Leech Lake Association Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2018

Meeting called to order by President Gisvold at 9:35AM.

**Board Members present:** Tom McGovern, Jeff Brockberg, Mike Sievert, Bill Schultz, Steve Mortensen, John Eaton, Ray Gold, Mike Frank, Bob Gisvold

**Guests:** Al Sanford, John Owen, Dennis Werling, Carl Pederson, DNR; Timm Rennecke, COE

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** John Eaton moved to approve May Meeting Minutes, Jeff Brockberg seconded. Unanimous.

**MILLER BAY AQUISITION:** Motion by Jeff Brockberg, second by Bill Schultz: The board voted unanimously to pledge $5,000 towards the successful completion of the Miller’s Bay Conservation Partner Legacy grant and other private donations.

**LEECH LAKE WATER LEVELS:** Timm Rennecke reported that present water levels are in good shape at 1294.86. The top of the band is 1294.90. June rain has been 6” at Federal Dam and the normal is less than 4”. Dam out-flow has not been increased. 33% run-off is normal.

Mike Sievert commented that he talked to the Federal Dam ramp inspectors June 17th. They decontaminated 2 incoming boats over the weekend that had zebra mussels attached.

**CORMORANTS/TRIBLE AIS PROGRAM:** Steve Mortensen reported the cormorant population is at 3,600 now with 1,000 being taken soon for a diet study and 100 nests being used in the artificial egg study. Average population is 2,500.

**ROOSEVELT CANAL**: Jeff Brockberg briefed the board on the origin of the canal from Cass County records. 1933-1937 WPA dug the canal. 1,600 ft long, 30 ft wide and 8 ft deep. Jeff has a lot more info and will share directly with board when ready. Bottom line is, the responsible party for maintaining canal is not clear.

**AIS REPORT:** Tom McGovern reported on the “Minnesota AIS Research Center” update followed by a Legislative Listening Forum, that was held June 8th in Detroit Lakes. The theme was, the AIS research is ongoing but funding is in jeopardy. The state needs to keep funding the DNR’s work to keep our lakes, rivers and watersheds healthy. Tom McGovern motioned for the LLA to support the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates with a joining fee of $150. Seconded by John Eaton. Passed unanimously.

**WATER TESTING**: Tom McGovern reported that the first water samples of the season had been taken by board member volunteers. On going Secchi disc water clarity readings will provide good data.

**PORTAGE BREWING FUNDRAISING:** LLA fundraising effort on Saturday, August 18, from 5:30 to 8:30 is planned. A table manned by LLA volunteers would talk to visitors to promote the Association, and take registrations if people wanted to join or donate.

There would be live music. Board members Jeff Brockberg and Tom McGovern have volunteered (with spouses) to work at this fundraising effort. More info to come….

**LEECH LAKE FISHING TOURNAMENT**: Carl Pederson reported that 1,078 walleye weighed in. Estimated 10% - 12% mortality with 124 not released as dead. All remaining fish are donated to the Tribe. The $500 that the LLA received as a result of John Eaton’s work at the tournament will be donated to the Walker Area Community Center at John request. Motion by John and second by Mike Frank passed unanimously.

**DNR REPORT:** Carl Pederson reported that Bass quantity research is being conducted on Shingobee Bay and Steamboat Bay. The 2019 Leech Lake walleye slot is proposed to be replaced with one walleye over 20 inches allowed in the total of 4 limit. The goal is to reduce the bigger fish by 30%. So far no Zebra Mussels or Veligers have been found this year. Regarding Muskies, Miller’s Bay provides 100% of the state spawning supply. There are 5 spawning spots on Leech Lake.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**: No current statement. $2,500 was paid for the Canal dredging. Report tabled.

**ANNUAL MEETING**: The Annual Meeting will be held on August 2 at the Chase. Mike Frank is working with the Chase. $25/plate buffet of salad, chicken and ribs and cash bar, Jeff Brockberg suggested having Jerry Raedeke, noted wildlife artist, as a speaker, and will contact him, a long time friend.

Mike Frank moved to adjourn at 11:22. Bill Schultz seconded.

Minutes by Tom McGovern