

Lake Washington Improvement Association Board Meeting 2-6-2020

Board Members Present: Lyle Walker, Pat Hanson, Cindy Hewitt, Ron Bubany, Skip Sustacek, Steve Grotbo, Steve Ullom, David Rathe, Laurie Johnson, Mark Johnson,

Board members please let someone know if you are unable to attend.

Treasurer Report: Invasive Species Fund \$64,468.78 General Fund \$63,800.86

Paid Memberships:

7PM Thursday, Feb 6th meeting at Steve Grotbo's house (68409 233rd street).

1) Call Meeting to Order 7 PM – by President Steve Grotbo

2) Secretary's September Board Meeting Report (approved via email)

3) Treasurer's September 2019 – January 2020 Financial Reports – Lyle W reviewed reports noting major expenses for these months were: Dassel Fire Dept. \$2120.00; I-LIDS \$2093.61; Dassel Rod'nGun \$320.00; Newsletter \$737.00; ½ of insurance payment; BlueHost webpage \$137.00. Income about \$40.00 per month. January 2020 \$2616.56 AIS grant payment. Board approved the Treasurer's report for these months.

LWIA Board approved having Laurie Johnson be the second signer on the checking account.

4) USFWS DCCO Management Comment Opportunity – The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has issued an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) regarding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, regarding the Double Crested Cormorants. The USFWS, in collaboration with State Fish and Wildlife agencies, Tribes, and Federal partners is proposing a rule change that would:

1. Establish new permitting by State wildlife agencies for certain cormorant management and control activities to relieve or prevent impacts from cormorants on wild and stocked fisheries, aquaculture facilities, human health and safety, property and threatened or endangered species.

2. Establish an aquaculture depredation order allowing the taking of cormorants under certain conditions to be allowed without having to get individual permits.

The USFWS is seeking comments or suggestions from the public, government agencies, Tribes, scientific community, industry, or other interested parties. The comment period is from Jan 22 thru March 9., 2020.

Steve G agreed to prepare a write up that Ron B would email to all people on our email list. This will include links and steps people would need to follow in posting a comment on the USFWS website. The Board believes individual comments to be more impactful and is asking all that get the email, cut and paste Steve's write up and/or add their own comments before the March 9 deadline.

5) Training / education for members – Questions were raised during the grant applications to MCAL and Meeker AIS about what education/trainings qualify for grants. As we understand it: Training/Education for members that qualifies for reimbursement is, someone affiliated with LWIA, attending a conference, training, workshop, travel expenses, or paying to have someone speak to members of the Lake Association. Reimbursement for Newsletter expenses, even if there are articles on changes to best practices (regarding shoreline, water quality, runoff, other lake related issues), new information regarding AIS, updates to state and local rules do not meet the granting requirements at this time.

6) Sportsmen's Park Hwy 12 Signs – Dassel Rod 'n Gun Club has tabled this for the time being. In the future LWIA will look, again at financially supporting this effort. There was a discussion, regarding a number of people new on the lake are calling before meetings, asking where the Dassel Rod 'n Gun Club located.

Ron B will put a map in the email notice for our Spring and Summer Association gatherings.

7) Committee Reports

Aquatic Invasive Species:

A. Water Quality Testing – Dave R reported the committee met in the fall and Cindy H has put together a spread sheet that will have all water testing data we collect in one place. The committee is proposing to do water flow rates at all the inlets this summer. This summer they will include a water sampling of the water coming out of Stella, the committee will discontinue this practice once Stella begins their own monthly testing. This will about double our costs for testing. Water quality will begin on 3-6 inlet sites, to be determined by the committee. Joe Norman, Meeker County Soil and Water Service shared a map of the inlets they are aware of, the committee will review and confirm the sites on this map. Dave R and Mark J are going to update the water quality section of the Lake Management plan.

B. Vegetation Survey – Ron B shared mapping of EWM on Lake Washington, he noted that in some areas it is sparse and scattered. The management plan the committee is proposing is to treat upwards to 70 acres (our vegetation management plan is to treat up to 100 acres on a rotating basis each year) in 2020. Mark J will contact Limnopro to help identify areas we could treat and provide us with a cost for treatments of these areas.

C. I-LIDS/Watercraft Inspection – Dave R reported the unit is still with Eric getting updated.

D. Cormorants & Pelicans – Scott Mackenthun, DNR Hutchinson Fisheries did share with LWIA the proposal to change federal rules regarding depredation of double crested cormorants and links to comment page. He also indicated the DNR be would making comments.

E. Zebra Mussels – Hotels are ready to be put in Memorial Weekend.

F. Watershed - Skip S noted there are some concerns with the holding pond filling up with silt and needing to be dredged out at some point. He will check this out with the company the built the pond, with the idea if it needs dredging we would look at doing it next year. The committee is looking at putting an extension on an inlet on the Southeast side of the lake.

Membership / Shoreline Captains – Based on the record number of memberships last year and the fact we gave out the lake maps. A discussion about having something for the Shore Line Captains to pass out for those paying membership occurred. There was talk of maybe getting a sponsor to pay for these items. Several ideas were talked about and Cindy H. volunteered to look into potential give away items and sponsorships. She will bring these ideas to the March meeting. Laurie J will be setting up a meeting for Shore Line Captains in May before Memorial Day.

Education & Public Relations:

A. Spring Newsletter – Ron B reported it will be going out by mid April and he would like articles by the end of March. More information at the March LWIA Board meeting.

B. Website, Facebook, and Email Activity – The new website is up and running, Laurie is working on new information and formatting of the site. Steve G suggested we look at getting a sponsor for the website, Laurie will look at this. She also will be looking at developing a new logo.

Social Committee

02May2020 for pork chop dinner – Skip will check with B&B about paying for the pork chops.

Steve U will ask if Scott Macktenhun, Hutchinson DNR, or his assistant can share the latest information he has on the fish survey and other relevant lake information.

01Aug2020 for pot luck

Financial – Grants – Sharon D shared the following information:

AIS Project # 1: Invoiced: \$1,826.71 ... will be reimbursed \$1,826.71 – **I-LIDS**

AIS Project # 2: No Invoice as we did not do any Milfoil treatment in 2019

AIS Project # 3: Invoiced: \$1,064.93 will be paid \$789.85 – **RMB water testing**

Total AIS reimbursement = \$2,616.56

MCAL Invoice: Invoiced: \$5,965.66 ... **will be paid \$4,322.27** – **mapping and soft ware**

I have not heard if the AIS Grant proposals have been approved yet, so no news on that grant app.

I am working on the DNR Grant APP, and will let you know when completed and emailed.

MCAL – Pat H shared notes from Jan 16, 2020 meeting. There were many new younger members at the meeting. If MCAL gets 20 or more lakes to do water quality testing, then RMB labs will do a hands-on training session in Meeker County. MCAL will reimburse \$300 for 5 tests at each lake, that follow certain protocol. Final cost will depend on early invoice payment and shipping The CROW River Organization of Water has disbanded as a result Meeker County SWCD will receive about \$60,000. There was a report Minnebelle closed its landing.

8) Open Discussion: Lyle W reported the Board of Dassel Rod 'n Gun Club is having some organizational concerns but did vote to move forward at this time. There was some discussion by DRGC to explore, in the future, working together with LWIA. Lyle suggested, and the Board agreed to not take any action at this time.

Next Board Meeting Scheduled for Thurs. March 5th at Steve Grotbo's 68409 233rd St.

Steve Ullom will not be at March meeting, Laurie Johnson volunteered to take minutes of the meeting.