

ELK-SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
MARCH 16, 2017

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruth Bay, Dale Claudepierre, Peter DiMercurio, Mary Beth Kazanski, Bob Kingon, Dave Lawacki, Sue McCraven, Brenda Miller, Pat Pierce, Joan Richardson, Phil Spangenberg

MEMBERS ABSENT: Don Bonato, Gary Chenoweth, Steve Flechter, Dean Ginther, Kathi Gober, Dave Hauser, Dolores Hibbard, Andy Hogarth, Ken Krentz, Scott Lizenby, Kent Reynolds, Jim Sak, Tim Wheeler

GUESTS: Eli Baker and Maria Affhalter from Tip of the Mill Watershed Council and approximately seven students from the Elk Rapids High School AP Biology Class

Proceedings:

ESLA president Ruth Bay called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

She introduced Eli Baker of the Tip of the Mitt (TOM) Watershed Academy to explain the program along with Maria Affhalter, the Water Resource Education Director of the TOM Watershed Council. Since 2014, the program has engaged schools in the northwest Lower Peninsula, (now at 10 schools), to monitor streams in their community for water quality. The participating student volunteers learn about water chemistry and pollution, identify macro invertebrates, collect and sort data. Adults in the community are used as resources to build relationships and to help students see what it takes to protect the watershed.

Students from the Elk Rapids High School AP Biology Class are monitoring Bissell Creek, south of Elk Lake, in the fall and spring as part of this program. Dale Claudepierre asked if we are competing for students with our summer intern program, since we haven't gotten much interest, even though we do award a stipend to the students. The students said they did not know about the program, and it should continue. It was suggested that there be a collaboration and promotion effort that could begin this spring.

Eventually the Watershed Academy will need funding to continue, since grant funding will run out at the end of the year. To help raise funds, Bob Kingon offered to approach companies like Burnett Foods if anyone knows whom to contact there. They will need to raise about \$5,000 to continue Elk Rapids Schools in this program and Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association (ESLA) could contribute if needed.

The board meeting minutes of December 8, 2016 were accepted as written.

Treasurer Phil Spangenburg presented the final report for 2016. Receipts were down primarily from lower dues. Disbursements were approximately the same in

2016 compared to 2015. He also presented the report from the first of 2017. Both reports are attached.

Phil stated that a 2015 990 form was not filed on time, in part, due to the transitions involved in changing treasurers and the IRS is charging a penalty of \$1,700 as a late fee. Phil contacted the IRS asking that the penalty be reduced. Pete DiMercurio recommended that Phil be authorized to pay the penalty whatever the sum will be up to \$1,700. The board was in agreement.

Brenda Miller stated that Membership Dues letters have not gone out to riparians yet, but will go out by the end of the month. County data of who lives on Elk and Skegemog Lakes is still being reviewed to make sure our data matches. This timing will replace the January drive for membership and allows the letter to include dates for the Annual Meeting and "It's a Shore Thing" programs. The membership letter may also include a question to riparians on whether they want their newsletters to be sent in paper form or electronically.

OLD BUSINESS

Bob Kingon states that the residents of Maple Harbor are moving ahead with a sewer system in Elk Rapids township.

Pete DiMercurio made two finance committee motions to the board.

The first motion is to take Bob Kingon off of the ESLA Fifth/Third (5/3) account and add ESLA vice-president Gary Chenoweth as the signatory with Phil Spangenburg, the ESLA treasurer. This motion passed.

The second motion is to authorize ESLA treasurer Phil Spangenburg and ESLA vice-president Gary Chenoweth as signatories to act on ESLA's Vanguard account to include sign documents, invest assets and give instructions for purchase, sale, transfer, and exchange of securities in all that account includes. This motion also passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Boater Education regarding Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS): TOM has applied for grant funding for boat launch site signage to educate boaters to AIS. Launch site owner approval is also being sought.

The Chain of Lakes Business Expo date is to be determined.

Ruth participated in the GTRLC Copeland Farm visit. GTRLC is planning to acquire this property, with just a portion on Skegemog Lake.

TOM Watershed Council is hosting and ERCOL-WPIT is presenting at the Annual Local Government Event on April 4 in Bellaire. The event is intended to allow new government officials in the area to build relationships and network with TOM and other environmental groups that will be attending.

Michigan Lakes and Stream Association 56th Annual Conference will be held April 21 and 22 at Crystal Mountain. Ruth is going to attend and encouraged others to go if interested.

Intern Program: Bob Kingon met with Dr Koler from Western Michigan University to learn more about their intern program and to describe five projects we could use an intern for this next summer.

One: Purple loosestrife eradication. We already have the locations identified and have the GPS coordinates. Need to work with homeowners to eradicate.

Two: Golden Brown Algae. We have one section of Lake Skegemog that would be a perfect control for their work.

Three: Studies on streams such as Williamsburg Creek, Barker Creek and other tributaries and looking at excess sediment.

Four: Rapid River. Look at road crossings

Five: Rugg Pond. Interns wouldn't be skilled enough to come up with a management plan.

Another idea: How can we improve our communications with riparians.

WMU will take these ideas and advertise to their students, who are local and jointly enrolled with NMC, so that if they are interested in a project they will make applications to us. The internship would consist of 20 hours per week at \$15 per hour plus mileage.

Dale Claudepierre said he wants to continue with the Summer High School Intern program and pursue compatibility with TOM Watershed Academy.

Dale also made a motion to proceed with the relationship with NMC and WMU for a college intern with an amount not to exceed \$7,000 to cover the costs as above, testing and surveillance. The motion passed.

Dave Lawicki reported on Rugg Pond. As far as the dam is concerned Kalkaska County still doesn't seem to be concerned about what happens if the dam breaks and the sedimentation that has been building up flows downstream. He continues to try to get people involved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Joan Richardson listed "It's a Shore Thing" programs:

April 28 Mark Stone will discuss the Elk Rapids Dam and water levels

May 26 Heather Smith from Adopt a Stream

June 23 Annual Meeting with Rebecca Norris speaking on Golden Brown Algae at HERTH Hall.

July 28 Kay Charters speaking on bird habitat at Elk Rapids Art Park

August 25 Bob Kingon will update on Maplehurst and Kewadin Park

September 22 To Be Determined

Meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, May 18 at 10:00 a.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Joan Richardson