

Lake Washington Improvement Association Board Meeting March 4, 2021

Board Members Present: Mike & Sandy Wosmek, Lyle Walker, Pat Hanson, Cindy Hewitt, Ron Bubany, Bonni Halverson, Steve Grotbo, Steve Ullom, Sharon Daniels, Laurie Johnson, Mark Johnson,

Treasurer Report: Invasive Species Fund \$40,879.94 General Fund \$70,974.62

2021 Paid Memberships: 2

1) Call Meeting to Order 7 PM (Zoom meeting by Steve G).

2) Secretary's February Board Meeting Report – approved for publication on website.

3) Treasurer's February Financial Report –

Income: \$100.00 membership, \$100.00 donations, \$1,000.00 Grant from Molson Coors/Conservation MN

Expenses: \$345.00 RMB analysis, \$98.00 USPS \$76 for PO box rental.

Account Totals \$111,854.56 Board approved this report. The Board approved Piehl, Hanson, Beckman (Hutchinson, MN) to complete yearly audit for year ending April 30th and filing Federal and State paperwork required for non-profits. Lyle W will get the necessary documents to them.

4) Garbage can at Ellsworth – Steve G will contact DNR and Waste Management to start service at the landing by fishing opener. The cost in 2020 was \$60.77, Bonni will check to see if can is still at the landing and let Steve G know, it costs \$131 for them to deliver a can. Steve G shared, during recent web conference that fishing bait can not be put in the water and this can could provide a disposal place for this waste.

5) Social ideas

Sue and George Schwinghammer are up for leading the 4th of July boat parade. No changes from last year's program. Laurie J. suggested a social event LWIA Board could look at might be an ice social. The board will consider a social activity like this at a later meeting.

6) Board Member Elections - Bonni Halverson has volunteered to join LWIA Board of Directors taking Skip S position. Mike & Sandy Wosmek, Lyle Walker, Brett Rasmussen, Steve Ullom and Bonni Halverson have all agreed to serve three year terms on the LWIA Board of Directors beginning May 2021. The Board will approve the election process at the May 2021 board meeting.

7) Molson Coors and Conservation Minnesota sponsored a contest/grant program in September 2020. Sharon D and Steve U worked together to apply for these grant monies. The program was asking for "innovative" ideas Lakes could do to help with improving the quality of lake waters in Minnesota, Sharon submitted a plan to test 10 of the inlet sites water quality and flow. To further help LWIA plan for runoff into the lake. Sharon will document the costs and we will publish an article in a Newsletter sharing the information we have gained and possible outcomes/actions we plan to take. The \$1,000.00 has already been sent to LWIA, Mn Conservation will be contacting us in the future.

8) Committee Reports:

Aquatic Invasive Species:

A. Water Quality Testing – LWIA has paid RMB for the cost of testing the monthly water samples from May through September 2021.

B. Vegetation Survey – Mark J reported the committee plans to do more vegetation surveys along shorelines and revisit the 77 acres of EWM that was treated last year.

C. I-LIDS/Watercraft Inspection – Dave R will let us know the status of updating the monitor.

D. Cormorants & Pelicans – Steve G did participate in recent web event put on by the USFWS, explaining the latest rule changes regarding new depredation rules for cormorants. Some things Steve shared: 121,000 takes per year will be allowed in the lower 48 states, Canada recently did a large take and this may affect numbers in the US, non-lethal methods must be tried first (propane cannons, loud noises, Mylar ribbons, etc). Some lethal methods that may be allowed: oiling eggs, shooting with non-toxic bullets. Decoys are not allowed. A detailed plan that must meet 6 specific criteria with follow up reporting is required. Scott Mackenthun (DNR Fisheries, Hutchinson) is exploring other ideas and options by contacting state and federal officials. Rick Fernstrom (long time member of area Cormorant Committee) is also involved in conversations with local and state DNR officials. There has been a plan to update status and numbers every 5 years, there should have been counts and National summary put out in 2020. Scott M is checking on this information.

E. Zebra Mussels – Hotels will be put out Memorial weekend.

F. Watershed – Mike W has been in contact with Joe Norman (Meeker SWCS) to look at the possible need to dredge Skip’s pond on the Southwest corner of the lake. They will wait until the ice is off to determine the needs for this holding pond. Mike will look at the costs for dredging.

Membership / Shoreline Captains – Laurie J. reported all membership data is updated. She shared slides comparing 2019 and 2020 memberships and the financial differences in income based on the number of memberships. Laurie talked about the need to have an annual May Shoreline Captains meeting: will look at maybe doing an outside meeting or maybe meeting at the Dassel Rod n Gun Club. As a way to better include the Shore Line Captains in the board’s conversations, Laurie will begin sending the ShoreLine Captains the minutes from our monthly meetings.

Education & Public Relations:

A. Spring Newsletter – Articles due to Ron Bubany by **Monday March 29.**

Laurie will look at updating the membership cards and get this information to Ron B before he sends request to Crow River Printing. EZ Dock has committed to paying \$300 for an ad in each newsletter, other ads Hewit Docks for sure wants an ad. Lyle will check with Midwest Gardens, Steve G will check with Backyard Reflections

B. Website, Facebook, and Email Activity – Laurie shared graphing of website activity by the month for 2019 and 2020. This showed some very high use months, primarily during the summer.

Social Committee – Due to health concerns the Board determined to not schedule the May Membership Pork Chop Dinner. The Board is open to looking at doing the Pork Chop Dinner in August, this decision will be made before the Summer Newsletter goes out.

Financial – Grants – Sharon D. shared the following updates to the 2021 grants for LWIA.

2021 GRANT APPLICATIONS AND APPROVALS-LWIA , Dassel, MN

Corrected: 3/4/2021

Date	Grant Applied For	Requested	Approved	Approved	Approved Description		
9/26/2020	Conervation MN/ Molson Coors	\$ 1,000.00	2/22/2021	\$ 1,000.00	Water testing on the 21 inlets		
Oct-20	MCAL/ Meeker County	\$ 5,000.00	2-Feb-21	\$4,000.00	Sediment checking & mapping		
Oct-20	AIS / Meeker County	\$ 8,500.00	1/20/2021	\$8,500.00	Milfoil Treatment in 2021		
Oct-20	AIS / Meeker County	\$ 1,750.00	1/20/2021	\$1,750.00	I-LIDS Funding		
20-Oct	AIS / Meeker County	\$ 2,250.00	1/20/2021	\$2,250.00	Educational Funding		
2/25/2021	MNDNR	\$ 5,000.00	NOT YET		Milfoil Treatment in 2021		
	TOTALS	\$ 23,500.00		\$ 17,500.00			

Sharon noted the MNDNR grant window to complete the application was 9 days. She thanked Chad (Lake Restoration) for helping get the permit and paperwork put together. Steve G completed the application.

MCAL - Representatives/meeting dates – Pat H reported next meeting April 15

9) Lake Restoration proposal (presented by Chad Hadler) – He shared a power point showing the services they provide. They have been in business for 43 years. Lake Restoration did treat 75.67 acres of EWM for LWIA in 2013, with liquid 2,4-D, with very good results. LWIA had a 3 year agreement with them for treatments of Eurasian Water Milfoil through 2016. But for the years 2014 through 2019 we were unable to find EWM in the lake. They usually treat EWM in July using equipment that can put the herbicide directly on the vegetation, resulting in better results. They also do post treatment vegetation survey. They will do residential treatments: if lake has contract with them they would need 10 homes to sign up for treatments; with out a lake contract they would need 20 homes to be willing to treat near shorelines. For these treatments they use a liquid of 3 herbicides and an algicide. Lake Restoration has been treating Starry Stonewort in Lake Koronis since 2017 with results showing a decrease in density.

10) Open Discussion – Someone on the lake has a son doing an Eagle Scout project of cleaning up areas around the lake from ice fishing, and other trash, on Saturday March 6. Cindy H volunteered to have them drop off the trash they collect at her house to disposw. Ron B will send out mass email letting people know about this project.

Laurie J is going to look at setting up and doing another “lake survey” to help us get a better idea of how we are doing, what people see as needs, and help with direction for the Board. Steve U agreed to help her with this project.

Next Board Meeting Scheduled for April 6th at Dassel Rod and Gun.