

aol Lake Washington Improvement Association Board Meeting April 6, 2021

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

Treasurer Report: Invasive Species Fund General Fund Total \$111,888.93

Paid Memberships: 2

1) **Call Meeting to Order 7 PM** – Pres. Steve Grotbo with Zoom meeting for some.

2) **Secretary's March Board Meeting Report** – approved for publication on the website

3) **Treasurer's March Financial Report** - Lyle W reported there was no action this month, save for Interest Income of \$34.37 giving us a total of \$111,888.93 in our accounts. Hanson, Peihl, and Beckman have agreed to do our yearly audit and filing of Federal and State forms. Treasurer's report approved by the Board.

4) **Ice out date: March 29, 2021**

5) **Lake Survey** – Laurie J did send out an email today with a mockup for a survey that she is asking Board members to review and comment on. Tabled discussion until next meeting.

6) **Committee Reports:**

Aquatic Invasive Species:

A. Water Quality Testing – Dave R reported we are set to start lake water tests in May. RMB has been paid for the year and will send 1st test kit out soon. MN Pollution Control hasn't sent out the data sheets yet, but expect these yet this month, they are also short staffed this summer due to retirement and a long term leave. This shouldn't affect us at all. For inlet water, I have 6 test kits. Any inlet water we send in for testing will need to be paid for, as this isn't included in the lake water invoice. Cost per sample is about \$60, but I don't have a firm price. Bonni confirmed Lake Stella is planning to do water quality testing this year.

B. Vegetation Survey – Steve G reported at latest UM coffee break online sessions that zebra mussels clearing of the lake waters appear to create an ideal situation for AIS such as Milfoil to thrive. Ron B and Mark J will be doing vegetation surveys around the lake this spring and summer. They will also survey the 2020 Milfoil treatment site to evaluate the effectiveness of the treatments.

C. I-LIDS/Watercraft Inspection – Dave R reported: Unit upgrade has been completed. He will pick up the unit in the next week or two. Per our Special Use Permit, we will install the unit around the 1st of May. Cost of monitoring this year is \$1932.75. Since there were no objections to the invoice, I will tell Eric we are good to go. Dave R reported the following 2021 expenses for Environmental Sentry Protection, Service: I-LIDS Yearly Costs and Monthly Service Video capture/storage, website access, 500 video/month review, reporting, network management, suspect AIS violation documentation, camera maintenance 6 months @ \$245.00 = \$1,470.00 Cellular: 5GB month Cellular services 6 months @ 55.00 = \$330.00 Total SUBTOTAL 1,800.00 TAX 132.75 TOTAL \$1,932.75. Lyle will use this invoicing to pay them.

D. Cormorants & Pelicans – Steve G reported Scott Mackenthun (DNR Fisheries Hutchinson) has contacted the lead DCCO for our region, Doug Schutlz and is waiting for a reply regarding depredation permitting or other strategies to discourage the cormorants from using Lake Washington. Steve G. has researched "air cannons" propane powered noise makers, intended to scare the cormorants off the lake. A discussion by Board members left more questions than answers with regards to where would one put the cannons, what kind of impact would they have on a lake our size, and most importantly who would want them in their yard. Steve U added after reading the USFWS opinions of the rule change and the permitting process. The only entities that can apply for a permit are the State and Tribes. Individuals can if the cormorants are on their private property. The permitting process involves many steps requiring data showing the affects cormorants are having on fish populations, surrounding wildlife populations, agricultural or vegetation impacts over time.

E. Zebra Mussels – Mike W will be putting out the "hotels" on Memorial weekend in the same places as the past few years. Steve G had put Lake Washington into the competition for a second lake to be part of the MAISRC zebra mussel study. It sounds like they have chosen a lake, but as of yet have not publicly announced this selection.

F. Watershed – Mike W has talked with Joe Norman (Meeker Co. Soil and Water Services) and will be meeting with him in April, to check out the holding pond and see if it needs to be dredged. Joe indicated there are some resources available through the county. Mike W will check it out and find out what the costs are for cleaning out the pond.

Membership / Shoreline Captains – Laurie J has no updates at this time.

Education & Public Relations:

A. Spring Newsletter – Ron B reported Crow River Press will be sending out the Newsletter next week. He will put it online on April 7th. There were four full page and two ½ page ads. Lyle W will invoice EZ Dock \$300 for the year, Backyard Reflections \$80, Lake Restoration \$80, Midwest Gardens \$60, Hewitt Dock \$60, and MC Tree Service/Nygard Construction \$80 – Ron B will get Lyle the billing information for this ad.

B. Website, Facebook, and Email Activity – Steve G did get an email from Greg K regarding the wave surfer boats having the volume on their stereos turned up so high that they are disturbing the peace and tranquility of lake living. The Board recognized we have no legal authority, but there are county noise ordinances that are enforced by the Meeker County Sheriff Dept. Steve will share this information with Greg K

Social Committee – Sandy W reported we are waiting to see how things look for having an August get together.

Financial – Grants – Sharon D. reviewed grants for 2021 - \$4000 MCAL sediment checking and mapping; Meeker Count AIS - \$8500 milfoil treatments, \$1750 I-LIDS, \$2250 Education; Conservation MN Molson Coors \$1000 water testing outlets (They will contact us later this spring for more information).

MNDNR \$5000 for milfoil treatments has been approved with the following stipulations/requirements:

1. Arrange for an aquatic plant surveyor, who is not the contractor listed in #3 below, to do a delineation survey of the areas of invasive aquatic plants to be treated in the waterbody listed in the application.
2. Complete the Invasive Aquatic Plant Management (IAPM) permit application for treatment by submitting the delineation survey map and GPS coordinates into the MNDNR Permitting and Reporting System (MPARS). Notify the Regional Invasive Species Specialist for the waterbody listed in the application that the survey map has been added to the application.
3. Arrange for a contractor to treat the invasive aquatic plants identified in the application and IAPM permit in the waterbody listed in the application and obtain an invoice from the contractor for the work undertaken.
4. Provide to the State's Authorized Representative:
 - a. A copy of the original invoices from the survey and the treatment contractor,
 - b. The delineation map and any associated report produced by the surveyor
 - c. The original pesticide application or harvesting record from the treatment. This should include a description of the methods used, a map showing the actual treated areas, the number of acres treated, the date(s) of treatment, and, if herbicides are used, the name of the herbicide applied, the rate of application and the total amount of herbicide applied.
 - d. Bill the State by mailing to the State's Authorized Representative, a letter or invoice requesting reimbursement for the appropriate portion of the costs of the survey and treatment.

Grantees must make all arrangements and pay all project expenses up front. For the purposes of requesting reimbursement and providing necessary documentation for eligible delineation and/or treatment project expenses. The "State's Authorized Representative" mentioned in #4d of our work plan is **Jake Walsh, Ph.D.** Aquatic Invasive Species Research & Grants Coordinator | Ecological & Water Resources **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources** 500 Lafayette Road St. Paul, MN 55155 Cell Phone: 651-724-2439 Email: Jake.Walsh@state.mn.us mndnr.gov
All of this needs to be completed by 10/15/2021.

Sharon will read through all the information just sent to us by the DNR and report back at the next Board meeting.

There was a Board discussion about how to meet these requirements. Mark J will contact Limnopro to have them conduct the vegetation survey and mapping of any treatment areas. We can contract with Lake Restoration for the actual treatment plan.

MCAL – Pat H reported the next meeting is April 15 at 7 PM in Litchfield.

7) Open Discussion – Jeremy Losinski is the new DNR contact person for the garbage can at the Ellsworth landing. Steve G will coordinate this action with Jeremy, with the goal of having the pickup start the beginning of May.

Steve G shared: weeds are the #1 item he has heard the most about from property owners the last year. In light of this and that Lake Restoration needs 20 properties to come out to do treatments. Steve G will contact them and coordinate a sign-up for all interested Lake Washington property owners. There were several people at the meeting interested in this service. He will find out what the costs are and facilitate sending out notices via: email and Face Book.

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

