

ELK-SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruth Bay, Don Bonato, Bob Campbell, Gary Chenoweth, Dale Claudepierre, Melissa Culver, Pete DiMercurio, Jan Garvey, Dean Ginther, Andrew Hogarth, Mary Beth Kazanski, Bob Kingon, Sue McCraven, Brenda Miller, Pat Pierce, Joan Richardson, Jim Sak, Phil Spangenberg

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kathi Gober, Dolores Hibbard, Ken Krentz, Dave Lawicki, Tim Wheeler

GUEST: Ed DeRoshia, Intern

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA : Under New Business: Swimmer's Itch and Algae Growth

PROCEEDINGS:

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

The minutes for the July 20, 2017 meeting were approved.

Treasurer Phil Spangenberg prepared a report of assets as of August 31, 2017 as compared to receipts and disbursements for December 31, 2016. Copies of the report were distributed to Board Members. Also attached is a break-down of the ESLA Vanguard Investment to date and ESLA's Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation Endowment Fund balance showing net investment income through the 2nd quarter of this year. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was carried and the report is attached. Phil also noted that ESLA now has a safety deposit box.

Administrative Assistant, Brenda Miller, reported 560 members to date, which is the highest membership since 2013. The membership committee discussed the timeline for sending out letters. January and February will be used to update member data. The initial Request for Membership letter to all riparians will go out approximately March 1. It will include topics and dates for It's a Shore Thing and a "Save the Date" for the Annual Meeting. A Request for Membership reminder letter will then go out in May.

OLD BUSINESS: No Old Business for this Board Meeting

NEW BUSINESS:

Bob Kingon stated that due to flooding at Milton Township's Easley Road after a hard rain, the Antrim County Road Commission determined that a deep ditch needed to be excavated. This has created a connection between a private pond, which helped contain pollutants from the road and surrounding orchards, and Elk Lake. This water is now flowing into Elk Lake after moderate rains, causing a plume of pollutants out into the lake. ESLA has sent a letter and video to the Road Commission requesting them to remediate the problem by filling in the ditch. We will have to re-address this issue if the road commission does not stop the flow of pollutants. The letter to the Antrim County Road Commission is attached.

Bob Kingon represents ESLA on the Tip of the Mitt (TOM) Watershed Council and will do a standing report to the Board. He feels that due to dwindling grant opportunities for TOM, funding for activities that are important to us may be tight and we should consider boosting our donation in May to support the work they do.

He also noted that the Watershed Academy, through TOM, will be doing another water monitoring in October at Bissell Creek and encouraged anyone who is interested to stop by and watch the students in action. He did not have the date.

An Elk River Chain of Lakes (ERCOL) update was given by Mary Beth Kazanski. ERCOL will do a revision of their watershed plan, identifying priorities for future grants and are soliciting ideas from various area associations for their October meeting. ESLA has the opportunity to suggest issues for their consideration. Rugg Pond would be one such issue.

Gary gave a report on the current status at Rugg Pond. The first step to doing something about problems at Rugg Pond and silt build up in Rapid River is to get core sediment samples. The county gave Mark Randolph permission to look for funding and promised \$2,000. He got an estimate for \$8,000 minimum for boat and cost of evaluation, so the hold up to getting the core samples is the remainder cost. So far, TOM has not promised any money for this. Since Rugg Pond is a great filtering system and big protector of the watershed and Rapid River is being diminished due to silt, ESLA was asked to either pay the remainder or help find others to contribute (e.g. TOM, Watershed Center). Gary will contact Mark Randolph to learn the current status of funding and report to the board in December.

Ruth Bay reported on the Swimmer's Itch conference. Mergansers are being captured and moved from some lakes (Higgins Lake has been in this study for 3 years, Crystal Lake one year) to lakes where there are no human swimmers. Results from Higgins Lake show that snails were mostly clear of infection after removing the birds. The cost of the preliminary study is \$6,000 and the cost to participate is \$48,000 for one year.

Jan Garvey was introduced as a new board member and described a huge algae growth found on her lake. She sought advice and help in finding a source from

Becky Norris and Dean Branson. No source has been found, it lasted about a month, and it is now gone.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Communication Committee:

Joan Richardson reported :

1. The committee is looking at a local company, New Era Marketing, to improve our website and get ESLA on Facebook. Once the structure is in place, we will manage the website and Facebook internally.
2. "It's a Shore Thing" will conclude the year with a program by Mike Meriwether, Antrim County Forrester, on Oak Wilt disease. We do plan to hold monthly "It's a Shore Thing" programs through next year, from April through September .
3. Two ESLA newsletters are recommended for next year, one in May and the other in August, sent in print to all riparians.
4. ESLA has access to a GoPro to use for ESLA videos.

Sue McCraven wants to poll the ESLA members on their main concerns and will get back to the board on her findings.

Finance Committee

Safety and Recreation

Environmental Protection: Dale Claudepierre is working with the Torch Bridge Association to co-fund the treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil on the west side of the Bayou. It has been treated.

Ed DeRoshia, our ESLA Summer Intern, presented his summer findings and report to the board. He worked on a purple loosestrife survey, a shoreline survey (included erosion, development, and cladophora density data), surveyed road crossings for run-off, and gave his recommendations for future intern efforts. Ed had very good things to say about his experience.

Meeting was adjourned a 12:08 p.m.

Submitted by recording secretary Joan Richardson