Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes -- July19, 2021

Meeting called to order by President Gisvold at 8:59.

Board members present: Dave Laursen, Bob Gisvold, Jeff Brockberg, Tom McGovern, Jeff Holten, John Eaton, Mark Bovee, Jennifer O'Neill, Bill Schultz. Absent: Sharyn Nepsha, Steve Mortensen. Guests: Dana Gutzmann, Timm Rennecke

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Jeff Brockberg moved to approve June 14 Meeting Minutes as written. Jeff Holten seconded. Unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT; Dave Laursen reported that the LLA bank balance at the end of June was &57, 226.82. Checkbook balance was $40,587.10. Income during June was $230 in membership renewals. Expenses were 96.54 to Office Max for Toner and office supplies. John Eaton moved to approve Treasurer's Report. Mark Bovee seconded. Unanimous.

DNR REPORT: Doug Schultz called in from the field to report that Starry Stonewort had been found in a Leech Lake Harbor. He also said that the DNR would be issuing a press release to that effect and asked that we not disclose this information to the public until after the press release goes out.

Doug also reported that the MIller Bay acquistion was very close to being finalized. The LLA has approved a contribution of $10,000 towards that acquisition, but the funds have not yet been disbursed. Doug also mentioned that that D.W. Jones had agreed to sell 80 acres on Bear Island to the Northern Waters Land Trust for permanent protection as a aquatic management area, with DNR oversight.

LAKE SAFETY: Because of the lack of rain and low water levels, the Roosevelt Canal, particularly on the Traders Bay entrance, might require further dredging if water levels continue to fall. Jeff Brockberg will monitor the situation and coordinate with Ryan Bruns if further dredging is deemed necessary.

It was also mentioned that the buoys on Agency Narrows and Walker Narrows are difficult to see and should be replaced -- perhaps with lighted buoys? Jeff will talk to the sheriff's department about the feasibility, and cost, of lighted or more visible buoys. The LLA has purchased buoys for the Sheriff's Department in the past.

FISHING TOURNAMENTS: The recent walleye tournament on Leech Lake provoked a good deal of discussion on fishing tournaments in general, and warm water tournaments in particular. Except for the local Leech Lake tournament held at the end of May and which benefits local non-profits, the LLA has historically opposed such tournaments as bad PR and an abuse of a public resource. Going to catch, photo, and release tournaments is a big improvement, but warm weather walleye tournaments are still problematic. In the recent walleye tournament, fishermen were dragging big walleyes off the deep humps of Walker Bay which killed these fish even though they were released. This is offensive to many. There was no consensus on what could be done about this, short of the DNR putting a stop to these warm weather tournaments.

LEGISLATIVE: Jeff Holten, who also sits on the Cass County zoning and planning board, reported that there has not been a whole lot of building going on. Some septics are being redone. Jeff reported on some of issues in Whipholt where many lots are non-standard in size, with non-conforming setbacks, and a host of other issues. Some impervious surfaces are being removed and replaced with vegetation to slow runoff into the lake. Lawsuits are taking place with some properties. Jeff also mentioned that Cass County has developed a new Comprehensive Plan that affects zoning, septics, land use ordinances, and a host of other issues in the county. The new comprehensive plan is on the Cass County website and the County is seeking publiccomments.

COE INPUT MEETING: The Corps is seeking public input on many of its water control policies and will be holding an information gathering meeting at the Walker Community Center on July 24. John Eaton and Mark Hovee plan to attend.

John also reported on ACCL meetings he has recently attended.

AIS REPORT: Dana Gutzmann reported on ongoing AIS inspection activities and discussed in detail the Starry Trackers Program which is designed to find infestations of Starry Stonewort in Cass County lakes. This program takes on added significance now with its recent discovery in Leech Lake.

ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC: The Annual Meeting and Banquet will be held in the Chase ballroom on Friday, August 6. Dave Laursen has mailed out the picnic invitations. Sharyn Nepsha will be receiving RSVP's. Timm Rennecke will be the speaker. The cost to guests is $30 per person, with LLA picking up the 20% gratuity, and $500 for appetizers. There will also be a cash bar. Several Board members, whose terms have expired, will be nominated for re-election at the meeting.

Bill Schultz moved to adjourn at 11:15. John Eaton seconded.

Minutes submitted by Dave Laursen

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