Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes -- May 15, 2017

Meeting called to order at 9:34 Board Members present: Bob Gisvold, Dave Laursen, John Eaton, Tom McGovern, Pat Mortale, Bill Schultz,Jeff Brockberg, ray Gold, Steve Mortensen, Mike Sievert. Absent: Bob Poirier, Gail Tufte. Guests: Carl Pederson, DNR; Timm Rennecke, COE, Katie Zolinis, LL Tribal Botanist.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Bill Schultz moved to approve the Minutes of the April 24 Meeting as written. Tom McGovern seconded. Unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Laursen reported a checkbook balance of $15,890.53 as of April 28, 2017. Total bank balance on that date was $32,111. 36. One debit of $98.25 for 2017 website expense. Jeff Brockberg moved to approve Treasurer's Report. John Eaton seconded. Unanimous.

LEECH LAKE WATER LEVELS: Timm Rennecke reported that water levels were at 94.45, just below the bottom of the summer band (94.50). Less than 0.5 of rain in April caused the lake to drop slightly. but normal precipitation in May should bring lake up to desired summer level. Timm mentioned that lower water levels are beneficial to the wild rice crop. Timm also mentioned that a decontamination station will be sited at Federal Dam in the very near future.

DNR REPORT: Carl Pederson reported that muskie trapping and spawn take had been completed in Miller Bay. The eggs are presently hatching and the young fish will be distributed around the state to maintain genetic diversity in lakes that have the Leech Lake strain and for stocking purposes. Three of the 37 muskies captured had been marked as captured before. Muskie of various sizes were taken, which is a good sign for the population. The largest was 49 inches. The license fee increase needed to prevent loss of people and projects does not appear likely to be approved by this legislature. Fishing reports on Opening Weekend were fairly good. Expansion of the northern limit from 3 to 10 fish remains in limbo.

HEALTHY LAKES & AIS ISSUES; John Eaton reported that he had not received news regarding our grant application for a DNR match to our $1000 for 80 hours of additional boat inspections on Leech Lake. What is known is that there were more requests than money available. John reported that the Chamber had sent out Instructions and the Angler Compliance and Certification Form to all angers participating in the Leech Lake walleye Tournament on June 3 & 4. Cass County and ACCL has published a list and location of the nine Decontamination Stations located in Cass County. There will be no charge to boatowners. The decontamination sites will keep track of usage and submit a bill to the county later. Starry Stonewort is starting to show up in more places, and ACCL has put out a flyer describing this nasty intruder. The University is sending out searchers to look for this AIS. Bill and Pat to take AIS Detector training in Bemidji. John mentioned that Cass County has a new "Guide to Lake Stewardship" booklet, offering tips to present or prospective lake home owners.

RMB Labs TEST PROGRAM: Moiria Rufer from RMB Labs will train volunteers and pass out water sampling materials at 11:30 today following this meeting. Board had lengthy discussion on how we might make use of the data RMB collects, and what data has been collected in the past by the MPCA, the COE and other groups. It is important to seek out and try and consolidate all Leech Lake water quality data that presently exists. We will seek RMB's help with this. Pat Mortale has contacted the people who have been doing secci disc readings on Miller Bay and Pumphouse Bay and they will continue to do this, but not collect water samples.

ROOSEVELT CANAL: Jeff Brockberg briefed the Board on steps taken to remove silt and rock from the Roosevelt Canal. This is a complex undertaking considering a tribal permit is needed, permission to cross private property, hiring a contractor, and so on. Some dredging was done on both ends of the canal by Ryan Bruns who also did the dredging in 2015. Estimated cost of this year's dredging is $2500. Estimated cost of doing the dredging through the ice with larger equipment, as was done in the past, might run eight to ten thousand dollars, and seems quite beyond our budget, and unnecessary. A present problem is that large rocks bordering the canal are pushed into the canal by ice and hence require removal. A suggestion was made that perhaps these rocks should be removed altogether since they don't seem to serve a useful purpose. This may be considered in the future. Jeff also mentioned that there is graffiti on the bridge that needs to be painted over. Sentence to Serve does the painting. We pay for the paint.

WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER: The newsletter is at the printer and projected to be mailed this week. The website is getting some 150 hits a month. Pat will put his weekly fishing update on the website.

BOARD MEMBER RESIGNATION: Teri Weidemann has indicated her intent to resign from the board and we our awaiting her letter of resignation.

ANNUAL MEETING: Jeff Brockberg moved to hold our annual meeting and picnic at Lucky Moose on Wednesday, August 2. Pat Mortale seconded. Jeff to stop at Lucky Moose on his way home after this meeting to confirm our reservation A speaker is still needed.

Tom McGovern moved to adjourn at 11:35. John Eaton seconded.

Minutes prepared by Dave Laursen