

ELK-SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

MAY 16, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruth Bay, Don Bonato, Bob Campbell, Gary Chenoweth, Dale Claudepierre, Jan Garvey, Bob Kingon, Ken Krentz, Sue McCraven, Brenda Miller, Pat Pierce, Jim Sak, Phil Spangenberg.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Melissa Culver, Dean Ginther, Kathi Gober, Delores Hibbard, Andrew Hogarth, Mary Beth Kazanski, Dave Lawicki, Joan Richardson, Tim Wheeler.

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

GENERAL MEETING

Dr. Curtis Blankespoor of Swimmer's Itch Solutions made a presentation about swimmer's itch. Initially, Dr. Blankespoor identified the lakes Swimmer's Itch Solutions has worked on to eradicate or reduce swimmer's itch and summarized his experience at Higgins Lake where common merganser relocation led to a significant reduction in reported cases of swimmer's itch. Dr. Blankespoor also reviewed the services provided by Swimmer's Itch Solutions to address swimmer's itch problems, including assessment options (e.g., waterfowl surveys and water sample analyses), control programs (e.g., common merganser brood removal) and educational outreach activities (e.g., workshops and presentations). Dr. Blankespoor stated that the common merganser is usually the culprit on lakes experiencing swimmer's itch problems. Consequently, it was his recommendation that Elk and Skegemog lakes not engage in another assessment to collect additional data and stated that if ESLA decided to make another assessment, it should be limited. Given Dr. Blankespoor's belief that the common merganser is the problem, it was his recommendation that ESLA pursue a course of action to trap and relocate common merganser broods. Dr. Blankespoor stated that since the snails that also serve as hosts for the parasites that cause swimmer's itch are already in the lake, good results from trapping and relocation should not be expected for two years.

Following Dr. Blankespoor's presentation, Jan Garvey and Sue McCraven made a proposal which recommended a course of action for ESLA to pursue to continue its progress toward reduction of swimmer's itch in Elk Lake, Skegemog Lake and our rivers. The presentation by Jan and Sue included a slide show which summarized recommended action plans, education activities and collaborative activities. Jan and Sue proposed that ESLA commit \$10,000 to \$15,000 in 2019 to work with experts on Common Merganser trapping/relocation and research, collect data, educate riparians and collaborate with other lake associations. Sue and Jan expressed their opinion that additional assessment and data collection should be conducted in 2019 to acquire more data points. To assure consistency, Jan and Sue recommended that Ron Reimink/Freshwater Solutions be retained to collect data needed for assessment. It was noted that volunteers could be utilized to reduce costs. Education activities mentioned by Sue and Jan included educating riparians on swimmer's itch reporting and prevention strategies. Sharing data with other lake associations and fund raising were identified as suggested

collaborative activities. Gary Chenoweth noted that increasing dues could be considered as a source of funds.

A motion was passed as a one year/one time proposal to retain Swimmer's Itch Solutions to capture and relocate Common Merganser broods at a cost of \$3,000 per brood, not to exceed \$10,000 if more than 2 broods were captured and relocated. It was noted that the actual cost to ESLA could be reduced by MISIP reimbursement.

A motion was passed to retain Freshwater Solutions to gather additional data at a cost not to exceed \$6,000.

The minutes of the March 21, 2019 Board Meeting were approved as written.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT: Phil Spangenberg gave the Treasurer's report (copy attached). A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was passed.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Brenda Miller gave the membership report. Brenda noted that membership is currently 430 and stated that is the same membership level that existed in May 2018.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Although a Finance Committee report was not made, Bob Kingon noted that an audit has to be completed.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Ruth Bay gave the communications report. Ruth noted that the speaker for the upcoming annual meeting has a conflict and that another speaker was needed. One option is to have one of the speakers scheduled for *It's a Shore Thing* instead speak at the annual meeting. Having 2 or 3 smaller presentations at the annual meeting, rather than one lengthy presentation, was also mentioned as an option. Gary asked that board members think about options and contact him or Ruth with suggestions.

SAFETY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE: Pat Pierce gave the safety and recreation report.

Pat noted that a recent boating safety class was well attended. Pat discussed the Torch River buoys and sign. The buoys are in place, but in bad shape. Pat noted that due to their poor condition, some buoys sunk shortly after they were launched. Pat believes he has located a vendor for new buoys and stated that 8 buoys should be purchased. Although it will be necessary to re-anchor new buoys, Pat believes he will be able to make the installation. Pat stated that the "no wake" sign in Torch River needs to be replaced and recommended that a floating sign on pontoon buoys be purchased. Pat is still conducting research for a new sign and will try to temporarily reinstall the old sign until it is replaced.

A motion was passed to spend up to \$3,500 for 8 new buoys and a new sign.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE: Dale Claudepierre gave the Environmental Committee report. Dale noted that there are 7 applicants for the summer intern position. Interviews will be conducted so the intern will be on board by the end of May.

Ken Krentz provided a fish update and noted that the ESLA Newsletter has information on this topic. Ken said that there is a 6 year plan for planting trout in the lakes. Ken also mentioned that the fish survey conducted last year was disappointing, because only 12 surveys were returned. Nonetheless, a biologist involved with the survey wants to continue to conduct surveys. Jan Garvey inquired whether the ESLA website could be utilized to do surveys of this nature.

TIP OF THE MITT COMMITTEE: Bob Kingon stated that we are invited to attend a TOM event which will be held on June 24, 2019 from 1:00 to 4:00.

OLD BUSINESS

Pat Pierce discussed a Whitewater Township meeting which concerned an extensive project proposed for Whitewater Township Park. Bob Campbell stated that the project is contingent on state funding and Bob believes there will be strong opposition to proposed changes that are part of the project. Bob and Pat noted that the project includes a boat cleaning station and Bob opined that ESLA needs to lead the way on the boat cleaning issue due to its environmental implications. In response to an inquiry by Gary Chenoweth, Bob indicated that at this time action by ESLA is not necessary.

NEW BUSINESS

Ruth Bay noted that ESLA will soon need a new Vice President and three Board members.

Gary Chenoweth stated that ESLA dues should be reviewed to determine whether an adjustment is warranted. Brenda Miller noted that approximately one half of ESLA members pay \$25 and the rest pay more than the minimum.

Jan Garvey stated that Sue McCraven recently discussed aerial surveys with residents of Torch Lake. Jan noted that aerial surveys have been used to gather data about brown algae and its spread on Torch Lake. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting after Sue can gain more information about survey costs.

Bob Kingon pointed out that the month of May is when ESLA usually decides whether to donate money to Tip of the Mitt, Freshwater Future, Michigan Lakes and Streams, Elk Rapids Chamber of Commerce and Watershed Center GT Bay. A motion was passed to provide these five organizations the same amount of money that they received from ESLA last year.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Donald Bonato.