Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2014

Meeting called to order at 9:30AM by President Gisvold.

Board Members Present: Gail Tufte, Dave Laursen, Bob Gisvold, Bob Poirier, Pat Mortale, Jeff Brockberg,, Bill Schultz, John Eaton, Chuck Allen, Jane Ekholm. Absent: Dennis Leff.

Guests: Henry Drewes, Doug Schultz, Matt Ward from DNR; Timm Rennecke, COE; John Ringle & Kelly Cardiff, Cass County ESD.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Bob Poirier moved to approve November Meeting Minutes. Bill Schultz seconded.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Dave Laursen reported that LLA bank balance at the end of November was $22, 417.01. Checkbook balance was $6136.23. There was $100 in income through membership renewals, and $363.71 in expenses. John Eaton moved to approve. Gail Tufte seconded.

BLUEWATER LODGE PIER REQUEST: Henry Drewes, Regional Manager of DNR Fisheries, briefed the Board on the present status of the Bluewater Lodge pier request. A second land survey during low water revealed that Bluewater owns more lakeshore where their present dock sits than originally shown in an earlier survey. In exchange for a permit to add a second pier and gain more lakeshore at the pier site, Bluewater has offered to exchange lakeshore with the DNR further down the shore extending to the point. This exchange would prevent additional private docks (as many as eight) from being placed on this point which is considered sensitive shoreline. The DNR is in favor of this exchange, believing that there is more to lose if the frontage/survey issue goes to court and the court rules in favor of Bluewater, which would result in loss of the exchanged land as well as Bluewater still getting their addtional docks. The Leech Lake Association will take the matter under advisement and offer an opinion. Further complicating this issue is the fact that Allen Bay is a DNR-designated Aquatic Management Area and deserving special protection.

ROOSEVELT CANAL: Jeff Brockberg has contacted Chad Freeman(who dredged the canal the last time it was done) and others to get an estimate on dredging the canal. Freeman has sold his equipment to Brian Bruns but will advise on the dredging which will probably take place in late February. Jeff will obtain bids from Bruns and others by the end of December. A DNR permit for the dredging will be needed, and permission from the Tribe. Jeff will also consult with Dennis Leff whose land we will need to cross.

FISHING ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The previous Advisory Committee for the 2010-2015 timeframe has been dissolved, with a new committee to be assembled to develop the next five-year plan.. The LLA will be allowed one representative on this committee, as will other stakeholder groups. No Alternates will be appointed to keep the group small and focused. Bob Gisvold to appoint the LLA representative by the end of December.

AIS GRANT: Jane Ekholm moved for the LLA to apply for a matching $4000 grant for AIS inspections similar to what was done last year. John Eaton seconded. The grant application is due in February, with Kelly Cardiff to assist in writing the grant.

ACCL had passed the first round of a grant request to the Initiative Foundation for an AIS inspection program for the Boy River Watershed, but declined to participate in round two, partly because of all the detailed information required with the submittal. AIS funding during 2015 will be channeled through Cass County Soil & Water District rather than through ACCL.

AIS SUMMIT: There will be a two-day meeting in January hosted by the Initiative Foundation to brainstorm ideas and develop plans for dealing with the AIS threats. The registration fee is $150. John Eaton and Bill Schultz have expressed a desire to attend, even if they need to personally pay the registration fee. Jeff Brockberg moved to sponsor John and Bill’s attendance at the seminar, including registration fees and one night’s lodging. Jane Ekholm seconded. Motion carried.

Bill Swartz reported on an earlier AIS seminar he had attended at the University of Minnesota on treatments being done on a small scale with potassium chloride.

DIRECTOR LIABILITY INSURANCE: Bob Poirier reported that Liability Insurance for LLA Directors would run around $750 through Travelors. Bill will obtain estimates from additional insurance agencies, including local agencies.

WEBSITE: Pat Mortale will be creating a website for the Leech Lake Association similar to that of the Ten Mile Lake Association during the coming winter and spring.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Chuck Allen and Gail Tufte reported that all systems are go for the Christmas Party, include Phil Votruba as speaker, menus, mailing invitations, etc. We’re expecting some 50 guests.

LAKE LEVELS: Timm Rennecke reported that lake levels are as expected for this time of year (1294.10) and that drawdown has been slowed. Timm also briefed the Board on some serious medical issues that will require his leave of absence for a time. He will provide us with the name of a contact from within the Corps of Engineers who will be able to answer our questions in his absence. We all wish Timm the very best during his upcoming treatments at the Mayo Clinic.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20.

Minutes provided by Dave Laursen