

## Lake Washington Improvement Association Board Meeting May 2, 2024

Board Members Present: Mike Wosmek, Lyle Walker, Pat Hanson, Ron Bubany, Steve Grotbo, Steve Ullom, David Rathe, Sharon Daniels, Mark Johnson, Brett Rasmussen,

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

**Treasurer Report:** Invasive Species Fund \$63,340.58      General Fund \$68,875.62

### **2024 Paid Memberships: 2**

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

2) **Secretary's April Board Meeting Report** – Approved for the website, Steve will send updated copy to all.

3) **Treasurer's April Financial Report** – Lyle reported INCOME: Membership \$100; Inv. Species \$25; Interest \$5.70; Ads for Newsletter \$550.00.      EXPENSES: Spring NewsLetter \$1358.88; Envelopes and Cards \$166.44; MCAL Dues \$20. End of Fiscal Year Total \$132,215.62.

Lyle will be sending Year End report to Piehl Hanson Beckman for audit and filing State and Federal forms.

4) **Board member elections:** Saturday Annual Meeting (need one to fill Steve G 2 years and one for 3 year term) Steve U will conduct the election process.

5) **Ellsworth Landing Signage** Mark J reported he has information regarding infested lakes in Meeker Co. There was a discussion about listing all infested lakes in Meeker, but Mark will check with DNR about what can be put on the sign that he is proposing. Laurie will design the sign.

6) **Dam** – Jason Boyl, DNR, reported there is no new information regarding the lake dam. He did ask if we could find the names of area concrete contractors that could possibly do the repairs. They would need \$1.5M to 2.0 M in insurance to be considered. Mike W volunteered to do some research and contact Joe Norman, Meeker Co. SWCD, to help find names that he can pass on to Jason.

7) **Owner of LWIA email / Facebook admins** - Pat has volunteered to take on responses for [info@lwiaonline.com](mailto:info@lwiaonline.com) there are about 6 emails per year.

Current Facebook Admins - Steve G reported we get on average 1 request per week, with many coming during the summer. Laurie and Brett have volunteered for this Admin position We should have at least two people being admins who are on the board. Many more items come in this way compared to email.

8) **Garbage can at Ellsworth landing** – Emily Kral (DNR out of New Ulm) called Steve G to indicate that garbage can is being arranged for May to September for this year and also for 2025. The “donation” the association has to make covers through June 2025, as that is their fiscal year. Dave R confirmed garbage can is there.

9) **Newsletter printing options** – Crow River Printers have closed shop. Lyle shared Tom Gayner works for Loffler Printing and does all the Rod ‘n Gun Club stuff. Ron B has contacted Loffler and they can do the printing and mailing for about \$500 per mailing. They have other options, Ron B will explore the cost of printing in color. He has already set up for the Summer Newsletter printing.

### **10) Committee Reports:**

#### **Aquatic Invasive Species:**

**A. Water Quality Testing** – Dave R reported they will be testing in May, June, July, August, September. They have the MPCA reporting forms and are waiting for RMB kits.

**B. Vegetation Survey** – Limnopro will be surveying in late July early August. The committee will start in June focusing on the areas identified in last summers vegetation survey.

**C. I-LIDS/Watercraft Inspection** – Dave and Mike set it up last week. Brett can start looking at videos. Dave purchased a flag to attach to the base hoping to reduce damage over the winter. Boat inspections for Washington are scheduled for Friday, Saturday, Sunday and some Holidays this year. Dave has no idea what

the DNR's plan is for inspections and cleaning station this year. He will contact them for their schedule when he sees them at the Landing.

Sharon D reported, Arianna from Meeker AIS shared:

I appreciate all of your hard work and dedication through the years. Sending some info on CICO for your group to consider sharing with members and inclusion in any signage [www.CD3CICO.com](http://www.CD3CICO.com), *this correlates to the QR code they are proposing to put up at the landing for people to self-report their boating experience when **entering** or leaving the lake.*"

Arianna continues:

As you asked, this is a reminder: the grant is a treatment grant and not an inspection, so it will not cover I-lids unless noted as in-kind, and in-kind may only account for 25% of the project total.

As I shared, changes made in our program aim to support county-wide prevention as infestations in surrounding counties continue to rise. We are working towards a more sustainable cost-sharing model for services as costs increase, so there are likely more changes to allow us to prevent and address any future introductions of AIS. I hope this was not heard as dismissive or discouraging. We see the great work groups in Meeker are doing, and we are working to ensure long-term, meaningful support for those efforts.

I'll reach out later this year if I don't hear from you, but if LWIA doesn't treat this year, is experiencing financial hardship and cannot afford to maintain the I-lids, I encourage your board to write a letter and provide evidence of financial hardship. If received I may share those with the committee for consideration.

Sharon applied for **the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the AIS grant application prior to the April 15<sup>th</sup>** deadline.

**D. Cormorants & Pelicans** – Nothing to report.

**E. Zebra Mussels** – Mike reported the hotels will be going out around Memorial Weekend.

**F. Watershed** – Mike W reported at site #302 culvert a farmer has put a tile into the piping at this site (this is the site we put an extension on several years ago). We will need to do some repairs at this site from the addition of the farm tile. Not sure of exact problem, but thinks it is pipe sizing issue.

Mike shared the sediment pond (Skip's Pond) on the southwest corner of the lake had 10 year lease starting in 2014, so it expires in November of 2024. Mike and Dave will be doing water quality testing on this site. If the testing shows the same water quality of the water coming out of the pond as it is at site #101 in the lake, the plan was to close the pond and put it back the way it was. Mike in consultation with Joe Norman SWCD and the Board will be involved with making decisions about what happens with the pond.

**Membership / Shoreline Captains** – Memberships are starting to come in Lyle just picked up a stack of them. Shoreline Captains meeting is 10 AM on May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Rod n Gun club. Looks like all the positions are filled.

#### **Education & Public Relations:**

**A. Spring / Summer Newsletters** – Newsletters looked very good.

**B. Website, Facebook, and Email Activity** – Nothing to report at this time.

**Social Committee** – Mike W reported everything is ordered and will have things ready. He will stop at B & B for the chops check on his way through. There will be 3 meat trays to raffle. Dan McEwen from Limnopro will speak about lake vegetation, AIS, with emphasis on Starry Stonewort.

**Financial – Grants** – Sharon thanked everyone for sending in their volunteer hours. MCAL has increased water testing allowance to \$650.00. Mark J and Sharon have been working on completing grant applications. We do have a \$10,000.00 State DNR grant for treatment.

**MCAL** – Dave R shared the following from April MCAL meeting.

- No MCAL criteria for grants
- Meeker County has criteria

- Approximately \$30,000 from BWSR
- \$650 per lake for water quality testing for 12 to 14 lakes
- Unknown what MCAL will get for 2024

Many of the people from area lakes are new to this organization. So the next meeting there will be MCAL 101 training to help newer members.

Several lakes are planning to do carp control by limiting carp access to breeding locations.

Starry Stonewort - Chemical treatment is working better than mechanical, due to breakdowns of the harvester

Mille Bell plans to have inspectors all days from May 10th to September 30th.

Stella takes water quality tests using RMB Labs. (We shouldn't need to test water coming in from Stella.)

Manuella - DNR plans to upgrade the public landing. No one knew the nature of the upgrades.

Meeker County is planning to have inspectors at Ellsworth landing Fri, Sat, Sun, & Holidays. DNR was an unknown for inspectors.

Must Pay MCAL dues by July 18th.

Next Meeting July 18th 7 PM downstairs at County Court House.

11) Open Discussion

## **PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF MEETING DATE CHANGE**

Next Board Meeting Scheduled for 7 PM Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup> at Dassel Rod and Gun Club