

Lake Washington Improvement Association Board Meeting March 2, 2022

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

Treasurer Report: Invasive Species Fund \$53,134.86

General Fund \$69,841.18

Paid Memberships:

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

2) **Secretary's February Board Meeting Report** . Dave R submitted the minutes and they were approved for publication.

3) **Treasurer's February Financial Report** – Lyle W reported: Income – Interest \$3.95

Expenses – Constant Contact \$346.50; Rent Dassel Rod n Gun \$320; PO Box rental \$94.00

Total Funds 2/28/2023 \$122,976.04 Board Approved this report.

4) **Culvert replacement** – Steve G reported Phil provided an update to the status:

The Washington/Stella culvert project has been awarded to Landwehr Construction out of St. Cloud. Last I heard from them they were targeting July or August for the culvert install as they are hearing they likely won't be able to get the rest of the culvert from the manufacturer until that time. They have a portion of the culvert on-hand from a different project, but do not have enough to complete this crossing.

Also, the CSAH 14 reclaim & paving project from McLeod County up to Darwin is currently being advertised for contractors. We expect that paving to most likely take place in August with how we have written the contract, but we'll learn more once we have a contractor on board.

Steve also received request from Tyler Thorson on status, which he provided.

5) **Lake Steward** – Steve G received information from Jeff Forester of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers. He confirmed May 6th meeting for speaking. He also provided bio and pic for newsletter.

6) Committee Reports:

Aquatic Invasive Species:

A. **Water Quality Testing** – MPCA sent a very nice “Thank You” note for our water monitoring in 2022

This goes to Dave R and Mike W for a great job.

Dave R reported costs for doing 5 water tests by RMB will be \$325 + \$17 shipping + \$3 transportation to shipping site in Hutchinson Total cost about \$450.00

B. **Vegetation Survey** – Mark J will be contacting Limnopro to schedule AIS/Vegetation survey this spring.

We need this if we are going to be doing any AIS treatments this year.

C. **I-LIDS/Watercraft Inspection** – Dave R has not received an invoice at this time.

D. **Cormorants & Pelicans** – Steve G reported no change at this time.

E. **Zebra Mussels** – MikeW will put hotels out Memorial weekend.

Steve G will work on getting links for MAISRC to review AIS studies from last year.

F. **Watershed** – Mike W reported: Meeker Soil and Water completed the survey where water from Nelson farm washed out the culvert last year near 69669 233rd St. They are waiting for the engineer to review and draw up plans for water mitigation at this site. Mike and Lynn Schmidt (property owners) will meet with county to review this initial proposal. Hoping this meeting happens by the next Board meeting. Mike W and Dave R agreed they would do water testing at this site during spring runoff and later in the year after a 2 inch rainfall to see what differences there are especially for suspended solids. Ron B will do a survey of lake bottom and we can compare it to the last survey from 5 years ago. This would also provide baseline data going forward to use for comparing run-off results over the years. Mike W added that it will take years for the muck to clear in this

area of the lake. Also, suggested this is the very kind of project we want the property owners to know about because it is the kind of project that benefits the whole lake. Once we have more information and pictures we will do a write up for a newsletter.

Membership / Shoreline Captains – Laurie J is reworking the membership cards to provide more and better information that more closely aligns with how we collect and store this data. She will get this to Ron B so Crow River Printers will have it available in time to go out with the April newsletter.

Shore Line Captains – Laurie has been updating the lists and reports she has many more names. She will meet with Sandy W to work on the Spring meeting and getting information to the Captains.

Education & Public Relations:

A. Spring Newsletters- Articles are due to Ron B by March 27, so he can get it out by early April. We need to reach out for ads. Remember the prices of ads were increased at the last meeting. \$60.00 for ¼ page; \$80.00 ½ page, \$100.00 for full page. EZ dock has inside front cover for \$350 for the year.

Steve G will contact EZ Dock and Backyard Reflections. Lyle will contact Midwest Gardens. Laurie may have someone else. Wondering if Bonni might want an ad.

B. Website, Facebook, and Email Activity – Ron B shared information on the last 365 days of hits/activity on our website: During this time there were 1147 hits on our site. Some interesting numbers were 215 Newsletter, Board members 201, Membership 176, water quality management 133, contact us 110, aquatic invasive species 100, our goals 96, board meetings 71, Education & Communication 71, Shoreline & Watershed Management 48

Steve G reported the following: Lake Restoration has 11 signed up for 15 needed for residential weed treatment. DNR permits received for the 11 already. Price for DNR permits goes up on April 1st.

Steve G will put together a message regarding the Treatment Program to send out in a blast via Facebook, and email early in March.

Steve G received this message from Sue Belille from Lake Restoration:

As of right now we have 11 people who have signed up for the 2023 treatment season. I have applied for all 11 permits already, so your property is good to go. I am currently working on getting the 2nd round of sign ups out to our customers. I am sure with your reminder in your news letter and the 2nd round the numbers will go up. As for the deadline to get in on the treatments, any new properties will most likely have to have an inspection from the DNR which will take longer to release the permit. Our customers that worked with us last year will have their permit renewed, this will not take long at all. Please let me know if you have any questions.

This was followed with more detail from Paul Kretsch of Lake Restoration:

Lake Restoration is offering their Lakeshore Treatment Program on Lake Washington for 2023

Program Information:

- **Treatment Details:** High-powered combination of 4 products provides the best results on the widest range of lake weeds and algae
- **Treatment Base Cost:** \$40 permit fee, \$269+ per treatment, [Total \$578+ for 2 treatments], see attached sign-up form for additional options and detailed pricing.
- **New to 2023:** Muck reduction treatment option
- **Participation Requirement:** 15 participants(reduced from 20 in 2022). Lake Restoration wants to service Lake Washington in 2023!
- **Payment Details:** Invoices will be sent prior to each treatment, net 30 terms.
- **How to sign-up:**
 - Fill-in and complete attached 2023 lake sign-up form.
 - Submit to Lake Restoration by email: serviceforms@lakerestoration.com
 - Or by mail: 12425 Ironwood Circle, Rogers, MN 55374

Social Committee – Mike W reported May 6 is pork chop dinner. Jeff Forester of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers is speaker. Pot Luck will be Aug 5

Financial – Grants – Sharon D. shared the following message from Arianna Richardson, Meeker AIS Coordinator. Congratulations! The Meeker County Board approved the request for an Inspection Grant for Maintenance of the I-Lid at Ellsworth Landing for **\$2,000.00**. The Board also approved a Grant for the Chemical Treatment of Milfoil for **\$7,875.00**. Please note that your fulfillment request must meet the grant guidelines to receive the grant amount allocated to your lake. We strongly recommend calling multiple service providers to compare cost estimates. LWIA's grant application was approved subject to the terms of the county grant program. All grant proofs may be emailed to the coordinator, including but not limited to permits, treatment maps, invoices, and copies of checks paid. A reminder that a third-party survey is required for any grantees who have not had one within two years of treatment or for any treatment grants exceeding \$7,000.00.

The request for an AIS Education Grant for signage at the launch was also approved at **\$250.00**. **Condition of approval:** Sign message approval and permission from Launch Administrator must be obtained. Please confirm with MN DNR Parks and Trails any requested sign placement. Grantees not fully funded up to their requested amount may request additional funds up to the original request. The request would be met with unused early season AIS Treatment Grants and referred to the AIS Executive committee for approval. Grantees will still be subject to the total grant limit of \$12,500

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly should you need further assistance with any grant matter or requests for AIS Materials. In addition, for the required permits for in-lake herbicide treatment and sign content review specific to AIS, contact MN DNR AIS Specialist Eric Katzenmeyer at 320-753-0334 or by email at Eric.Katzenmeyer@state.mn.us. We value your efforts to protect Meeker County's highly valued lakes and streams.

MCAL - Representatives/meeting dates – Pat H reported next meeting is April 20th in Litchfield. Kim from MCAL did send out some information that can be purchased, with the focus on CLEAN – DRAIN – DRY national campaign.

7) Open Discussion Board members up for election in May are Pat Hanson, Dave Rathe, Mark Johnson, and Steve Grotbo. Everyone volunteered to stay on for another 3 year term.

Next Board Meeting Scheduled for April 4th at Dassel Rod and Gun.