

Lake Washington Improvement Association Board Meeting August 10, 2021

Board Members Present: Mike Wosmek, Lyle Walker, Pat Hanson,
Ron Bubany, Steve Grotbo, Steve Ullom, David Rathe, Sharon Daniels

Treasurer Report: Invasive Species Fund \$42,544.78 General Fund \$77,620.99

Paid Memberships: 204

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

2) **Secretary's July Board Meeting Report** Approved for publication on our website.

3) **Treasurer's June / July Financial Report** – Lyle W reviewed the June report, this information was in the July minutes. July financials: Income: Memberships \$750.00; Invasive Species Donations \$225.00; DFD donations \$145.00; Newsletter Ad payment \$60.00; Interest \$4.37; Total \$1184.37.

Expenses: Postage \$22.00; I-LIDS annual payment \$1880.52; Piehl Hanson year end report \$360.00; Richart Excavating \$2096.75 dredging the holding pond; Total Expenses \$4359.27. Lyle reported 199 memberships as of July 31, this is 10 more than at the same time in 2020. Treasurers report approved by the Board.

4) **Lake water level concerns** – Steve G did get a call from person at campground asking if Lake Association could organize getting the Ellsworth boat launch extended to accommodate longer pontoons. He was suggesting that people would be more than up for contributing to this. This person was not a member of the association. So gave him Kristy Rice's (DNR) information if he wanted to follow up. There was a conversation about other options that maybe available. Consensus was the Board would defer any changes to the Ellsworth landing to the DNR.

Matt Maiers who lives by Kizers landing asked if we would request people to stop watering their lawns. He did not bring this up at the Annual Meeting, per Steve G. request. Star Tribune's front page article on Friday indicated DNR was discussing this but was not taking any action at this point. The Board would choose to follow the DNR guidance for this matter

EZ Dock has indicated they have the barges to take your boat off the lift and even put it on the trailer if needed. This information has been shared on our Face Book page.

5) **Lake Survey** – Tabled as Laurie not able to attend the meeting.

6) **Culvert replacement** – Steve G. touched base with Phil Schmalz (Public Works Director/County Engineer, Meeker County) two weeks ago. He said that DNR gave verbal approval for bottomless passage (waiting for something in writing). Phil said he received a lot of feedback from Washington and Stella residents with most favoring expansion, but some were strongly against encouraging boat traffic. He asked for feedback from our annual meeting, where everyone was in favor of expanding boat traffic. The CSAH 14 paving project is moved to 2023, so this replacement is now slated for 2022. With infrastructure bill most likely passing at some point, funding should be there for doing a bridge instead.

7) **Ellsworth landing parking lot** – Bonni H. shared, they plan to make the handicap spaces van accessible size.

8) **U of M MAISRC Research and Management Showcase** on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 – Steve G reported in person and online conference options are available. They are advertising sign up is open, with pricing set up depending how one takes part in this Showcase. No agenda has been published at this time. LWIA will reimburse any Board member that signs up for this conference. Tickets start at \$20. Following is the link.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-minnesota-aquatic-invasive-species-research-and-management-showcase-tickets-164145683157>

9) **Committee Reports:**

Aquatic Invasive Species:

A. Water Quality Testing-Dave R. reported they will be pulling a sample next week. Mike W reported the sechi readings averaged 4 ½ feet. It was noted, even with the low water levels this reading is much better than 10 years ago.

B. Vegetation Survey – Tabled as Mark J was not able to attend the meeting. Waiting on Limnopro update.

C. I-LIDS/Watercraft Inspection – Dave R reported, paid the invoice in July, some confusion as we were credited \$52.23 for over payment in 2020. Unit is working fine. Watercraft inspections continue to happen on Friday, Saturday and Sunday every weekend. With decontamination station at Washington every other weekend.

D. Cormorants & Pelicans - Steve G shared DNR provided a report (Annual Fish Survey Draft) for end of July on fish caught and size. The “gill net” method kills the fish, where the ¾ inch mesh allows for release. The gill net had 192 walleye with average size of 1.3 pounds. Steve G will check with Rick F to help with interpretation of the fish survey. Hopefully Rick can help us understand why we are a class “41” and what that

means. Scott M, DNR noted with this data, it is very difficult to indicate cormorants are causing issues at this point. Scott did note there could be a correlation to swimmers-itch and increased waterfowl numbers.

Dave along with others pointed out that at this time we do not have the cormorants coming into the lake. So seems hard to do anything from a Lake Washington perspective until they are back. Not sure if we can zero in on Pigeon for taking action there? The counts from 2020 show that Pigeon is fourth for size of cormorants rookery, so others have bigger issues than us.

Table 1. Double-crested Cormorant nesting pair estimates (2015, 2020) and census details at prioritized sites in Minnesota

Colony	Date	Lake	County	2015	2020
Big Island	5 23 20	Marsh	Lac Qui Parle	914	1735
Little Is	5 23 20	Marsh	Lac Qui Parle	0	61
Hanska	5 15 20	Hanska	Brown	0	0
Pigeon Veg	5 15 20	Pigeon	Meeker	960	530
Pigeon Bare	5 15 20	Pigeon	Meeker	826	1068
MN Lake	5 4 20	Minnesota	Faribault	1097	936
Potato	5 30 20	Vermillion	St. Louis	339	313
Knife	5 31 20	Superior	Lake	116	178
Swartout	5 19 20	Swartout	Wright	378	1115
Preston	5 18 20	Preston	Redwood	450	749
Hitman SNA	6 9 20	Johanna	Pope	1841	1668
Gooseberry	5 28 20	Pelican	Crow Wing	415	567
West 2 Riv	N/A	Reservoir	St. Louis	0	N/A
Big Kandi	5 18 20	Big Kandi	Kandihohi	0	0
Cedar	5 18 20	Cedar	McLeod	0	0
Egret Is	6 7 20	Pelican	Grant	2065	2000

Wisconsin did a study on “Climate change and freshwater fish” which discusses how lakes are shifting from walleye to bass with increased water temperatures. Link to this study is below

<https://labs.waterdata.usgs.gov/visualizations/climate-change-walleye-bass/index.html>

E. Zebra Mussels – Mike W reported they will be pulling the hotels on Labor Day weekend.

F. Watershed – Mike W reported the Sediment Holding Pond FY13-09 has been cleaned out and sediment piles spread out. Also the ditch by the landing has been cleaned out and the stand-up pipe for the drain tile into the lake looks like it is functioning well.

Membership / Shoreline Captain – Laurie J. did send out updated membership lists to Shore Line Captains.

Education & Public Relations:

A. Summer / Fall Newsletter – Ron B stated, he has not looked at due date for articles.

B. Website, Facebook, and Email Activity – Steve G noted when putting information on the website or Facebook he is being careful to let people know when the announcement is not something sponsored by LWIA.

Social Committee- Mike W. reported Sandy wanted to thank everyone that helped with the pork chop dinner. There were about 80 people in attendance and the left-over pork chops were sold.

Financial – Grants – Sharon D reported she has 444 hours reported to her for in-kind hours at this time. She is asking all board members and others to turn in their hours by Aug 31. This information needs to be turned in for grant approval by Oct 1. She does need copies of a couple of checks so please turn them in by 9/15.

Grant application are not out yet. MCAL is asking for graphs, pictures, in addition to other means for validating projects have been completed.

MCAL - Representatives/meeting dates – Sharon D and Pat Hanson reported on the July meeting: MCAL representatives reported Meeker AIS has a fund balance at the county level of \$204,000.00. These funds need approval from the County Commissioners to be released. It was suggested lake associations write a letter to the Commissioners asking to consider releasing more of this money for lake projects in the county. It was shared there are 107 lakes in meeker county. For the Board to better understand this Sharon will ask for the July MCAL meeting

minutes be released earlier to provide us with a better understanding of what they are asking lake associations to do with regards to communicating with the County Commissioners. There was a further discussion by the Board with regards to what appear to be different timelines and procedures for County AIS groups around our area.

Also it was talked about at the MCAL meeting that lots of people are doing projects such as landscaping without getting zoning permits and the County is looking to increase enforcement (fines) and cost of permits.

10) Open Discussion – Ray Brueggemeier at 507-363-3017 indicated that they are now empty nesters and he is able to help out where needed.

John Fink sent LWIA a thank you for our card on the loss of Ruth.

The Board approved a lake membership with Conversation Minnesota of \$200.00.

Next Board Meeting Scheduled for September 2nd at Dassel Rod and Gun.