**Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes**

**June 17, 2019**

Meeting called to order by President Gisvold at 9:37 AM.

**Board members present**: Bob Gisvold, Tom McGovern, John Eaton, Steve Mortensen, Sharyn Nepsha, and Bill Schultz.

**Guests:** Timm Rennecke, COE; Al Sanford, Mark Bovee and Jeff Holten

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** John Eaton moved to approve the May 20th Meeting Minutes with one correction. (Changed Treasures report from 2010 to 2019) Bill Schultz seconded. Unanimous.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Tom McGovern reported that the LLA bank balance at the end of May 2019, was $41,02.37**. Income during the month was a $500. Donation by Roger Sasse.** Expenses were $114.76 for Newsletter postage. $760.55 for Newsletter Printing and $150. for ACCL dues. Bill Shultz moved to approve Treasurer's Report. John Eaton seconded. Unanimous.

**New Board member:** Tom McGovern nominated Jeff Holten for an open board seat. Seconded by Sharyn Nepsha. Unanimous. Jeff lives on the East side near Brevik. Jeff’s email is: [holtenjeff@gmail.com](mailto:holtenjeff@gmail.com) Phone # 651-270-5577 Jeff has a great background of service to bring to the LLA board. Welcome Jeff!

**WATER LEVELS:** Timm Rennecke reported that the lake level was at 1295.50, at the top of the summer band and going higher. Output at the dam has been increased to 600cps, but not enough to have any effect on the lake level anytime soon. Timm explained that outflows from the upper reservoirs: Leech, Winne, Pokegama -- are constrained by flooding conditions in the Aitkin area, and the Aitkin area is still experiencing high water. Until that changes, discharge at Federal Dam cannot be increased per the Corps Operating Plan. (Refer to the LLA Spring 2019 Newsletter for more detail)

Timm handed out a graph report showing Leech Lake levels have risen the past 5 years from 1294.25 to 1295.50 Dam renovation funds have been budgeted but not started. Timm suggested that lakeshore owners should take pictures of shoreline damage after the water recedes and send to their government representatives. They will in turn tell the Corp to take some action. The Mississippi Headwaters board is not taking initiative and neither are the Lake Associations.

**CORMORANTS:** Steve Mortensen reported that application by the Tribe and the DNR to obtain permits to control cormorants to the 500 nesting pair level has been approved, and that some 3000 will be taken this summer. 1,230 culled to date. The diet studies will continue, with small perch the primary food source in past studies. The high water level is causing serious erosion on portions of Pelican Island.

**JOINT MLR, ACCL, AND MN COLA MEETING ON JUNE 17-18:** John Eaton reported on his involvement in planning for this joint meeting and some of the activities planned during the all day meeting on the 18th. John has lined up some pontoon boats so DNR officials can take interested attendees on field trips after the formal program ends.

**WATER TESTING:** The water testing program is going as planned. Algae sample to be shipped to NRRI testing laboratory in Duluth. Water clarity was discussed and Secchi Disk readers agreed that the lake seems to be more stirred up the past few weeks.

**Zebra Mussels**: Bill Schultz introduced a study he found at on Lake Erie where Perch and Sheephead are eating Zebra Mussels.

**Annual Walleye Tournament:** John Eaton worked this as usual and reported high fish kill with some observers being upset. **Catch/Photo/Release** is being considered for next year.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** The Chase contract is shared with the board. Meal plan is a buffet of Chicken and Ribs. Meatball and salty snacks planned with social hour bar. $25/person. Need attendee count by July 22nd.

Bill Schultz moved to adjourn at 11:30 AM. Jeff Holten seconded. Unanimous

Minutes submitted by Tom McGovern