchwood Resort owners, Gene Alderson and his Dad used to maintain the canal. Today, the resorts do not seem interested in helping financially. No one knows how long the LLA has been paying for maintenance.

*John Eaton has kicked off a wonderful new plan (through the Chamber of Commerce) to get all affected parties to the table to discuss the future of the canal. See Attached titled Roosevelt canal*

**Leech Lake Watershed:** John Eaton reported on a future meeting Sept. 15, regarding the Leech Lake Watershed, which is one of 6 major watersheds in Cass County. All are invited.

*See attachment titled LL Watershed Aug.17*

**Legislative/Rulemaking:** *See attachment titled Legislative Report by Gail*

**AIS:** Bill Schultz reported that a recent survey of 178 Minnesota lakes resulted in two Stearns County lakes identified with Starry Stonewort.

**EEL Pout Festival:** Walker Chamber President Cindy Wanarka has shared an RFP regarding the Festival, written by Jared Olson. Jared hopes to move the festival to what he thinks will be a friendlier community with a county sheriff that won’t put travel restrictions on the ice. Also to gain a higher profit. He has sent the RFP to the C of C offices in Walker, Bemidji, Mille Lacs and Pelican Lake/Breezy Point.

*RFP is attached*

John Eaton moved to adjourn at 11:30. Bill Schultz seconded.

Draft of minutes prepared by Tom McGovern.

*Attachments identified with blue font above.*