MEETING MINUTES

Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes –September 18, 2023

Meeting called to order by President Gisvold at 9:32 AM. Board Members present: Dave Laursen, Bob Gisvold, Tom McGovern, John Eaton, Bill Schultz, Jennifer O’Neill. Board Members absent: Jeff Brockberg, Jeff Holten, Sharyn Nepsha, Mark Bovee, Steve Mortensen. Guests: Steve Henry, ESD; Jason Hauser, COE.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: The following changes/additions were made to the August 21 Meeting Minutes: Page 1: Corrected spelling of Tom McGovern’s name. Under DONATIONS, added thank you to Duane Foss at Hope Lutheran for help with A-V equipment. Page 2, Under ACCL SIGN AND TOOL PROJECT: The cost of each sign is $27 rather than $37. $40 if post included. Clarified John Eaton’s role from placing sign at Erickson’s Landing, to checking into the feasibility of placing a sign and tool kit there. Tom McGovern moved to approve the August 21 Meeting Minutes with the above changes. Bill Schultz seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Dave Laursen reported that since the August 21 Meeting, when the Association bank balance was $77,067, checks had been written in the amount of $16,122, and deposits made in the amount of $6,122, leaving a present bank balance of $67,775. The two large deposits included $3000 from the DNR for Starry Stonewort removal at Anderson’s Cove, and $3830 from SWCD.

Major expenses during the month were a payment of $11,522 to Aquatic Plant Management for its DASH team to remove Starry Stonewort from Anderson’s Cove, $$2948 to Ole’s Bar & Grill for the Annual Meeting, and $1147 for our annual liability insurance premium. Dave also mentioned that our $10,850.34 CD at the bank had rolled over on August 24 at an interest rate of 1.76%. John Eaton moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Jennifer O’Neill seconded. Motion carried.

WATER LEVELS: Jason Hauser reported that the lake was at 12,94.36, with a minimum outflow of 125 CPS. The fall drawdown began a week ago and will continue based on fall rains and winter snowpack. In regard to the planned rebuilding of Federal Dam, the evaluation process by the Corps of Engineers is just beginning and will continue for the next couple of years. Actual construction is still a few years away. A fish ladder is still included in reconstruction plans.

WATER TESTING: Tom McGovern reported that the final water samples of the season were collected the previous day (Sunday). Secchi disc readings were 14.5 feet on Agency Bay, 12.0 feet on Walker Bay, and 19.5 feet on Kabekona Bay. RMB Labs and Phycotech will provide their reports later this fall or winter when the water clarity and algae data have been analyzed.

ROOSEVELT CANAL: The bridge over the canal is once again covered with graffiti. This is a continuing issue which does not reflect well on the community. Before Covid, the Sheriff’s Department used Sentence to Serve people to paint over the graffiti. The Leech Lake Association paid for the paint. This is a recurring problem that needs further discussion with the Sheriff, who should be invited to a future meeting to discuss this, as well as the placement of buoys. Jeff Brockberg has a contact in the Sheriff’s office.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER MAILING: Jennifer O’Neill reported that the membership reminder mailing will be sent out at the end of the month. It will be sent to approximately 100 members who have not yet paid their 2023/2024 dues. A reminder mailing is typically needed each year because our fiscal year ends on July 31. and members are often confused as to whether they have renewed.

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES: Tom McGovern moved to approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting. John Eaton seconded. Motion carried.

STARRY STONEWORT: Steve Henry and Johnn Eaton will be hosting meetings with people from surrounding areas who have had experience dealing with Starry Stonewort on their own lakes. This includes hand pulling, chemical treatment with copper sulfate in small areas, chemically treated blankets that could be laid on the harbor floor, etc. The objective of these meetings is to gather information as to what methods work best, in various situations, and also what grants might be available to pay for this work.

ZONING: Mark Bovee had contacted Cass and adjoining counties to find out what ordinances they had in place (if any) regarding Airbnb’s on area lakes. He discovered that these short term rental homes appeared to be unregulated. This raised a number of concerns, including unauthorized boat access, strangers moving in next door potentially disturbing the neighbors, and other potential issues, Mark is planning to assemble a task force to discuss these issues.

CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST LAND TRANSFER: The comment period regarding this transfer has ended, and the Board was interested in whether any Leech Lake lakeshore was included. Steve Henry downloaded a Forest Service map which showed what land was included in the transfer. It appears that significant blocks of lakeshore on Leech, Cass, and Winnie are included.

FINAL ACCL MEMBER MEETING: Will be held on September 29 from 9:30 to 11:30 at the Backus Land Office. Guest speakers will be Dana Gutzman and Steve Henry.

Bill Schultz moved to adjourn at 11:25. John Eaton seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes submitted by Dave Laursen.