

Lake Washington Improvement Association Board Meeting May 6, 2021

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

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

Treasurer Report: Invasive Species Fund \$43,346.86 General Fund \$77,226.40

Paid Memberships: 119

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

2) Secretary's April Board Meeting Report- approved with corrections to publish on website.

3) Treasurer's April Financial Report – Lyle W reported for the Month of April INCOME: \$5850 Membership Dues, \$2465 Invasive Contributions, \$60.16 Interest income, \$580 Newsletter Advertising, \$1205 Dassel Fire Dept. donations, Total Income \$10,160.16. EXPENSES: \$899.56 Info. Systems, \$58.24 I-Lids mileage, Dassel Rod n Gun Club agreement \$160, Admin Expense \$123.66, \$200 Dues Mn Waters, Total \$1441.46. Lyle has sent LWIA's financial records to Beckman, Piehl, and Hanson for the annual review and filing required Federal and State forms. Board approved the Treasurers report for April.

4) Lake Survey – Laurie J emailed out today an updated Lake Survey that she would like all Board members to review and provide corrections and updates. She will have Crow River Printing prepare copies that can be given to Shore Line Captains when she meets with them on May 22. Steve G and Ron B will put out information on Facebook and Email that we are doing the survey this year. Laurie is setting up the survey so people can submit it online or return paper copies to the Shoreline Captains.

5) Committee Reports:

Aquatic Invasive Species:

A. Water Quality Testing – Dave R will be doing the first sampling during the middle of May. He is still waiting for RMB to get him the testing kits. Laurie J, Cindy H, and Dave R. are continuing to update the water quality data reporting on the website.

B. Vegetation Survey – Mark J and Ron B will be going out on or after Memorial Day to begin surveying vegetation around the lake. Steve G reported Starry Trek is happening August 21 – more information coming later. Also with Curly Leaf Pond Weed in 700-800 lakes around the state it is no longer a focus of concern. It is basically considered part of the eco system. Starry Stonewort is not as widespread therefore remains a focused concern.

Steve G sent out an email with Lake Restoration information about the near shore treatment for individual property owners. They would need a minimum of 20 people signed up before they would consider doing treatments. The cost with permit would be \$561.00 for two treatments during the course of the summer. Steve G will contact Lake Restoration to see how close they are to having 20 property owners signed up for these treatments and report this on Facebook and via email.

C. I-LIDS/Watercraft Inspection – Dave R reported Eric updated the unit and along with Mike W. they installed the unit today. There were some issues they needed to address as a result of the updating, all issues have now been corrected. Cindy H can start looking at videos.

Dave R reported someone (not sure if it was Meeker County) were doing watercraft inspections last Friday April 30.

D. Cormorants & Pelicans – Steve G has been checking with Scott Mackentun (DNR Fisheries) about what we can do regarding the control of the number of birds at Pigeon Lake. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has published a summary of their latest guidance on the depredation of cormorants in the US. Scott has indicated there is someone with better understanding of the permitting process and will share their information when he gets it. The information we have reviewed so far seems to indicate only the State and Tribes are eligible to apply for depredation permits. There appear to be limitations on the use of noise cannons and other means to chase the birds away. It was pointed out at the meeting, there is not much interest in controlling the population of the cormorants on Pigeon Lake, by the permitting agencies at this time.

E. Zebra Mussels – Mike W will be putting out the hotels in the same 11 locations as in the past.

F. Watershed - Mike W met with Joe Norman (Meeker Co. Soil and Water) to assess the holding pond on the southwest corner. There are two 10 inch pipes running into the pond and one 10 inch pipe as an outlet to a culvert leading to the lake. There is a 10 foot berm to slow and redirect the water as part of this system. An animal (muskrat) has damaged the berm by digging a fairly large hole in the berm. Mike reported this can be

fixed with a clay fill at very little expense. There is about six inches of sediment mostly around the edges of the pond that Joe would like us to remove. Would need a backhoe and not have to haul the sludge away, can spread it out around the pond. Joe will get Mike some companies we can contact. Doing this work is part of our maintenance agreement with the property owner. LWIA is in the 7th year of a 10 year easement we have for this pond. Mike is going to contact the owner of this property as we are not sure what the plans are for the pond when the surrounding properties are developed.

Joe Norman also would like to look at the large area of soft silty bottom on the northeast side of the lake in the bay leading to the lake outlet. They looked at this area before, but Joe would like us to do a low flow reading of the culvert into the lake from the farm across the road. Then he would like us to do a water flow and testing of this water during a large (3 inch or more rainfall). Mike W and Dave R will work on this.

Membership / Shoreline Captains – Laurie J is scheduling a Shore Line Captains meeting for May 22 at the Dassel Rod n Gun club at 9:30 AM. Her plan is to have the Survey ready to pass out to the Captains.

Education & Public Relations:

A. Summer Newsletter – Ron B would like articles by June 28th. An issue regarding delivery of the newsletters has come up. Seems some (even board members) were not getting the newsletter delivered. Ron B discovered that mailing addresses need to be in both fields of our data that we share with Crow River Printing. He is in the process of addressing this.

B. Website, Facebook, and Email Activity – Steve G reported these features are being well used.

Social Committee – The Board has determined, at the June Board meeting a final decision on whether there will be a Lake Washington Association members meeting on Saturday August 7,2021 at the Dassel Rod n Gun Club. It was decided this will be our pork chop dinner, but with no meat raffles or door prizes for this year. Mike W will check with B&B about paying for the pork chops.

The 4th of July Boat Parade is on and looks like even more water craft will be joining in.

Financial – Grants – Sharon D sent out a reminder for everyone to keep track of the time/hours we spend working on various activities for LWIA during each month. She would like us to send these hours to her monthly. She did again send out a reporting sheet that we can send back to her each month. She submits these sheets in September when she has to update information to receive the grant monies we have applied for.

Arriana R. (Meeker AIS contact) sent out an email suggesting that if we applied for and qualified for a grant through the DNR at the State level, this money (\$5000.00) would be somehow deducted from the \$8500.00 grant we are scheduled to get from Meeker AIS. We are not clear on how exactly this works.

After Ron B and Mark J do the preliminary vegetation survey they will let Sharon know if there is enough EWM to treat this year. Mark J will contact Eric Kantzmier at the DNR office about getting the permit we applied for earlier this spring.

MCAL - Representatives/meeting dates – Pat H reported they met on April 15th and there was a conversation that some Meeker Co Board members were questioning why lake associations in the county need money and wondered why they were awarding grant monies to these associations.

Pat H will re send email to Steve G and Steve U detailing this discussion.

6) Open Discussion

Steve G attended the Starry Stonewort coffee break session sponsored by U of M.

Following are some of the points that caught his ear.

- Always initially found close to landings. Effective way to detect is to rake the area around the landings on a regular basis to look for it.
- It is not a death of the lake. Koronis is the worst case in Minnesota, so got most publicity. No other lake has had a severe case and generally been able to control it.
- Copper treatment has been successful in controlling spreading.
- Sub acre areas are best for manually pulling it out.
- Starry trek is happening on August 21st.
- Curly leaf pond weed is in 700-800 lakes, so common item and not a focus. Basically considered part of eco system now. Starry Stonewort is not widespread, so therefore any sighting does get focus.

Election of LWIA Board members – the following were elected to the LWIA Board of Directors for a 3 year term; Mike and Sandy Wosmek, Brett Rasmussen, Lyle Walker, Bonni Halverson, Steve Ullom.

Reviewed the inventory of the engraved glass mugs we award to individuals.

Steve G is working with Kristy Rice and Waste Management to get a garbage can at the Ellsworth Landing.

Dave R shared a concern about the condition of the parking surface and striping at Ellsworth Landing. Steve G will contact the DNR about repairing the parking lot surface. It may be the Park n Rec in Spicer

Laurie Johnson volunteered to take June 1 meeting minutes for Steve Ullom

Next Board Meeting Scheduled for June 1st at Dassel Rod and Gun.