Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes -- October 15, 2018

Meeting called to order by President Gisvold at 9:35 AM. Board members present: Dave Laursen, Bob Gisvold, Mike Frank, Pat Mortale, Tom McGovern,Steve Mortensen, Sharon Nepsha, Bill Schultz. Absent: Ray Gold, Jeff Brockberg, Timm Rennecke. Guests: Carl Pederson, DNR; Kelly LaVenture,BSU; Mark Vondenkamp, Portage Brewery; Leslie Frank; Lynn & Peggy Cupke.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: John Eaton moved to approve September Meeting Minutes as written: Pat Mortale seconded. Unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Laursen reported that the LLA's bank balance at the end of September was $39, 220.60. Checkbook balance was $22,88l.22. Income for the month was $310 in membership dues. Expenses were $1480, which included $1122 for liability insurance, $164 for a Pilot Ad, and $195 for Chamber dues and website hosting. John Eaton moved to approve Treasurer's Report. Pat Mortale seconded. Unanimous.

DNR REPORT: Carl Pedersen reported that adult zebra mussels were found on the same sailboat anchored in Allens Bay where they were found last summer. No other adults were found in that area. There was a report of an adult found in Shingobee Bay but AIS divers were unable to find any adults. Velligers were found in DNR zooplankton samples for the first time this summer -- 2 velligers in Walker Bay samples, and three in Agency Bay during September and October sampling. Carl also reported that there would be some spot checking of aquatic vegetation at certain sites next summer and beyond. Carl also reported that perch numbers are decreasing statewide, with the reasons uncertain. Pat Mortale to offer some ideas on perch issues at the November meeting.

WATER TESTING. Tom McGovern reported that water testing has been completed for the summer and results were similar to the year before, though water clarity had decreased somewhat, probably due to heavy rains, or wave action when samples were taken. Tom also reported that RMB Labs will no longer be doing algae testing, though we could continue this through the University at $100 a time. Since we now have a baseline, there was discussion as to whether we could discontinue this testing for a time. The same may apply to the annual water testing also. A decision regarding whether to continue the testing will be the subject of a future meeting.

LEECH LAKE RIVER 1 WATERSHED 1 PLAN: John Eaton reported that the Advisory Group is getting close to submitting a draft plan to review authorities which will then be available for public comment in December, with public hearings probably in February. ACCL is also holding meetings to assist local lake associations to develop management plans and strategies for dealing with AIS on county lakes. Jessica Manifold was recently hired as the new Assistant ESD Director and will be coordinating AIS efforts as well as other ESD work. It was suggested that we invite Jessica to our next meeting. John, who wrote our last Leech Lake Association Management Plan, will review the old plan and recommend necessary updates.

FROSTFEST: This winter event, held for the first time last February, was sponsored by the Watershed Foundation as a fundraising venture. It involved a tremendous amount of work and the Foundation decided not be involved next February. Mark VandenKamp, one of the promoters of FrostFest, asked if the Leech Lake Association would be willing to sponsor next year's event. After hearing from Mark on what our participation would involve, the Board decided that we lacked the necessary resources and people to properly handle this event and decided unanimously not to take on this project. Individual LLA members are encouraged to participate where possible, perhaps by hosting a table.

BSU MARKETING CONSULTING: Mike Frank had invited Kelly LaVenture, a BSU professor, to brief the Board on how her and her marketing students could help with marketing programs to expand our membership and also make recommendations for improving our website. The Board authorized spending up to $1000 towards these endeavors and will review their efforts at the November meeting.

WATER LEVELS: Timm Rennecke reported by email that Leech Lake water levels had risen to the middle of the desirable summer band due to approximated double normal September rainfall. The lake outflow has been increased to 400 cfs and winter drawdown will begin as conditions warrant. Present lake level is 1294.7.

CORMORANTS & PELICANS: Steve Mortensen reported that more cormorants may be taken next year to deal with increased numbers.. Around 700 were removed this year. The number of pelicans is also increasing.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: We had hoped to move our Christmas Party to a Saturday to increase attendance, but there were no Saturday openings at the Chase for this December(Chase was the desired party site). The Board decided to cancel this year's Christmas Party, and make a Saturday reservation for 2019. Pat Mortale moved to delay the Christmas Party for a year. Mike Frank seconded. Unanimous.

MILLER BAY PLEDGE: Dave and Ray to come up with language for putting a sunset clause on our pledge offer.

Pat Mortale moved to adjourn at 12:15 PM. John Eaton seconded. Unanimous.

Minutes prepared by Dave Laursen