

Lake Washington Improvement Association Board Meeting April 5, 2022

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

Treasurer Report: Invasive Species Fund \$48,672.40

General Fund \$65,819.98

Paid Memberships: 1

1) **Call Meeting to Order 7 PM** – President Steve Grotbo, some attended via Zoom

2) **Secretary's March Board Meeting Report-** Dave R meeting report was approved for publishing on our website.

3) **Treasurer's March Financial Report** – Lyle W reported LWIA made a contribution to MAISRC of \$5000.00 and they sent us a very nice Thank You. INCOME: Membership \$50; Interest \$4.37; Newsletter Ad \$80; Total \$134.37. EXPENSES: Info-Services \$346.50; MAISRC \$5000; Dassel Rod n Gun Club \$41.50 ½ video screen. Total \$5388.00 Total Funds 3/31/22 \$144,496.75 Approved by the Board.

The Board approved joining the MN Lakes and River Advocates at a cost of \$200.00.

4) **Lake Restoration possible partnership** – Sharon and Steve G. met with Chad and are moving forward with a plan to sign up property owners for near shoreline vegetation treatments. Lake Restoration will need 20 people to sign up for this treatment to make it happen. Steve G created forms in both PDF and Word to be filled out when asking for the treatment of your shorelines. These were reviewed by Sharon and Chad Hadler (Lake Restoration). Forms will also be printed and available for May 7 meeting. <https://lwiaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/WeedControl.htm> There are more details for this project in the Spring Newsletter.

5) **Culvert replacement** – The following information was shared by Steve Grotbo.

The March 23rd meeting was attended by Mike Wosmek and Steve Grotbo from the board. Lake Stella had board member representation as well. Lots of discussions, meeting could have gone for hours and at points got off topic. Main disappointment was that nobody from DNR was present, the person backed out last minute.

Following is from Phil Schmalz sent on March 31st:

Meeker County Public Works hosted a Public Meeting to discuss the CSAH 14 culvert replacement between Lake Stella & Lake Washington on March 23rd. 450 invites were mailed out to property owners around each lake and 82 interested individuals attended the meeting. 3 County Commissioners and 2 County staff were also in attendance. Meeker County intends to replace the culvert in the fall of 2022.

Public Works Director Phil Schmalz presented some history about the crossing and led a discussion on concerns primarily related to the sizing and elevation of the replacement culvert. The sizing of the culvert has been narrowed down to 2 primary options:

Option A: Install a 10' x 8' concrete box culvert at the same invert elevation as what is there today

Option B: Install a 12' x 10' concrete box culvert 1' lower than what is there today

The existing culvert is an oval metal pipe that is 12'9" x 7'11" at its widest and tallest points.

Option A would be the minimum that could be installed to satisfy the hydraulic or flow requirements of the crossing. Crossing B is being considered to promote connectivity between the lakes. A new concrete box culvert is potentially a 100+ year solution so there will be no option to install something larger in the near future once this project is complete.

The 2 primary concerns noted at the public meeting were:

1. A larger culvert may lower the water level of Lake Stella.
2. A larger culvert would allow more boat traffic.

There was much discussion about both topics. Historical lake level data shows that Lake Washington & Lake Stella rise and fall together as a single pool since the dam at the outlet of Lake Washington is higher than the bottom of the existing culvert crossing. For this reason, a larger culvert would not significantly impact water levels of Lake Stella.

The Meeker Co Commissioners met on April 5 and approved Option B, with the work being done this fall. Discussion was had about potential drawbacks or benefits of boats having better access to the crossing, especially during lower water levels if the new culvert was installed 1' lower. Either culvert size will suit the needs of the roadway.

Mike W reported the culvert only slows the water down coming out of Stella, the dam controls the water levels on Washington and Stella. Technically because of the shape it is considered a bridge.

A straw pole was taken of meeting attendees and the results were as follows:

- 57% Prefer culvert option B
- 32% Prefer culvert option A
- 11% Did not vote

The topic will be discussed at the April 5th Meeker County Board Meeting at which point Public Works hopes to have a firm direction on culvert sizing so it may proceed with project design.

The Meeker Co Commissioners met on April 5 and approved Option B, with the work being done this fall.

6) Ellsworth landing Parking Lot – Kristy Rice (DNR) sent email on March 21st indication she is working on getting a contract for a garbage can at the landing. At this time, there is no new information regarding the striping.

7) Board Elections in May – Elections will be held at the May 7 Membership Meeting. Sharon Daniels, Laurie Johnson, Ron Bubany have agreed to be reelected to another 3 year term and Ray Brueggenmeier has volunteered to join the Board replacing Cindy Hewitt, also for a 3 year term.

8) Lake Steward - Meeting was on March 29th where Minnesota Lakes and Rivers is looking for one person to represent our lake. Steve Grotbo volunteered and is getting training on how to use the app and get other homes registered into program. You get a pretty sign to put in yard / dock that will also have lake's logo on it if your shore qualifies. We are still waiting for the next steps. Steve G is waiting for the app, hoping to have more information on how others can sign up and have their property be part of the Lake Steward project by the May meeting.



9) Committee Reports:

Aquatic Invasive Species:

A. Water Quality Testing – Dave R did get a quote of \$270.00 from RMB for 5 water tests. There is about a \$20 charge for shipping. Because there has been an issue with picking up the sample in a timely manner, his plan is to drive the sample to St. Cloud for shipping when they are late picking up the sample. Plan is to take first sample sometime in Mid-May. He will be recording temperature samples once a month.

The committee's plan is to do water samples at 6 inlet sites this summer, provided there is a heavy enough rainfall to make this possible.

B. Vegetation Survey – Mark J will contact Limnopro to do a vegetation survey in early June, at a cost of about \$1200.00. The vegetation committee will begin doing surveys in June.

C. I-LIDS/Watercraft Inspection – Dave R will be picking up the unit from Eric soon and installing it before Fishing Opener. He did get an invoice, showing an increase from last year, for a total of \$2383.73 (\$270 repairs, \$330 cell service, video review \$1620.00 – this is for 3000 reviews per year, and tax of \$163.73). There was some discussion about maybe one of the board doing video review, but the Board agreed they are more skilled and better able to do these reviews. Parks and Trails has ok'd the permit for 2 more years.

D. Cormorants & Pelicans – Steve G will reach out to Spring Lake once the ice is off the lakes and share any information we have with them.

E. Zebra Mussels – We donated \$5000 to MAISRC for study of zebra mussels, they sent a nice Thank You. Mike W will be putting out the Hotels over Memorial Day weekend. Last year there was only 1 immature zebra mussel on the plates when they were brought in on Labor Day.

F. Watershed- Mike W reported we will need some heavy rains this summer to better look at the needs.

Membership / Shoreline Captains -Laurie J scheduled a Shore Line Captains meeting for May 21 at the Dassel Rod 'n Gun Club. She is looking for more Shore Line Captains. There were some names exchanged.

Education & Public Relations:

A. Spring Newsletter – Ron B is waiting for latest information on the culvert before sending it to the printer. He has ads for EZ Dock, Backyard Reflections, Midwest Gardens.

Ron will order 100 membership cards, that Laurie will pick up from Crow River.

B. Website, Facebook, and Email Activity – Steve G reported on our website and Facebook we have Promoted Rod and Gun Club Fish Fry on fishing opener.

He will add LWIA Membership Pork Chop Dinner on May 7 at 5 pm.

Social Committee – Sandy and Mike W reported they have begun work on getting everything ready for the Annual Membership Pork Chop Dinner on May 7. Mike will order 175 pork chops from Schroeder's. He will contact B & B Sports about paying for the pork chops. We will have 3 meat raffle prizes. We have a mug for member leaving the board and will not have a speaker, just answer questions from the members.

Financial – Grants - Sharon D reported the following grants have been approved for 2022.

2022 GRANT APPLICATIONS APPROVED

Updated: 4/4/2022

DATE	GRANT TYPE	DESCRIPTION OF GRANT	AMOUNT OF GRANT	
2/22/2022	MCAL	For Mapping/Sediment and stabilization control projects	\$4,000.00	
3/18/2022	AIS	I-Lids Management	\$1,250.00	
3/18/2022	AIS	Milfoil Treatment and or Surveying Costs (including 3rd party)	\$9,000.00	
3/18/2022	AIS	Education Training and Information	\$320.00	
3/28/2022	MNDNR	Milfoil Treatment and or Surveying Costs (including 3rd party)	\$6,000	
		TOTAL APPROVED GRANT MONIES 2022	\$20,570.00	

Because the I-LIDS costs have increased. Sharon D will be checking with AIS to see if we can get more grant money. She reported, this year we can use AIS and DNR grant money together for treatment and surveying. They require 1. Must have vegetation survey by a 3rd party 2. Have an Aquatic Plant Management Plan 3. Arrange the treatments. Sharon thanked those Board members that have been sending in their in-kind volunteer hours and reminded everyone to please turn in their hours, and any gas, food, etc receipts, with a copy of the check paying for this expense. She uses this information when submitting reimbursements and determining grant money requests.

MCAL - Representatives/meeting dates - Pat Hanson reported the next meeting is April 21

10) Open Discussion -Dave R reported the MPCA sent out the following request.

Dear Volunteer Water Monitors,

The State Climatology Office is looking for volunteer rainfall monitors for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network ([CoCoRaHS](https://www.cocoraHS.org))! The network includes more than 20,000 volunteers nationwide who measure precipitation in their backyards using a standard 4 inch diameter rain gauge and submit reports online.

Climatologist Pete Boulay said the data from backyard rain gauges are helpful and important in many ways.

“These volunteers help to verify high rain totals after big events, monitor drought and flooding, make our precipitation maps more accurate and provide needed guidance on Minnesota’s changing climate,” Boulay said. “This is also a great educational activity for families with kids and a rewarding hobby for anyone interested in weather or climate.”

Volunteers are particularly needed outside the immediate Twin Cities metro area. Volunteers receive training on how to observe weather trends and submit their precipitation and weather event reports. All training material is available online. They must purchase or provide a standard 4 inch diameter rain gauge (available at discount through CoCoRaHS) and have internet access to submit reports.

For the past two years, Minnesota has won the “CoCoRaHS Cup” for recruiting the most new volunteers of any state.

“We’re hoping Minnesotans will again come through in 2022, to keep the Cup in Minnesota and, more importantly of course, to improve our state’s precipitation recording,” Boulay said.

To sign up or for more information, visit [CoCoRaHS.org](https://www.cocoraHS.org) or contact Luigi Romolo at luigi.romolo@state.mn.us. The website includes lesson plans for STEM students and instructional videos for all participants.



Next Board Meeting Scheduled for May 5th at Dassel Rod and Gun Club.