

ELK-SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 8, 2016

Board Members Present: Ruth Bay, Don Bonato, Gary Chenoweth, Dale Claudepierre, Pete DiMercurio, Kathi Gober, Ron Gurdak, Dave Hauser, Bob Kingon, Dave Lawicki, Sue McCraven, Pat Pierce, Joan Richardson, Jim Sak, Phil Spangenberg

Members Absent: Steve Flechter, Dean Ginther, Dolores Hibbard, Andy Hogarth, Mary Beth Kazanski, Ken Krentz, Scott Lizenby, Brenda Miller, Kent Reynolds, Tim Wheeler

Proceedings:

ESLA President Ruth Bay called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

After one correction to the September 15, 2016 board minutes was recorded, the motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed.

Treasurer Phil Spangenberg distributed his report to the board and reviewed receipts and disbursements ending 11/30/2016. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was carried and the report is attached.

Old Business:

The November 16, 2016 ERCOL-WPIT (Watershed Plan Implementation Team) Meeting was attended by Bob Kingon, Dave Lawicki, and Sue McCraven. It was the suggestion by the attendees to look at the recommendations of the report on WPIT and discuss at another meeting. Also the possibility of a future internal engineering study on Rugg Pond was mentioned.

New Business:

Though Ken Krentz did not attend the board meeting, he put together a slide show of his vision of how Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Boater Education signs would be posted at Elk-Skegemog lake access sites and this was presented to the board. A cost estimate of the proposed 18 signs was included.

The best time for sending the next ESLA newsletter to members was quickly discussed, including how it has included membership reminders in the past. The Communication Committee will make a determination at their next meeting and report back to the board.

Ron Gurdak will resign from the Safety and Recreation committee and the ESLA board at the end of December. He will be missed.

Update on ESLA Working Meeting Committees:

Finance Committee Recommendation:

Pete DiMercurio presented the committee's recommendations to the board in a one-page breakdown (attached). The three categories of assets (Operating Account, Operating Reserves, Board Designated Reserves) received recommended amounts and also recommended investment products in each category. The amount of \$25,000 is also set aside for potential 2017 projects, but could also be invested. A motion was made to accept the recommendations, the motion seconded, and carried.

Environmental Committee Recommendation:

Presented by Dale Claudepierre, the committee reviewed the top threats to our watershed and initiated a discussion with NMC (Northwestern Michigan College) about a fresh water intern program. This, then, led to a meeting with Dr. Steven Kohler, chairman of the WMU (Western Michigan University) Fresh Water Science and Sustainability Program. In January, the committee plans to meet with Dr. Kohler to develop a specific proposal for ESLA board approval in March 2017. The cost of funding two interns to help with our environmental projects could cost approximately \$13,000 (includes salary, housing, and equipment), but would benefit ESLA with qualified workers and could increase ESLA visibility with riparians and the community. This could also set up a long-term relationship with NMC and WMU; however, the plan as it stands is considered a one-year plan. The proposed college intern program is seen as a supplement to the ERHS summer intern program. The one-page proposal is attached.

Safety and Recreation Recommendations listed (Ron Gurdak):

- Promote a Spring boating course
- Review lake areas in need of signage and markers/buoys
- Insure the timely removal of our signage and buoys by Lakeshore Marine
Keep in touch with Antrim, Grand Traverse, and Kalkaska marine and sheriff patrols
- Encourage riparians to report safety issues to ESLA board
- Develop and provide articles to the ESLA newsletter as needed.

Communication Committee Recommendation (Ruth Bay):

The Communication committee plans to meet with Dan Mishler from the Lake Charlevoix Association in January to learn more about their Guardianship Program. The purpose of the program is to promote shoreline stewardship throughout the community through various motivational activities. Our intent will be to see if we can build on what worked for them in order to get more riparians and the community involved. It may mean a lot of committee and board work to get it started.

Government Relations (Dave Hauser):

The committee sees that the government entities (state, three counties, five townships) that have influence over Elk-Skegemog Lakes all deal with issues that affect the lakes and those who use it differently (e.g. run-off). Increased communication between ESLA and government bodies will enhance awareness of environmental problems. The goal is to establish communication conduits through volunteers to attend the governmental meetings and show a presence. Also, it was suggested that someone (intern?) research all the governmental regulations that affect the water and shoreline to become familiar with existing rules from these various entities. A structure for this has been established from Tip of the Mitt, which has already identified the key players and how to contact them.

Committee Reports:

A Spring Newsletter was suggested in place of the winter publication (e.g. Spring, Summer, Fall). For membership, the goal is to get more people engaged and the fee of \$25 still seems appropriate. Expectation is for a membership letter to go out in January.

Permits need to be renewed (approximately \$400) to continue treating the milfoil at Cottage Cove, Rex Terrace, and Fabiano's.

Because of the Water: Jim Sak thanked the board for its support in completing the project.

Bob Kingon announced that Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund gave \$1.9 million to the Grand Traverse Land Conservancy to help purchase Camp Maplehurst.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

The next board meeting will be Thursday, March 16 at 10:00 a.m.
Submitted by Recording Secretary, Joan Richardson