

ELK-SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2017

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruth Bay, Don Bonato, Bob Campbell, Gary Chenoweth, Dale Claudepierre, Peter DiMercurio, Jan Garvey, Kathie Gober, Marybeth Kazanski, Bob Kingon, Ken Krentz, Dave Lawicki, Sue McCraven, Brenda Miller, Pat Pierce, Joan Richardson, Jim Sak, Phil Spangenberg

MEMBERS ABSENT: Melissa Culver, Dean Ginther, Dolores Hibbard, Andrew Hogarth, Tim Wheeler

Guest: Ron Reimink, from Freshwater Solutions LLC

Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association (ESLA) president Gary Chenoweth called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

He introduced Ron Reimink, who presented information about the Michigan Swimmer's Itch Partnership (MISIP) initiative, which provides State of Michigan matching funds in 2018 to research the level of swimmer's itch parasite infestation in lakes that sign up for this. The goal is to combat swimmer's itch through Merganser duck control via a trap and relocate permit from the DNR, and generally consists of trapping and releasing Merganser broods to Lake Michigan. It has been successful in reducing/eliminating swimmer's itch in other lakes.

Ron's company is one of the northern Michigan companies that provide research assessment and duck control services. His proposal and goals are attached.

BOARD MEETING PROCEEDINGS:

The minutes for the September 21 board meeting were approved.

Phil Spangenberg provided the Treasurer's Report to board members that includes a summary of Vanguard and Endowment fund investments. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was carried and the report is attached.

Administrative Assistant, Brenda Miller, reported that we have a total of 579 members to date, up from 481 of last year. Membership report is attached.

The membership letter and dues envelope will be sent out in early March (after the data base is updated). There will be May reminder letters sent to those who have not paid this year but previously sent in their dues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Activities: "Its a Shore Thing" programs that take place the fourth Friday of the months April through September have been tentatively planned. The Annual Meeting has been planned for Friday, June 22, and will again be held at the Historic Elk Rapids Town Hall.

The Membership Letter to be sent out in March will list “Its a Shore Thing” and Annual Meeting dates with most program topics announced.

ESLA Website: Committee members met with the creator of the Long Lake Association website, who is also a lake association member, and liked his proposal for how we want our website to look and be used. There is also a local company to consider. The committee would like to propose that an annual cost of \$3,000 would be needed to accomplish the goal for a user friendly website. A motion was made, seconded and passed to authorize funds not to exceed \$3,000 annually for the redesigning and hosting of our website.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Pete DiMercurio submitted a letter to certify that a formal audit of ESLA finances by the Finance Committee showed all books and general accounting was in good order. This letter is attached.

SAFETY AND RECREATION:

Pat Pierce stated that the cigar-shaped bouys pulled by Lakeshore Marine this fall show wear and will eventually have to be replaced.

The 18” X18” No WAKE sign in the Elk River near Rycenga Island belongs to Elk Rapids Township. The township will discuss their responsibility in sign upkeep. Do we want to take on the responsibility? There was discussion on the price of replacing the sign with a larger NO WAKE ZONE sign, and possible liability issues. It was decided to table the discussion until the March meeting.

Pat obtained another bid on reducing the depth of 5 “dead heads” -four in Spencer Bay and one heading into Torch River from Skegemog Lake.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Dale Claudepierre proposed that we contract again with PLM Lake and Land Management Corporation to partner with them in Eurasian Water Milfoil treatment for 2018. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to continue with the contract.

Board support is also sought to seek another intern from the West Michigan Water Institute and partner, Northwestern Michigan College for this year.

OLD BUSINESS

EASLEY ROAD UPDATE: Gary gave an update on the excavation near Easley Road that resulted in water running into Elk Lake from a pond after heavy rains. There is still concern, but no high level of contaminants are getting into the lake. The goal is to block off the pond-no timetable.

RUGG POND: Dave Lawicki reported that they are still short of funding to obtain core samples of sediment in Rugg Pond.

NEW BUSINESS:

SWIMMER'S ITCH Discussion Follow-up: Sue McCraven will notify Ron Reimick that we are interested in participating in the MISIP initiative. We will seek quotes for including both lakes and possibly the bayou and rivers.

TOM (Tip of the Mitt) Update: Bob Kingon reported a new staff member at TOM: Dave Edwards, PhD, is a microbiologist and specialist in inland waters.

ERCOL (Elk River Chain of Lakes) Update: Marybeth Kazanski went to the ERCOL committee with ideas from ESLA for their consideration in identifying priorities and grant solicitation. Examples are Rugg Pond, Swimmer's Itch, Loons. The committee is still in this suggestion stage.

AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) SIGNAGE Update: Ken Krentz states that the pocket brochures were successfully distributed in 2017 and he will do this again in the spring. There is no need to spend more money. The cost was \$394.

Ken also noted that the DNR was stocking Rainbow Trout in Elk Lake through the mid 2000's, but none of the stock fish are left. Fishing had declined, however this fall there were reports of catching plenty of Rainbow Trout. The DNR explains that recent stocking strains (steelheads) put into Torch Lake are working out better. Also it has been good weather for fish spawning. The DNR will survey Torch Lake in 2018 for its fish population, and will do the same in Elk Lake in 2019. Volunteers will be sought to help with this seven day survey on Elk Lake.

Ken would like to survey anglers for the DNR on what they are catching. This will help guide stocking and management decisions in the future. It was suggested the survey be included in the Membership mailing.

In July 2018, the DNR will be doing sampling in the creeks surrounding Elk Lake and needs volunteers.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Submitted by recording secretary, Joan Richardson