

Lake Washington Improvement Association Board Meeting June 6, 2023

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

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

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

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

3) **Treasurer's May Financial Report** – Lyle W reported *Income* - \$5250.00 Membership, Inv Species \$1857.00, \$1637.00 Dassel Fire Dept., Interest \$117.33, \$160.00 Ad payment, \$170.00 Pork chops sold, \$164.00 Meat/Cheese Raffle. *Expenses* – Pork chop dinner \$566.85, Water sample shipping \$18.08, Admin. checks \$19.00, Newsletter ad outstanding EZ Dock.

Annual audit was completed, State and Federal year-end reports were approved and signed.

Invasive Species Fund \$56,357.79 + General Fund \$78,940.28 = Total funds \$135,298.07 Board approved this report.

Paid Memberships: 105 added in May = total of 163

It was noted the Dassel Fire Dept is not a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, but they are working on approval.

4) **Culvert replacement** – Steve G. saw signs saying road closed to local traffic starting June 19th. Steve G. reached out to Phil Schmalz (Meeker Co.)

Response from Phil Schmalz (Meeker County): June 19th is the current start date the road reclaim/paving contractor has shared with us. Their current plan is to begin working on the road prior to the culvert replacement and then coordinate their efforts with the culvert replacement contractor when they come in. The culvert replacement contractor is currently thinking they will be able to come in possibly the second half of July.

5) **Lake Steward** – Steve G commented: Great feedback from Jeff Forester's talk at the May meeting. I sent a thank-you note to him and he indicated that he really enjoyed it as well.

We had a total of 8 fill out the online survey so far.

- 1) Steve Grotbo / Elizabeth Walke (2022)
- 2) Ellsworth Landing (2022)
- 3) Pat Hanson
- 4) Amy B
- 5) Bob & Nancy Finkenaur
- 6) Ruth Lotsof / Dan Komarek
- 7) Jeff Blake
- 8) Connie Paulson

Only Ruth and Dan requested an official survey, which I did and they are now listed as "Lake Stewards". They also bought Jeff's book on Amazon. I'm hoping for one more to split cost of sign shipping.

Lily Carr (MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates Intern) reached out to get success stories on this program.

6) **Board election / officers.** All board members were approved at the Annual Pork chop meeting. The following officers were elected and approved.

President: Steve Grotbo

Vice president: Mike Wosmek

Secretary: Steve Ullom

Treasurer: Lyle Walker

7) **Committee Reports:**

A. **Water Quality Testing** – First sample was pulled 22 May '23. Clarity 11.5 feet and 67.1 °F temperature. Next clarity test planned for June 12th weather permitting.

B. **Vegetation Survey** – Very few weeds so far, so Lake Restoration is doing residential treatment on June 26th. Limnopro is planning to do the vegetation survey last week of June. Will focus on Ellsworth landing, Rod & Gun Club landing, and Lake Stella inlet. Seems to be a lot of green stuff in the lake, not sure if it is algae or something else. Will try to get answer from DNR.

C. **I-LIDS/Watercraft Inspection** – Unit was installed on May 11th. I-LIDS was not playing any sound during the May 25th walleye tournament. Problem was very weak batteries, replaced batteries and adjusted magnetic sensor. Unit is now working correctly. Someone took a rock to the camera lens cover and scratched/pitted it. Received a replacement lens cover to be installed. Inspectors have been at Ellsworth landing on the weekends and holidays. The DNR decontamination unit has been there a few times.

D. Cormorants & Pelicans – Spring lake and Collinwood solved the problem by having winterkill. So no cormorants or pelicans, but also no fish. Fish kill likely due to low oxygen levels. So that means Lake Washington is getting extra cormorants and pelicans this year.

Last June Scott Mackenthun (DNR) indicated that “DCCOs are under consideration for control permits managed by states under the watch of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service”. His update was; impact to fish population needs to be shown before any action.

Since the West Metro Walleye League caught 22 walleyes last Thursday (May 25th) in a few hours, it is hard to argue that the walleye population is severely impacted. The 26 ½ inch walleye was very impressive. The group did catch and release all the large walleye, so they are out there to be caught again. This league has already said they will be back next season as the fishing was so good and plenty of room to space out compared to other lakes in the area. There were 25 boats with 2 people fishing per boat.

Mike Worland (DNR) provided the cormorant (DCCO) report for 2015 and 2020 indicating next count is scheduled for 2025. Though it sounds like 2024 is a possibility because of a broader effort under the Atlantic and Great Lakes Flyways (coordinated by various partners, not the MN DNR). But they haven’t yet selected lakes where they will take a census.

E. Zebra Mussels – Mike W. installed 11 hotels Memorial Day in the same locations as last year.

F. Watershed – Mike W. reported the Lynn Schmidt project has been approved for inlet 312. Joe Norman is getting bids now. Meeker County SWCD will pay 75% of the projects cost. Warren Nelson, Lynn Schmidt, and LWIA will need to cover the rest. Mike W. and Dave R. looked at inlet 316, which was reported to have black muck after a heavy rain/snow melt. Joe Norman will take a look in the future. There are actually two culverts draining into the lake at this location about 10 feet apart.

Membership / Shoreline Captains – Laurie J reported 15 of 22 Shoreline Captains attended the meeting on May 20th. All Shoreline captain packets are in the hands of the captains except for 2. In 2022 there were 160 members to date and this year (2023) there are 163 members. Thanks to Mike & Sandy W for their help with the meeting. Door hangers look really good.

8) **Education & Public Relations:**

A. Summer Newsletters – Articles are due Monday June 26th to Ron B. Ron would like pictures for the cover or to go with articles.

B. Website, Facebook, and Email Activity – Dead turtles and frogs are being found by residents – assume died over winter, the DNR was informed. Dave R mentioned this last meeting and additionally it is being reported by other south side residents. Dave R thought the turtles and frogs died in hibernation when water levels went up and probably drowned. Correction: After further investigation the turtles and frogs probably died from low oxygen levels in the lake over the winter. Both turtles and frogs hibernate on the bottom of the lake and absorb oxygen through their skin.

Water ski and paddle boat were found and returned to owner. Facebook post for Lost & Found is working well.

Social Committee: 91 members attended the Pork chop meeting on May 6th. B&B Sports paid for the pork chops provided by Benny’s meat market. Several people commented they enjoyed the speaker, Jeff Forester. It was recommended a speaker be found for next year’s meeting. Meat & Cheese raffle was good and raised \$164.00. Pot Luck membership meeting is planned for August 5th. There will be no door prizes. Sandy is planning to do BBQ again this year. Steve G will talk to EZ Dock to sponsor the August Pot Luck.

4th of July parade event will be announced on Facebook. Email blast to go out on July 1st.

Financial – Grants – Sharon D requested Limnopro and Environmental Sentry send their invoices in prior to July 1st. These would then be turned into DNR, Jake Walsh, for grant monies to be refunded to LWIA.

MCAL - Representatives/meeting dates – Nothing to report.

9) **Open Discussion:**

Next Board Meeting Scheduled for July 6th at Dassel Rod and Gun.