

ELK-SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruth Bay, Don Bonato, Bob Campbell, Gary Chenoweth, Dale Claudepierre, Melissa Culver, Jan Garvey, Kathi Gober, Delores Hibbard, Mary Beth Kazanski, Bob Kingon, Ken Krentz, Dave Lawicki, Sue McCraven, Brenda Miller, Pat Pierce, Joan Richardson, Jim Sak, Phil Spangenberg.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Dean Ginther, Andrew Hogarth, Tim Wheeler.

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

GENERAL MEETING

HYDROLOGY STUDY: Mark Stone discussed the hydrology study for the Elk River Chain of Lakes (ERCOL). Mr. Stone stated that inability to control the water level on Intermediate Lake has caused great consternation among the riparian owners on that lake. Although the Intermediate Lake Association has started addressing the high water level issues, Mr. Stone noted that there has not been a hydrology study for the chain of lakes and that a study was needed to assure that high water level problems were not shifted from one lake to another causing unforeseen consequences. Mr. Stone asserted that it was unlikely Elk Lake would experience the water level problems occurring on the upper part of the chain of lakes, primarily because operation of the dam in Elk Rapids allows greater volumes of water to be expelled. Mr. Stone stated that the key objective of the hydrology study is development of a software model that will allow the measurable parameters to be modified from one season to another. Mr. Stone discussed how global climate change is affecting the chain of lakes and mentioned the increase in intense rainstorms that have been experienced in recent years. Mr. Stone noted that unusual climate events are occurring that present worrisome implications and Mr. Stone speculated that the 100 year flood plain may end up being the 30 year flood plain if trends continue. Mr. Stone explained that climate changes and causes of the water level problems were complex and hard to explain to the public, thus Mr. Stone appealed for support from ESLA. Mr. Stone explained that the desired support is having a community of people working together to address problematic issues and stated that he would communicate with ESLA regarding support that may be desired in the future. Mr. Stone concluded his hydrology presentation by briefly summarizing the phases of the hydrology study that will occur. In his closing remarks, Mr. Stone also described the structure of the county hierarchy and how the chain of command sometimes impedes his ability to pursue various projects. Removal of the fence around the upper harbor was cited as an example of a project Mr. Stone desires to pursue and Mr. Stone said that he was interested in gauging ESLA's interest level in that project.

Gary Chenoweth requested the Communications Committee to schedule Mr. Stone to be the presenter at the April 26, 2019 "It's a Shore Thing" meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the September 20, 2018 meeting were approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Phil Spangenberg gave the Treasurer's report (see handout). A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was passed. Bob Cambell raised a question regarding the investment of ESLA funds in the Wellington Fund (VWELX). It was agreed that this investment would be an item on the agenda for the March 2019 meeting.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Brenda Miller gave the membership report. Brenda noted that membership was slightly lower than the preceding year. Brenda also stated that it is her desire to follow last year's schedule for activities such as updating the data base and email list, ESLA mailings and "It's a Shore Thing" events.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Ruth Bay gave the communications report. Ruth stated that she has sent out information about dates of meeting and "It's a Shore Thing" events. Ruth requested Board members to check the website and contact her if additions or corrections were desired.

SAFETY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE: Pat Pierce gave the committee report and began by noting that buoys have been taken in for the season and that some buoys were in bad shape and would need repair or replacement. Pat mentioned that the No Wake sign at Torch River would be reinstalled next year and that the sheriffs would have problems enforcing no wake restrictions without the signs. Pat stated that he had not received a report from the Antrim Marine Patrol and that he would again ask for a report before the March 2019 meeting. Pat and Dale Claudepierre briefly mentioned loon nests and the missing buoy for the artificial loon nest on Torch River.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE: Dale Claudepierre gave the report. Dale commenced by referring to the Treasurer's Report and noting that it reflects increased spending on various environmental projects and the ESLA intern. Dale noted that it was fortunate that the intern was available to perform water sampling and data collection pertaining to contamination in Elk River and explained that these services resulted in greater intern expenditures in 2018. The desired level of 2019 services by the intern are reflected in the \$12,415.29 line item for the intern in the proposed 2019 budget. Dale also discussed the role of ESLA, questioning whether it was limited to performing testing and providing testing data to the Village or whether it includes remediation. Dale stated that the data obtained by testing has been given to the Village and Joe Short. Dale expressed his hope that the responsible and visible tasks being performed by ESLA will help ESLA's work with riparians on Elk and Skegemog lakes.

ESLA FISH UPDATE: Ken Krentz provided the update and began by mentioning the printed handouts pertaining to boat sanitizing and prevention of the spread of invasive species. Ken noted that in 2018 boaters had taken fewer handouts than the preceding year. Ken also discussed the creek surveys conducted by the DNR and summarized the DNR findings. Ken noted that the DNR plans to perform more extensive surveys in the future. Ken also discussed fish planting, including the accidental fish plant in Elk Lake that occurred this year. Ken mentioned that the DNR desires anglers to provide catch reports and Ken stated that he plans to work with the DNR to notify fishermen of the desire for feedback. Bob

Campbell and Ken commented upon whether ESLA should put pressure on the DNR to perform more fish plants on Elk and Skegemog lakes. Ken concluded his remarks by mentioning that a virus has been killing bass on several lakes located in the northeast lower peninsula and said we should be on the look out for lethargic bass that may be symptomatic of the virus.

ELK RIVER CHAIN OF LAKES (ERCOL): Bob Kingon noted that ERCOL has a new program supported by the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council entitled Watershed Action Volunteer Experience (WAVE). Bob also stated that the watershed management plan was progressing. Mary Beth Kazanski mentioned that a document enumerating the various watershed management projects did not accurately reflect ESLA's involvement in those projects and Mary Beth stated she would pursue steps to clarify or correct the inaccuracies. Dale expressed his belief that it would be helpful if ESLA could prioritize projects to help determine the extent of ESLA's involvement.

OLD BUSINESS

SWIMMERS' ITCH: Sue McCraven discussed swimmers' itch and noted the great article on this topic in the recent ESLA newsletter. Funding and the next steps needed to address swimmers' itch were discussed. Sue mentioned the lack of a permit to trap and remove Megansers from Elk and Skegemog lakes and there was discussion addressing whether removal of Megansers would be effective. The discussion about the steps that should be taken included discussion about (1) whether ESLA should contribute money needed to retain a lobbyist, (2) whether ESLA should retain other bids for necessary services, (3) non permit related costs, (4) how much should be budgeted for eradication of swimmers' itch and (5) the need for trainees who can perform needed services at reduced cost. As the first step to be taken at this time, a motion was passed to obtain permits for both lakes and Gary indicated he would contact Ron Reimink to obtain the permits.

RUGG POND: The discussion about Rugg Pond was led by Dave Lawicki and Mark Randolph, the District Manager of Kalkaska Conservation District. Dave discussed his recent activities and stated that at this time he was not asking for money from ESLA. Mark stated that analysis of the sediment in Rugg Pond is needed before DEQ is approached to address the problem and stated that obtaining money for a study or analysis is the impediment to progress. Dave estimates a study will cost approximately \$10,000. It is believed that funding will not be provided by Kalkaska County until there is a change in the Board members. Mark believes the Rugg Pond will be a higher priority for the county in 2019 and Dave stated he will continue to attend meetings and provide updates to ESLA.

NEW BUSINESS

FINANCE COMMITTEE: A motion was passed to accept Dean Ginther as the Financial Committee Chairperson.

PADDLE ANTRIM: The Chain of Lakes Water Trail and ESLA's \$6,000 contribution for that project were discussed. The discussion included review of the October 29, 2018 letter from Paddle Antrim requesting a reduced scope for ESLA's \$6,000 contribution. A decision was made to request Paddle Antrim to provide information addressing the estimated costs for the project. It was also decided that Paddle

Antrim would be allowed to hold the \$6,000 contribution until the requested information was provided and a decision was made by ESLA. Gary indicated he would likely ask ESLA to make a decision via email after there was sufficient information.

BUDGET for 2019: The ESLA 2019 Budget Draft was reviewed and discussed. A motion was passed to approve the budget draft with the addition of a line item in the amount of \$1,000 entitled "Safety Services and Equipment." This line item will be an additional disbursement.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Donald Bonato.