

Lake Washington Improvement Association Board Meeting May 4, 2023

Board Members Present: Mike & Sandy Wosmek, Lyle Walker, Pat Hanson, Ron Bubany, Bonni Halverson, 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 \$54,383.46 General Fund \$72,163.21

Paid Memberships: 58 Lyle has 36 more to record = total of 94

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

2) Secretary's April Board Meeting Report – approved for publishing on the website

3) Treasurer's April Financial Report – Lyle W reported **Income** - \$2900.00 Membership, Inv Species \$1240.00, \$845.00 Dassel Fire Dept., Interest \$4.23. Expenses – April Nwslter \$1080.47 (included addition copies and membership cards/envelopes, RMB water tests \$102.37, Admin. Envelopes \$95.88, Mn Lakes and Rivers annual dues \$200.00. Newsletter ads outstanding EZ Dock, and LandsKaping. Total funds \$126,546.67 Board approved this report. Lyle is preparing numbers for annual audit.

4) Culvert replacement – Steve G. reached out to Phil Schmalz (Meeker Co.) His response:

Hi Steve, nothing has changed with the contractor's schedule as far as we know so we are still expecting a July/August culvert project with the paving work to follow along an August/September timeline.

5) Lake Steward – Steve G attended the meeting held on April 13th with all of the lakes that are participating in this program. There are 500 lake associations in Minnesota with average of 200 members per lake with average 150 feet lake shore per member. A total of 22 lakes participated in the meeting. Steve G listed those lakes.

Pat Hanson filled out the online survey. So that means we have Ellsworth Landing, Pat, and my place in the Lake Steward Program. During meeting it was highlighted that a study from the 1950s showed that you have to work very hard to get 15% to be part of something and after you reach the 15% threshold, others want to be part of it and it takes off. Thus we have a ways to go for hitting 15%.

Jeff is ready for presenting at Annual Members Meeting on Saturday.

6) Ice Out - Hi Steve

The official Ice Out was April 24th. A lot of ice got stuck in the bay. And ice is not declared out until everyone on the lake can get their dock in. The winner of \$134 was my neighbors Dan and Mary Jo Raden. They are going to donate the \$ to the LWIA. How nice is that?! Very generous.

Jenna

DNR updated vis Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/MinnesotaStateClimatologyOffice>

Website needs update and Ron B will do this. Dave R will share this information with MPCA

7) AIS Detectors Core Course – No one has signed up yet, Mark J looking at updating his status in the future.

More information at: <https://maisrc.umn.edu/detectors-core>

8) Committee Reports:

Aquatic Invasive Species:

A. Water Quality Testing – Dave R reported high phosphorus level at inlet #311- 116 micrograms and 312 331 micrograms (coming from Darwin Lake). Normal levels for our lake are 32-38 milograms.

Have not received the water testing kits for monthly sampling. Do have 6 inlet testing kits.

B. Vegetation Survey – Committee looking at starting sampling some time in May. Mark J has scheduled Limnopro to do AIS survey the last week in June.

Steve G did reach out to Lake Restoration about shoreline treatments, had not heard back from them. Last he heard there were 17 people signed up.

C. I-LIDS/Watercraft Inspection – Dave R and Mike W will be installing I-LIDS next week before fishing opener. The trash can and port-a-potty are already at the landing.

D. Cormorants & Pelicans – Groups of cormorants and up to 40 pelicans have been spotted on the lake.

E. Zebra Mussels – Mike W reported 11 hotels will be put out Memorial Weekend.

F. Watershed – Dave R shared an email chain with a property owner on the south side of the lake near Inlet #304. This is county ditch #32. That drains water from the farm land across the road. Dave R was going to try and get more information from Meeker Co about the status of this ditch and changes over the years. Property Owner, Dennis was concerned about the weeds growing in the lake at this inlet and how mucky the area becomes in the summer.

Dave shared with Dennis this is a county ditch, maintained by Meeker Co. Dave R has inspected the water coming into the lake at #304 and thought it looked pretty good. He will do testing for suspended solids and phosphorus in the near future. He has reached out to Joe Norman and is waiting for a reply.

Mike W reported the Warren Nelson and Lyn Schmidt project on the North side of the lake is still on the engineers desk for a plan. Mike reported the home-owner (Schmidts) need to get bids for the project on their side of the road and Joe Norman is working with them to get this project started.

Membership / Shoreline Captains – Laurie J reported she will have all the data for Captains updated by the May 20 meeting. All of the Shore Line Captain positions are filled at this time. She shared door hanger model for Shore Line Captains to help with connecting people on their list. Laurie is looking at different bids for this project and she will make the call so we can have them by the May 20 Shore Line Captains meeting at Dassel Rod n Gun Club at 10 am. Steve G will get Laurie a QR code to put on the door hangers. Sharon suggested a bright color. Sandy talked to someone on the south side of the lake and reinforced for her the important part Shore Line Captains play in communicating with property owners.

Education & Public Relations:

A. Spring / Summer Newsletters – Articles will be due near the end of June. Ron B is accepting pictures for the cover or to go with articles.

B. Website, Facebook, and Email Activity – Steve G noted: Interesting item where one person reported finding a floating raft and a week later another reporting same raft missing. Great to be able to connect the two together.

Social Committee Pork chop event is created on Facebook. Ron to do email blast tomorrow. Steve G will sell meat raffle for the usual \$2 a ticket or 3 for \$5.

Laurie and Pat are working the door. Marcus helping Mike cook chops.

The Agenda for the meeting will be:

~6:30 PM program

- Thank B&B Sports for the pork chops.
- Steve U to run elections.
- Laurie announces the shoreline captains.
- Steve G announces opportunities.
 - o Lake Steward program
 - o Volunteering to be on committee
 - o Being a Shoreline captain – meeting on May 20th at 10 AM
 - o Entering boat in 4th of July parade or watching from shore
 - o Representing lake in Twine Ball Parade
 - o Coming to the August 5th potluck
 - o Residential weed treatment
 - o Becoming a board member
- Jeff Forester presentation
- Meat raffle winners
- Q&A

Financial – Grants – Sharon D shared email she has received from Jake Walsh, DNR (Aquatic Invasive Species Research and Grants Coordinator) regarding grant monies, that we have already applied for and necessary documentation for reimbursement. She also received an email from Limnopro about doing a survey, Mark has one scheduled for last week in June. Sharon thanked everyone for submitting volunteer hours, invoices, and receipts. Sharon noted LWIA was not reimbursed for 2022 water quality testing from Meeker Co. (MCAL), they ow us \$382.00. There has been a lot of turn over at the county level, and Pat H will reach out to Kim to figure out the status of this payment.

MCAL - Representatives/meeting dates – Pat H reported on April meeting. Many lakes reported large fish kills over the winter. Some lakes are looking at aeration for their lakes. There was talk of testing oxygen levels on area lakes and possibly up to \$350 for this testing. Milfoil was a big issue at this meeting regarding confirmation and treatments. There were questions about Lake Stewards on Washington and Lake Detectors, but not many lakes are participating in either of these programs.

There was a discussion about Educational Grants and what qualifies for these monies. No one was able to come up with any specific list or clear idea what may qualify. There was talk of having some type of training/help at the county level for grant writing and what the criteria is. Grants can only be granted to county Lake Associations, not for private projects, even if on the lake. Next Meeting is July 20.

9) Open Discussion – The Lake Gage was installed at Ron Bubany’s house on May 3 by the DNR. It consists of a post with readings/numbers on it that Ron checks weekly or if there is a substantial rain fall. He sends these readings in every month. The contact person is:

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Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
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Next Board Meeting Scheduled for June 6th at Dassel Rod and Gun.