

Lake Washington Improvement Association Board Meeting May 5, 2022

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

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

Treasurer Report: Invasive Species Fund \$47,296.43 General Fund \$67,137.74

Paid Memberships: 57

- 1) Call Meeting to Order 7 PM by Steve Grotbo, Some members joined via Zoom.
- 2) Secretary's April Board Meeting Report – approved for publication on the website.
- 3) Treasurer's April Financial Report – Lyle W reported: Income: Memberships \$2850.00; Invasive Species Donations \$1060.00; DFD donations \$800.00; Interest \$4.23; Total \$4714.23. Expenses: Newsletter \$1360.18; Info. System (web hosting) annual fee \$490.00; Ellsworth garbage can \$258.86; Postage \$23.20; I-Lids annual fee \$2444.57; Mn Lakes & Rivers annual membership \$200.00; Total \$4776.81. Chkbook \$12,854.38 - CAP One \$51,466.98 – Perennial CD \$50,122.81 Total Funds \$114,434.17. Board approved.
- 4) Lake Restoration partnership – Steve G reported: Ron B sent out reminder email detailing May 10 deadline to get the information to Chad @ Lake Restoration. Note the emails are going directly Chad this year. Steve G has printed up forms to hand out at the Pork Chop Dinner on Saturday.
- 5) Culvert replacement – Steve G reported all positive feedback on both Lake Washington and Lake Stella Facebook for the larger culvert.
- 6) Ellsworth landing – Bonni H reported the parking lot striping continues to be delayed because they are unable to get paint. Mike W. suggested we check to see when the parking lot is scheduled for seal coating. He thought it would be a good idea to wait to paint until the seal coating is done. There was a discussion about who would be responsible to seal coating. The DNR suggested it was up to Ellsworth Township. Bonni H will contact Ellsworth Town Board to see about seal coating. Mike W spent 7 hours cleaning up the ditch on the east side of the landing. He reported it is much easier to clean up and cut back the vegetation on a yearly basis. Steve G ordered the garbage can for May through September (for \$258.86) and Kristy Rice confirmed getting the payment. But, at this meeting date the can was not at the landing.
- 7) New board members – We have four people volunteering to serve 3 year terms on the Board (Sharon Daniels, Laurie Johnson, Ron Bubany, Ray Brueggenmeier). Steve U is unable to be at the Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday, and VP Mike W will conduct the election process.
- 8) Lake Steward – Steve G has one on one training with Kayla Hanke on May 16th . Ron forwarded an email indicating Mn Lakes & Rivers maybe willing to set up a booth at the Pot-Luck Dinner in August. We will wait to hear from Steve G after his training to see if this is something we would consider doing. Ron B
- 9) Volunteer Water Monitor - Dave R sent following on April 6th: The State Climatology Office is looking for volunteer rainfall monitors for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS)! 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 or contact Luigi Romolo at luigi.romolo@state.mn.us. The website includes lesson plans for STEM students and instructional videos for all participants. Pat H. volunteered to take the lead on this project and will make an announcement at the Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday.

10) Dam height – Dave R reported: Keith Johnson wrote to LWIA board on April 5th with concerns about the low water levels at his place and over the dam height. Dave R response was:

Keith,

We are looking into this with the help of the DNR. I've listed some information I received from Steve Ullom (board secretary) and my thoughts below.

- The dam was last inspected 2016
- Next dam inspection scheduled for 2023
- I don't know how thick the ice is on the lake, but it will rise water levels by approximately 10% of the ice thickness due to ice being less dense than liquid water. As you said, I would like to wait until ice out for further observations
- When we were doing water quality testing late last summer, there was very little water coming thru the Lake Stella culvert and no water flow to speak of on the other inlets
- I didn't look at Lake Stella culvert recently, so don't know what flow rate we have there. This inlet is by far the largest source of water for Lake Washington
- Without a doubt, the dam controls the water level in Lake Washington & Lake Stella as long as there is sufficient water flowing into the Lakes via precipitation and runoff. If not, then lake levels drop
- I've included the MN DNR's data on Lake Washington water levels for your review. If the dam is sinking, it is a recent event of the last few years.

One of our board members will get back to you when we have further information from the DNR

Dave Rathe

Dave R reported for the Board meeting: He hasn't received any information from the DNR hydrologist Ethan Jenzen at this time regarding the dam height.

Steve U reported on MN Lake Finder for Washington the following describes the placement of the water level gauge.

Benchmarks

Elevation: 1070.08 ft

Datum: NGVD 29 (ft)

Date Set: 09/17/1990

Location: T119R29S29

Description: Top left abutment above weir on outlet dam. Elevation 1070.57 NAVD 88 as per 2/21/19 GPS survey.

11) **Ice out** date was April 17 – Ron B will update LWIA's website and Steve G will update the DR site.

12) Committee Reports:

Aquatic Invasive Species:

A. Water Quality Testing – Dave R sent in the RMB labs enrollment form. He hasn't received information on early payment discount, but still working this. RMB might have discontinued the early payment program. Dave expects to see the first test kit within the next 2 weeks. Mike W reported the plan is for water testing to begin next week.

B. Vegetation Survey – Mark J reported Limnopro will be doing the vegetation survey near the end of June. He is checking with them on the cost of doing additional way point testing. The committee will be going out later in May to do some vegetation sampling.

C. I-LIDS/Watercraft Inspection – Mike W. reported unit was installed this week.

D. Cormorants & Pelicans – There are reports of some cormorants and pelicans on the lake, not near the numbers from past years. Steve G did count 60 pelicans as the largest number together, but have only seen up to about 30 the last several days. Mike W. indicated seeing 75 at one time. They seem to be intermixed with cormorants. This afternoon Steve did see one group of pelicans – 15 and a separate group of cormorants.

Steve G received following feedback today from Jim Gray of Spring Lake for a possible unified request to DNR.

Steve,

Yes, we've had up to 60 Pelicans, and around 500 Cormorants on our lake a few weeks ago. Recently we have around a dozen pelicans, and 36 cormorants. I agree, these things need to be controlled. I will enclose two photos from my back yard security camera, of Pelicans feeding. Of course I was out of town, and made my wife chase them out. Jim Gray

Steve G will stay in touch with Jim and coordinate responses to the DNR

E. Zebra Mussels - Mike W will be putting out the hotels during Memorial weekend.

F. Watershed – Mike W reported the soil dredged from the holding pond in 2021 and that he spread out last summer has a nice growth of grass coming through. There was a culvert on the southside of the lake where some gravel washed out around it, but the landowner did a repair. They are waiting to see if we get enough rain to do some water sampling of inlets.

Membership / Shoreline Captains – Laurie J reported there will be a Shoreline Captains meeting at her house on Saturday May 21. She is working on preparing new membership lists.

Education & Public Relations:

A. Spring Newsletter – Ron B reported 350 Newsletters were sent out and there have been 224 hits of it on our website so far.

B. Website, Facebook, and Email Activity – Steve G created an event for the Pork Chop dinner meeting indicating you must be a member to attend (Annual Membership Meeting). He will share the Rod 'n Gun club annual breakfast opener event on Sunday May 8. He also promoted EZ Dock and Midwest Garden on our Facebook page as they both put ads in the Newsletter.

Social Committee – Mike W will pickup 175 porkchops from Schroeder's Meats and B& B sports is paying for these. He also will pickup three \$25 meat trays to raffle off. Schedule: People have volunteered to help set up and help Mike cook the pork chops about 3-4 pm. The schedule is 5 Social Hour, 6 Dinner, 6:30-7 elections, Laurie will introduce Shoreline Captains and ask for more volunteers, Q & A, sell left over pork chops.

Financial – Grants – Sharon D reminded everyone to continue sending in your volunteer hours and any receipts at least monthly. She noted that any costs incurred by Limnopro is reimbursable.

MCAL - Sharon D reported MCAL is looking at 501c (3) status. Meeker Co. has purchased 4 Hach water testing kits at \$600.00 per kit. She was not sure who was going to be using these kits. From what she could tell each kit contains about 10 years-worth of testing, if you are doing 5 tests per year. This maybe something to look into. Hutchinson Fishery has been doing genetic testing of walleye in Collinwood lake. They have discovered a majority of the walleye have a genetic code similar to those from this region of the State. There were not near as many from the fisheries up north where most the stocking supply comes from every 2 years. As a result the DNR are considering using walleye stock more regionally located when doing every other year stocking of walleyes in area lakes.

Steve U shared the following stocking information for Lake Washington from MN Lake Finder:

Washington (47004600)

Fish [Stocked](#) by Species for the Last Ten Years

| | Species | Size | Number | Pounds |
|------|----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| 2021 | Walleye | fry | 1,136,738 | 10.3 |

| | Species | Size | Number | Pounds |
|------|---------|------|-----------|--------|
| 2019 | Walleye | fry | 1,113,552 | 9.9 |
| 2017 | Walleye | fry | 2,266,000 | 21.4 |
| 2015 | Walleye | fry | 2,283,693 | 22.3 |
| 2013 | Walleye | fry | 2,270,912 | 19.2 |

On April 28 the DNR did a netting and tagging of walleye study on Collinwood. There was a carp shoot on Bell Lake by Mn Bow Fishing on April 30. Sharon noted that Clark Company did some treating of milfoil on some area lakes and might be worth while to find out where this company is located.

Pat H. shared MCAL is looking for a new chairman...George is retiring. She also noted that there are many new members joining MCAL from area lakes. This has led to a learning curve as the new members get up to speed with the history and workings of this organization. Pat shared a poem Honoring Volunteers. Next MCAL meeting July 21.

13) Open Discussion

Dave R reported Dean Shaner requested the board look at the Westonka walleye stocking program. You can Google it. They are a 501 (c) 3 that requires volunteers and donations to stock 8-10 inch walleyes at a cost of about \$2/fish with a survival rate of about 90%. This has significantly increased the rate and size of walleyes being caught in Minnetonka. Dave R wonders with cormorants and pelicans fishing Lake Washington in large numbers this year, is this a good idea?

Steve U did some research and found out Lake Minnetonka is not considered a very good hatchery for developing native walleyes and that stocking by Westonka Walleye Stocking Program has been considered a good thing for fishing. Steve U has emailed Scott Machentun asking about his thoughts and the feasibility of something like this. Scott is very busy right now, but he wants to do some research and checking with the Lake Minnetonka people about what this involves and how it has been working before he gets back to us.

Steve Ullom will not be at the June 7th Board meeting and is asking Dave R / Sharon D to take the notes.

Next Board Meeting Scheduled for June 7th at Dassel Rod and Gun Club.