

ELK-SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
JULY 20, 2017

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruth Bay, Don Bonato, Gary Chenoweth, Dale Claudepierre, Melissa Culver, Pete DiMercurio, Kathi Gober, Dolores Hibbard, Mary Beth Kazanski, Bob Kingon, Ken Krentz, Dave Lawicki, Sue McCraven, Brenda Miller, Pat Pierce, Kent Reynolds, Joan Richardson, Jim Sak, Phil Spangenberg

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dean Ginther, Andy Hogarth, Jan Garvey, Bob Campbell, Tim Wheeler

Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association (ESLA) president Gary Chenoweth called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

The Board Meeting minutes of May 18, 2017 were approved as submitted. The 2017 Annual Board Meeting minutes were also approved as submitted.

Treasurer Phil Spangenberg presented the Treasurer's Report (see attached) and this was accepted as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership and Communication:

Brenda Miller reported that approximately 150 people attended the Annual Meeting on June 23. Many comments were received that Historic Elk Rapids Town Hall was a good venue for this event.

Current membership of 498 exceeds last year's total at this time. Next week a reminder letter will be sent out.

Our "It's a Shore Thing" program on July 28 will feature Kay Charters discussing how to protect bird habitat, and will be held at the Elk Rapids Art Park (Antrim County Day Park) from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

August 25 "It's a Shore Thing" will return to Twisted Fish Gallery where Bob Kingon will present information about Kewadin Waterfront Park. For the last program of the year, September 22, the committee is seeking someone from the DNR to discuss plans to reintroduce Arctic Grayling to Michigan waters.

Information will soon be sent to the Board on the status of ELSA Newsletter publication date.

Safety and Recreation

Pat Pierce reported that the Spring Boating Class had 15 attendees.

He reported on his findings to address a "dead head" log sticking out of Skegemog Lake, hazardous to boating traffic. The Gaylord Department of Environmental Quality advised that though no permit was required, the minimum length to insure boating safety should be removed by cutting. Pat also noted that there were three more stumps that needed to be reduced in Elk River.

Discussion about reducing/cutting the stumps resulted in the decision to first talk to Matt Short, who puts in and takes out stump markers for us. Pat will ask him to mark the Skegemog stump now and ask about the possibility of cutting hazardous stumps at the same time he removes the markers in the fall. It was also suggested that the newsletter inform riparians to contact board members if they see hazardous tree stumps, so we can mark them.

Pat brought up interest in having lights in the Torch River mouth attached to stump markers to make navigating the river easier at night or in fog. Six lighted markers would suffice. It was suggested that, instead of adding lights, make sure the markers are more reflective. He also noted that about three markers need replacing or better weighting. He will inspect the stump markers when removed in the fall and report back to the board at the December meeting what recommendations and costs will be.

Liability for marking the waterway against hazards was brought up and the Finance Committee will be asked to investigate our coverage and responsibility.

Dale Claudepierre stated that we have a missing "No Wake" sign into Lake Skegemog from Torch River and Matt Short will be asked about putting a sign back in.

Finance Committee

Phil Spangenberg reported that Pete DiMercurio established a Vanguard account with \$70,000. The committee will be discussing investments at their next meeting. Pete discussed the importance of the documents that reveal the evolution of ESLA as an organization in setting up the Vanguard account. We need critical documents like the Articles of Incorporation in a safety deposit box to keep them safe. The board authorized obtaining the safety deposit box with all members approving and the motion passed.

Environmental Protection

Dale Claudepierre reported that our summer intern, Ed DeRoshia, is doing an excellent job. He has been doing shoreline surveys looking for purple loosestrife, helped do a water study at Camp Maplehurst pond, and a stream study where Rapid River hits Torch River showing a large amount of invasive species. The bayou area has growing Eurasian Milfoil and the cooperation of the Torch River Association will be needed to try to control it.

Government Relations

A chairman is needed for this committee. Sue McCraven suggested Bob Campbell. He will be contacted.

OLD BUSINESS

Tip of the Mitt (TOM) Lake Association Summit

Ruth Bay gave an overview of the summit held June 19. She noted that "Navigating Social Media Channels" was a very informative program and gave a summary. Lake associations with a member as their webmaster were the most successful with their

websites. Brenda Miller will do an email blast seeking a webmaster from our membership.

Boater Education and Invasive Species

Ken Krentz summarized his work on getting signage put up at boat launch sites, very close to launch docks to primarily educate transient boaters on invasive species. Four sites have been approved. He had posters made and asks for volunteers to help distribute to various businesses in the area and more pocket cards (300) were given to him by Tip of the Mitt and he asks help distributing these.

NEW BUSINESS

ERCOL Projects

Pilot Septic Systems: Bob Kingon reported that TOM Watershed obtained a grant from the DEQ to look at septic systems and Milton township already has a “point of sale” inspection in place. However, for 25 percent of these homes there was no record of their septic system registered with the health department. Milton Township will now be a pilot to see if these homeowners will respond to the request to provide information on their septic system. The goal is to know what kind of systems are out there.

Shoreline Habitat : Bob discussed a proposal to work on enhancing “near shore” fish habitat, keeping dead and felled trees at the shore water of the golf course, and to work on more naturalized shoreline through advice and education.

Watershed Plan: Gary reported an upcoming 3 hour meeting on October 18 sponsored by TOM to discuss implementing the Watershed Plan steps.

Rugg Pond Update: Dave Lawicki updated the board on Rugg Pond. A sedimentation study was discussed with TOM, which will cost \$8,000, to see what is in the sediment. Dave is looking into raising this money. He wants to eventually remove or repair the dam. Repairing road crossings will help keep the sedimentation out of Rapid River which is a great problem.

Swimmers Itch Update: An annual conference will be September 18 at the Hagarity Center.

Loon Program: Gary asked if we wanted to have a Loon Program for ESLA. Was anyone interested in heading this up? There is a state coordinator and this person could be a guide.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Paddle Antrim Festival: September 15 and 16, 2017

Next Board Meeting will be September 21, 2017