LEECH LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES - September 18, 2017

Meeting called to order at 9:31AM.

Board Members Present: Bob Gisvold, Dave Laursen, Tom McGovern, Bob Poirier, Pat Mortale, Gail Tufte, Jeff Brockberg, Bill Schultz. Absent: Ray Gold, John Eaton, Steve Mortensen, Mike Sievert. Guests: Timm Rennecke, COE; Dennis & Judy Werling, Homeowners.

SECRETARY's REPORT: Jeff Brockberg moved to approve August Meeting Minutes as written. Bill Schultz seconded. Unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Laursen reported that LLA bank balance as of August 31 was $34,971.51. Checkbook balance was $19,724.03. Deposits from memberships were $7,950. Expenses were $533.13, which included Lucky Moose Annual Meeting expenses, plus Postoffice Box rent. Tom McGovern moved to approve Treasurer's Report. Gail Tufte seconded. Unanimous.

LEECH LAKE WATER LEVELS; Timm Rennecke reported that the lake level as of September 18 was 1294.10, about six inches below the lower summer band of 1294.5. Fall drawdown of the lake has of course not begun, pending fall rainfall. The Northern Hemisphere is presently on a La Nina Watch, which could lead to a 60% stormier, colder winter.

LEECH LAKE RIVER ONE WATERSHED ONE PLAN: Pat Mortale and Tom McGovern reported on their attendance at the LL River 1 input session on September 13. The meeting was open to the public and reviewed watershed information, discussed values and issues identified by stakeholders and solicited input from attendees. About 65 people attended, who were then divided into groups of 8 or 10 who discussed and ranked a variety of issues, including AIS, water levels, and so forth. A consulting firm will consolidate input and prepare a final report by year's end. Grant money coming from Lessard-Sams.

AIS MEETING: Bill Schultz reported on a meeting he attended at the University of Minnesota AIS Center established in 2012. Around 275 people attended, plus four faculty members. Presenters discussed progress and future efforts to control AIS, particularly zebra mussels. Efforts will include chemical control of velligers, which are more sensitive to chemicals than adults, with the goal of reducing future adult numbers; biological control by identifying sick adults and isolating what's making them sick as an eventual control method; genetically by studying the genome for vulnerabilities. A study in cooperation with UMD and DNR will study the effects of zebra mussels on small fish. Another invasive to watch is phagmoties (sp?), an aquatic plant that has evolved to produce seeds and is causing a problem in Michigan and Nebraska.

OSPREY CAMERA: Birds still present. Power company lined up to provide power to nest. Need to decide whether camera should be on same or separate pole. Cost of camera will run around 8,900. Might be able to get it at a 50% discount or hopefully free through sponsorship. Pat Mortale pointed out that neighboring property boundary needs to be carefully observed because boundary is very close to pole.

ROOSEVELT CANAL: Chamber of Commerce will host a meeting in October to discuss who should be taking responsibility for dredging the Roosevelt Canal. Resorts, local businesses, and the Leech Lake Tribe should be invited. The Leech Lake Association does not believe that we should assume ongoing responsibility for the cost of annual dredging.

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER: Dave Laursen and Pat Mortale will prepare a reminder mailing to members who have not yet paid their dues for 2017/2018. Approximately 160 of last year's members have not renewed. This mailing will go out in October.

FISHING ISSUES IN PORTAGE BAY: Timm Rennecke mentioned that fish numbers and fishing success in the Federal Dam area seem to have changed in the past couple of years (all big fish, no keepers?). Timm asked that the DNR report on test net data from that area of the lake to see if something there is different from the Western Bays where fishing has held up well. Anecdotal reports from fishermen are that the cabbage beds and aquatic vegetation in general have disappeared in the Portage Bay area.

RMB WATER TESTING: Last samples of the season to be gathered next week.

NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting has been rescheduled for October 23 (the fourth Monday).

LEECH LAKE FISHING TOURNAMENT: The tournament organizers have decided against making this tournament a catch, photo, and release tournament. They believe it important to maintain the present excitement and audience at the weigh-in. The tournament might be tweaked to add more oxygenated holding tanks for fish, since many more fish are being caught and fish are dying in the tanks, or upon release.

Bill Schultz moved to adjourn at 11:10 AM. Jeff Brockberg seconded.

Minutes provided by Dave Laursen.