

Lake Washington Improvement Association Board Meeting September 7, 2023

Board Members Present: Mike & Sandy Wosmek, Lyle Walker, Pat Hanson, Steve Grotbo, Steve Ullom, David Rathe, Sharon Daniels, Brett Rasmussen,

Treasurer Report: Invasive Species Fund \$54,255.66

General Fund \$75,690.22

Paid Memberships: 205

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

2) **Secretary's July Board Meeting Report** approved for publication on website

3) **Treasurer's July and August Financial Reports** – Lyle W Reported

July Income: \$750 Memberships, \$200 Inv. Species, \$175 DFD, \$100 Ad payment, \$50 Donation (in memory of Dean Shaner) \$4.38 Interest. Total \$1279.38. **Expenses:** \$716.11 Nwsltr, \$18.08 H2O samples, \$258.86 Ellsworth Trash, \$2759.25 Inlet repair (cost share with County and Warren Nelson), \$1547.20 Limnopro, \$104.99 Info Systems. Total \$504.49. Board voted to approve this report.

August Income: \$400 Memberships, \$350 EZ Dock ad payment, \$96.83 EZ Dock for Pot Luck food, 44.38 Interest, Total \$851.21. **Expenses:** \$18.08 H2O samples, \$96.83 RR Foods For Pot Luck, \$200 Dues for Mn Lakes, Total Expenses \$403.70. Total Funds 8/31/23 \$129,945.88. Approved by the Board.

4) **Culvert replacement** – Seve G reported: New culvert is in. Plenty of room compared to old culvert, pontoons fit. A bit shallow on Washington side, but once lake gets back to normal level most boats will make it. Steve G has plenty of pictures.

Concern was brought up during potluck of the blacktop for crossing between Stella and Washington on Hwy 14 after pavement project. Phil Schmalz did contact DNR and they indicated no responsibility for this.

From Phil:

“Hello, thought I'd update you on these access points. The DNR claims they have nothing to do with them. It appears the original roadway plat did include little bump outs where these are located so I could make the case they are the County's. We will work with the paving contractor to get new pavement down there when they come back to pave the gap. They are currently telling us October for paving the gap over the culvert.

Our plan right now is to try and go as far as the existing pavement.

Is this far enough for blacktop on Washington side? Does it make any sense for association to extend this blacktop further? Initial thought is that we want to encourage use of Ellsworth landing where I-LIDS is present.”

Mike W reported the gravel washes out from the paved apron to the lake and would need about 40 feet to pave all the way to the lake. This site is used primarily for ice houses because Ellsworth Landing is not plowed in the winter. Stella is not interested in paving their side. Steve G was going to check on cost for paving this. Board discussion: Mike W reported Tom (person that levels out the gravel area, after a washout) is ok with leaving it gravel, the Board agreed with just paving the apron and leaving the gravel. Also, Phil's thought about wanting people to use Ellsworth Landing, with I-LIDS, is a strong argument to leave this pathway between the lakes as is.

5) **Lake Steward** – Only have three people signed up for his program. Some have expressed an interest in upgrading their shorelines but do not want to be part of this project.

6) **Removal of rocks** that are close to surface. We received the following emails:

Hello Lake Washington Improvement Association,

Me and my neighbors have been marking rocks that pose threats to boat propellers with plastic milk bottles, given our severely shallow lake. Can these be removed?

Warm Regards,

Alan & Charlene Sherwood

68068 217th St, Darwin, MN 55324

763-306-4594

asherwood2182@gmail.com

Hi - I'm Al's neighbor. It probably goes without saying but it'd be great just to have them 'rolled' to shore.

Jill Hogan

Board Discussion: It was our understanding that only the Sheriff's Dept and DNR could put approved markers up in the lake. Dave R pointed out there is a rock in the waterway into the Ellsworth Landing (it is about the size of a basketball). Along with boating regulations limiting what can be put in the lake, the biggest concern was liability issues if property owners were marking rocks with milk cartons. Steve U has been in contact with DNR Scott M

Fisheries Hutchinson and Emily Javens, Hydrologist for our area. Emily shared the following shortly after our Board Meeting

From the 2023 MN Boater's Guide page 32 (<https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/rlp/regulations/boatwater/boatingguide.pdf>):

"WATERWAY MARKERS—AIDS TO NAVIGATION

Waterway markers show navigable channels, denote unsafe areas, direct traffic, control speed, protect resources and serve other functions. Official markers are usually placed by the U.S. Coast Guard, state, county or local governmental unit. Private markers of any type may not be placed in the water overnight without a permit from the county sheriff."

2) I called the Sheriff's office and they are going to look into this with the DNR conservation officer who works in Meeker County. I gave them your phone number and they will report back to you and call if they have questions.

3) As far as moving rocks, how would you move them? Can you lift the basketball sized one? If you need heavy equipment, you might need a permit for that. I would need more details. Emily Javens, DNR Emily.Javens@state.mn.us

The Sheriff's Department contacted Steve U September 8th saying they were going to be contacting the Sherwood's about the rock issue. Have not heard back from Meeker County at this time.

7) Committee Reports:

Aquatic Invasive Species:

A. Water Quality Testing – Dave R reported the following test results:

Clarity July 5 feet	Seechi reading	Aug. 4-4.5 feet		
Water testing	Total Phos.	ChlA	Temp	
May	20.5	1.3	67.1	
June	28	8.7	77.7	
July	31.2	5.3	76.8	
10 year average	28	10	78.6	

Dave and Mike will pull more samples in a couple of weeks. They shared that no water is flowing from the inlets to the lake, so there has been no testing of any sites.

B. Vegetation Survey – Mark J not in attendance table Limnopro results.

Mark, Ron, Mike went out two times and did not find any EWM in either vegetation sampling.

Steve G reported anyone that contacts him about shoreline weeds, he is passing on the information from Lake Restoration's near shore vegetation treatments. Steve has been very pleased with the treatment results from the past few years. They have already sent out renewals for next year.

C. I-LIDS/Watercraft Inspection – Everything seems to be working well. There have been over 7,000 videos recorded to date. Part of the contract they look at some of the videos. Brett is watching videos about 1 hour per week. One of the best things about the I-LIDS is the verbal reminder. Will take it out sometime in October. The special use permit for this device is good through 2024

D. Cormorants & Pelicans – Steve G reported Scott Mackenthun (DNR) provided draft 2023 fish survey. The 2023 numbers for walleye seem down considerably compared to 2021 (26% less). Other fish like Blue Gill are way up.

Pelican lake has DNR initiative for controlling (killing) the cormorants. Comments to DNR were due at the end of August, which we did to support the effort. They indicated this was being done because of reduced walleye population. So if this goes through, hopefully we can do the same for Pigeon lake.

E. Zebra Mussels - Hotels were pulled Labor Day weekend. Mostly small size 1/8 to 1/4 inch of those found on the hotels. Hotel #4 came apart and was repaired using an aluminum plate, this is something they are doing to all the hotels to see if the metal surface can/will have more attaching. The committee is also looking at putting out the hotels earlier in the season and adding metal plates to all of them. They are wondering if earlier placements may show more in the lake. This year more reports of mussels attaching to clam shells. Dave asked all members to check their equipment this fall and look for signs of more mussels attaching to docks and lifts.

F. Watershed - Foam on lake was a concern for a resident by the inlet from holding pond. Dave Rathe provided following method for determining cause:

Most lake foam is caused when the surface tension of water is decreased and air is mixed into the water.

Organic materials from naturally decaying plants and animals can reduce the surface tension of water, and when the wind blows across it, or waves wash against the shore, bubbles are produced.

Most foam observed in lakes or streams is naturally occurring, and not an indicator of pollution.

To determine if foam is natural or not, collect some of the foamy water in a jar. Shake the jar. Detergents will produce more bubbles; natural foam usually dissipates. Detergent foams feel slippery and usually smell of perfumes. Natural foams often smell like fish or soil. Mike Wosmek followed up with a visit to the home and provided owner with information about the need to remove weeds from the shoreline to prevent some issues with algae. He shared information with the owner about treatments for shoreline weeds.

Mike W reported on: erosion control project on the Warren Nelson farm outlet #312. Mike talked to Lynn Schmidt about the easement agreement that detailed Warren Nelson's responsibilities to be liable for the area around the inlet at site #312. Warren Nelson agreed with Mike's understanding of the easement. As a result of this: Total project cost was \$22,074.00 of which Meeker County paid 75% = \$16,555.50. With the understanding LWIA and Warren would share the 25% cost = \$2759.25 for each party. This job was completed on July 27.

Mike provided an update to inlet #305 at 68288 25th St, that was brought to our attention in May by John and Donna Hammers. Dave R and Mike W looked at this inlet and discovered an open tile across the road, with two inlet pipes into the lake. On June 23rd Mike met with Joe Norman and he said we needed to come up with a plan. Joe was going to talk with Ahlgren about any open tiles in this run. This open tile is not part of the Ahlgren run and Joe talked to the son-in-law of the tile owner. He called Mike back on Aug. 2 and said there are no more open tiles on this line. Joe suggested Mike W put a new style cap on the inlet (Agri-Drain 8 inch diameter x 18 inches tall). Mike ordered and then on 8-17-23 installed this cap that prevents solids from flowing into the culvert. Mike notified Joe and the Hammers this project was completed at a cost of \$88.79 paid for by LWIA.

Mike and Dave talked about a holding pond on the south east side of the lake that may need dredging. They will look into this.

Mike is monitoring the lease agreement for the holding pond on the south west side of the lake, it expires in two years.

Membership / Shoreline Captains – Tabled Laurie not able to attend this meeting.

Education & Public Relations:

A. Fall Newsletters – Ron B reported all articles are due on Monday September 25. Only have one ad at this time from Backyard Reflections.

B. Website, Facebook, and Email Activity

Dean Shaner passed away and a request was made for how a donation in his honor could be made to lake association. Christopher and Nicole Dawson made a donation to LWIA in memory of Dean. Pat will note this in her corner of the Newsletter. Steve U will send them a Thank You

2023 Junior State Championship Tournament was held on August 18th. Scott Mackenthun (DNR) did ask if we had any concerns over the sheer number of bass tournaments. There were no specific concerns by the Board at this time. With winter kill on some area lakes noted, it was thought this may have added to the fishing on Lake Washington this year.

Social Committee – Sandy reported about 70 people attended the Pot Luck Dinner. There were many great food choices and most of the food was gone.

Lyle will reserve the special events dates for 2024 at the Dassel Rod n Gun Club.

Pork Chop May 4 and Pot Luck Aug. 3

Financial – Grants – Sharon needs volunteer hours turned in by September 20th or earlier in order to complete her end of year reports for the grant programs. Sharon reported DNR grant for 2022 reimbursed \$1527.00 for Limnopro vegetation survey. LWIA was not randomly chosen by the DNR for a grant for 2023 expenses. MCAL has not paid us yet for 2022 water testing expenses, and Sharon has asked and they are checking on this. Grants from MCAL of \$4000.00 2023 / we will request reimbursement of \$3192.00 for 2023 expenses; AIS grant of \$2000.00 for 2023/ we will request reimbursement for expenses of \$2610. The MCAL grant application for 2024 will be completed and turned in by October 1. Sharon requested pictures of the projects LWIA has worked on this year, such as Mike's watershed projects or from anyone else with project pictures.

MCAL – July 17th Pat H and Sharon Daniels – Many new and younger people attended this meeting. The election of officers was delayed until the Oct. meeting. The vice president presided over the meeting, as the president has resigned due to no longer living on the lake. The current vice president has agreed to be the new President. Every lake gets 2 votes. There was talk of updating the by-laws. A committee was formed to check this out; but have discovered that in 2019 the by-laws were updated. There was talk of 2024 dues and that they would be sent to each lake association in January each year. Reported there are 201 lakes in Meeker Co. and MCAL wants email addresses and contact persons for each lake. They are looking at ways for MCAL members to understand the need to become involved and hopefully participate as a board member with procedures going forward. “Keep it Clean” is a program to clean up around the lakes and during ice fishing season. There will be more information coming about this program. On Lake Washington the Boy Scouts have been doing clean up before ice out.

8) Open Discussion – Steve G will let people know he will be moving and leaving the Board next year in the newsletter.

Next Board Meeting Scheduled for October 3rd at Dassel Rod and Gun.