

Elk –Skegemog Lakes Association

Board Meeting

September 15, 2016

Board Members Present: Ruth Bay, Dale Claudepierre, Pete DiMercurio, Dave Hauser, Andrew Hogarth, Mary Beth Kazanski, Bob Kingon, Dave Lawicki, Sue McCraven, Brenda Miller, Pat Pierce, Joan Richardson, Phil Spangenberg

Members Absent: Don Bonato, Gary Chenoweth, Steve Fletcher, Dean Ginther, Kathi Gober, Ron Gurdak, Dolores Hibbard, Ken Krentz, Scott Lizenby, Kent Reynolds, Jim Sak, Tim Wheeler

Guest: Ian Ferguson, Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Department, Marine Safety Division

Proceedings:

ESLA President Ruth Bay called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM and introduced Ian Ferguson, allowing him to present an overview of the 2016 boating season patrols of Elk/Skegemog Lakes, including issues, and concerns. He submitted a report summary for the board, which is attached. He stated boat rental liveries have increased in popularity and most problems occur not with riparians, but with visitors to the lakes, renting boats from liveries. The most "write-ups" occur when boaters do not travel clockwise (i.e. taking the shore via the left, and is more of an issue on smaller lakes). Other common instances that can result in being stopped by the Sheriff Patrol are standing up or having an arm hanging over the side of watercraft, and not having a spotter. It was suggested that an article for the Spring Newsletter covering Ian's summary and safety information would be helpful to all riparians, and also having a representative of the department speak at a "Shore Thing" meeting. Dave Hauser also suggested a boater safety event.

A motion was made to approve the July 21, 2016 minutes, seconded and passed.

Treasurer Phil Spangenberg distributed his report to the board and reviewed receipts and disbursements ending August 31, 2016 compared with December 31, 2015. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was carried and the report is attached.

Administrative Assistant Brenda Miller reported paid memberships year-to-date increased by 7 since last report, at 483, down from 559 at the end of last year. She noted that reminders have not yet gone out.

Old Business:

Joan Richardson reported that the membership committee visited Legendary Lion Web Design in Traverse City. The committee would like the board to approve moving ahead with hiring this company to do two things: help update our website and teach. Ruth and Brenda are set to get training on adding information but we also need more technical help to make the website more user friendly and up-to-date. The company charges a reasonable fee and allows a spending ceiling. A motion to

proceed with a spending limit of \$240 at this time was made. The motion was seconded and passed.

Dave Lawicki found little to no interest in Rugg Pond by Kalkaska County. There are conflicting studies on whether there is going to be environmental damage if the dam breaks down. He feels he is at a dead end.

New Business

Bob Kingon reported that trees are down so buildings can be moved at the Kewadin Waterfront Park and equipment ordered for kayak launch. They will hear about their application for a grant to the Natural Resources Trust Fund by December.

Ken Krentz submitted a report on his distribution of Tip of the Mitt's Stop Invasive Species information cards. Harbor launches and Whitewater Township Park are now sufficiently stocked. The cost to ESLA was \$15.00.

Joan Richardson announced that the last "It's a Shore Thing" educational meeting for this year will take place at Twisted Fish Gallery on Friday, September 23, at 5:30 p.m. Matt from Tip of the Mitt will present their shoreline survey of Elk and Skegemog Lakes.

Andy Hogarth reported on the sampling he and Bob Kingon did on the Maple Harbor shoreline for the effects from septic systems in that area. Of the nine samples they collected, they found eColi in every sample, however more samples are needed to determine acceptable levels. They gave their findings to the township municipal sewer committee on August 29. ESLA is paying for the sampling (\$25 a sample). The issue that is not yet resolved is the cost to property owners to extend the sewer system and whether a special assessment can be used.

Ruth received a note from Peg Comfort that ESLA board members donated \$290 for loon banding and lab costs for blood and feather samples. She needs \$623 more to pay the biologist. We had agreed to match what was raised. Brenda said she would send out an email blast to members soliciting further donations to help cover the cost. Any donations should be sent directly to Peg. A motion was made to honor the match of \$290, seconded and passed.

Pete DiMercurio had emailed materials to the board explaining the Elk Skegemog Lakes Endowment Fund, which are attached. He proposes that a motion be made to gift the fund with an amount determined by the finance committee in order to make use of surplus assets. We will get an annual 4% distribution based on the value of the fund. (We have used the distribution to fund interns, for example). Much discussion followed with multiple questions that required further consideration such as: What should we operate on? What use could we, ourselves, make of the surplus money? What should be held in reserve? Ruth determined we needed a special meeting to look at how the funds should be used and how that works with the ESLA mission, exploring options. Pete retracted his motion. A special, facilitated meeting will be set up within 2-3 weeks and in time to bring recommendations back to the board in December.

Committee Reports:

Dale Claudepierre reported that milfoil treatment was done at Rex Terrace and Fabiano's. The bill for the cost has been submitted to the treasurer.

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be at 5:00 p.m. today in Rotary Park for the Because of the Water project.

Dave Hauser said he'd like the board to consider sponsoring a boater safety check some time this coming spring.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Next board meeting will be Thursday, December 8.

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Joan Richardson