Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes --September 19, 2022

Meeting called to order by President Gisvold at 9:45. Board members present: Dave Laursen, Bob Gisvold, Jeff Brockberg, John Eaton, Mark Bovee, Tom McGovern, Bill Schultz, Jennifer O'Neill. Absent: Steve Mortensen, Jeff Holten. Guests: Carl Pederson, DNR; Dana Gutzmann, ESD

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Jennifer O'Neill moved to approve August Meting Minutes as written. Tom McGovern seconded. Motion carried.

TRESURER'S REPORT: Dave Laursen reported the Leech Lake Association bank balance at the end of August was $64, 294.78. Income during August was $2200 from membership renewals. Expenses were $3162.63, mainly due to printing and mailing expenses, plus $220 to the chamber of Commerce for 2022 membership and website dues. Mark Bovee moved to approve Treasurer's Report. Bill Schultz seconded. Motion carried.

LEECH LAKE WATER LEVELS: Jason Hauser reported by email that the lake level was at 1295.5, the bottom of the summer band. Discharge at the dam was 250 cps. Jeff Brockberg reported that the Roosevelt Canal was in decent shape and would not likely require dredging this fall or spring 2023. A few boaters still managing to hit rocks on the Traders Bay side.

DNR REPORT: Carl Pedersen reported that the fall gill net survey had been completed and that electro-fishing operations were underway. Gill net catch rates were down some, particularly for perch. Catch rates for YOY perch via electro-fishing were also down compared to previous years, but some of the catch rates are likely weather dependent to some extent. The usually warm fall warmed the lake after it had previously cooled somewhat, which doesn't usually occur, influencing where fish congregate. Another concern with perch is that they seem to be maturing earlier, which will affect their growth patterns over time (they may not grow as large). This is happening throughout the state, with the reasons being studied. Carl also mentioned that Leech Lake had a couple of poor walleye year classes in the last couple years, but also a very good one, which is contributing to Leech Lake's present good fishing. A good year class followed by poor ones is apparently typical.

AIS EFFORTS: Dana Gutzmann reported on AIS efforts during August. She visited harbors at eight of ten resorts that she had designated for visit. Some signs at the resorts need updating, particularly now that the lake has Starry Stonewort. She reported that she may need help putting up signs. Nineteen resorts were checked for starry stonewort. No new infestations were found. Dana read a report from Rainy updating progress of the DASH program adjacent to Anderson's Cove. Rainy said the divers had pulled up 8000 pounds in ten days. Fragmentation is a problem so they put up screens on Shingobee Bay. Volunteers hard to find. Starry Stonewort now found in Thunder Lake south of Remer.

RECENT LEECH LAKE ARRIVALS: Mark Bovee reported on his efforts to develop a mailing list of people moving to Leech Lake over the past two years. His data is not yet complete and he needs help to update and identify people who have recently moved in. Dana volunteered to help using Cass County MIS who keeps track of the needed data.

FALL REMINDER MAILING: Returns from members who had not previously renewed are now coming in response to a recent reminder mailing sent out by Jennifer O'Neill. As of September 1, a total of 219 members had renewed, with a number of renewals still uncounted. We are anticipating a good response to this recent mailing.

ANNUAL MEETING: The Board discussed the where and how of our next annual meeting, which usually takes place the first Friday in August, a busy time of the year for everyone, including our members. Apparently Jeff Arnold volunteered to host the meeting at Trappers Landing. Sharyn Nepsha to follow up.

Jeff Brockberg moved to adjourn at 11:25. Bill Schultz seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Dave Laursen