Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes -- December 17, 2018

Meeting called to order by President Gisvold at 9:32 AM. Board members present: Bob Gisvold, Dave Laursen, Sharyn Nepsha, John Eaton, Bill Schultz, Mike Frank, Ray Gold, Pat Mortale. Guests: Carl Pederson, DNR; Timm Rennecke, COE; Kelly LaVenture,BSU; Leslie Frank, Lynn & Peggy Cupke.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Pat Mortale moved to approve October Meeting Minutes as written. Bill Schultz seconded. Unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Dave Laursen reported that the LLA bank balance at the end of November was $41,857.02 Checkbook balance was $25, 517.44. Income during November was $3650 in membership renewals. John Eaton moved to approve Treasurer's Report. Sharyn Nepsha seconded. Unanimous.

WATER LEVELS: Timm Rennecke reported that Leech Lake was at 1294.5, with outflow increasing as we head into winter. There is about 15 inches of ice on the main lake, two to ten inches on Walker Bay. Timm also mentioned that there are plans underway to do some renovation on the Federal Dam. This includes adding a fish passage from the Leech Lake River, eliminating dredged areas downstream as well as restoring some oxbows to allow more natural flow. This will involve a new operating plan. There will be a meeting in January to brainstorm.

BSU MEMBERSHIP SURVEY: BSU Professor Kelly La Venture discussed her proposal to use some of her students to assist the Leech Lake Association in expanding its membership through surveys and targeted mailings. Because a survey of members and potential members would be the first step in this project, the Board engaged in a long discussion of the objectives and likely response to such a survey, and the potential benefits. Sharyn Nepsha moved to proceed with the survey, using BSU Marketing personnel. Mike Frank seconded. After further discussion, the motion failed to pass.

LEECH LAKE ASSOCIATION PERCH PROPOSAL: Pat Mortale has updated a proposal to improve Leech Lake perch numbers through a number of steps, including size restrictions, reduced bag limits, and ending the season with the walleye season. These ideas will be presented at the spring DNR Fishing Advisory meeting. Pat moved to approve this letter proposal. Ray Gold seconded. Unanimous.

CASS COUNTY AIS PLANNING MEETING: Pat Mortale and John Eaton represented the Leech Lake Association at this meeting hosted by John Ringle and Jessica Manifold to develop a plan and budget for Cass County AIS efforts during 2019. The comprehensive AIS plan will be published in late December.

LL RIVER l WATERSHED 1 PLAN: John Eaton reported that the plan, after going through several iterations, will be going out for public review on February 15, 2019. John can make available a disc of the overall plan to those interested.

ALGAE TESTING: Since RMB Labs will no longer be doing algae testing, Tom McGovern has been seeking other vendors who could perform this service. We have presently been monitoring two sites on the lake and the cost through another vendor would run $196 per site per time, for a total of approximately $1000 for the season. John Ringle informed us that we may be able, through the County, to obtain a grant to defray part or all of this cost. Tom McGovern to work with Carl Pederson to draft a grant proposal for submission to Cass County ESD.

ANNUAL MEETING: Mike Frank reported that we have tentatively reserved Bluewater Lodge for our Annual Meeting and Picnic on Saturday, August 3. Some objections were raised about holding the meeting at Bluewater because food would need to be catered there. Mike to contact the Chase to see if we could book the Chase if we moved our date to a Friday rather than a Saturday.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Mike also reported that we can reserve the Chase for Saturday, December 7, for our 2019 X-mas Party. Mike moved that the Board approve the December 7 date at the Chase for the Christmas Party. Sharon Nepsha seconded. Unanimous.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on April 15, 2019, unless one is needed before then. Dave and Ray Gold should be notified if a winter meeting is believed to be necessary.

John Eaton moved to adjourn at 11:50. Bill Schultz seconded.

Minutes provided by Dave Laursen