

ELK-SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

July 18, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruth Bay, Don Bonato, Bob Campbell, Gary Chenoweth, Dale Claudepierre, Dean Ginther, Andrew Hogarth, Mary Beth Kazanski, Bob Kingon, Ken Krentz ,Dave Lawicki, Sue McCraven, Pat Pierce, Jim Sak, Nancy Schreiber, Phil Spangenberg.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jan Garvey, Brenda Miller

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

GENERAL MEETING

Christine Crissman, Executive Director of Watershed Center GT Bay, discussed the potential new staff position titled "Elk River Chain of Lakes Watershed Coordinator." Ms. Crissman stated that the Coordinator will be responsible for community engagement, advocacy, and policy efforts and activities aimed at achieving broad community commitment to clean water. The position would focus on policy and advocacy with the goal of improved mobilization efforts. Discussion of the position included comments regarding whether the Coordinator would perform duties currently being provided by other organizations, particularly Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (TOM). Funding for the position was also discussed. Ms. Crissman stated that the position entails an annual cost of \$55,000. Although Ms. Crissman does not want the position to end after 3 years, she stated that there is a 3 year plan for temporary funding. After describing the position and its duties, Ms. Crissman expressed her desire for feedback about whether ESLA feels the position is needed and valuable.

The minutes of the May 16, 2019 Board Meeting were approved as written.

The minutes of the June 21, 2019 Annual Meeting were approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS

Swimmers' Itch: Bob Campbell provided an update about the capture of the third brood of Mergansers. Water sampling was also discussed, including sampling sites or locations. Freshwater Solutions is scheduled to conduct additional sampling during the second week of August and it was suggested that this sampling include Miami Beach. Mary Beth Kazanski stated that future sampling should be conducted under the auspices of the Environmental Committee. Sue McCraven commented upon her collaboration with ERCOL and discussions she has had with other organizations about swimmers' itch. The discussion about swimmers' itch also included the issue of funding future control efforts. Gary Chenoweth commented upon the timing of notifying riparians of ESLA's control efforts and when riparians should be given an opportunity to donate money to support future efforts. The discussion about funding also included whether fundraising should be singly focused on swimmers' itch and the funding approach taken by Higgins Lake riparians.

Rugg Pond: Dave Lawicki stated that there were not new developments to report. Dave noted that new culverts were installed to decrease the flow of water into Rapid River.

Aquatic Invasive Species Landing Blitz: Bob Campbell issued a report regarding the statewide effort to inform boaters of the new law designed to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. (See attached handout). Bob's report includes information regarding volunteer activities by ESLA Board members during the Landing Blitz and possible future activities.

ERCOL: Mary Beth Kazanski mentioned a recent ERCOL function.

TOM: Bob Kingon mentioned the recent TOM 40th Anniversary Annual Meeting and Gala Fundraiser. Bob also discussed the greenbelt in Kewadin that was the beneficiary of a \$3,000 donation from ESLA.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT: Phil Spangenberg gave the Treasurer's report (copy attached). A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was passed.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: No report was issued.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: No report was issued.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Dean Ginther stated that he would provide a finance update after he meets with Pete Dimercurio.

SAFETY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE: Pat Pierce discussed the purchase and installation of a new sign and 8 buoys plus parts. A motion was passed to reimburse Pat \$4529.42 for the cost of these items. Pat noted that there is a total of 13 buoys and that 3 or 4 new buoys may be needed in the future. Pat's efforts in purchasing and installing the new signs were noted and applauded.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE: Andy Hogarth and summer intern Sam Krause discussed the water sampling and testing activities they have performed in collaboration with Freshwater Solutions pertaining to *E. coli*. The discussion included detail about sampling locations and testing results. Andy indicated that they are waiting for the lab to provide testing results and, therefore, the source is not yet known. Andy stated that a report will be made to the Health Department if the testing results provide sufficient information. Andy and Sam will issue a report with sampling and testing result details in the future. During the discussion, Jim Saks noted that the findings by Andy and Sam should be compared with a prior study. Dale Claudepierre stated that he would contact the author of the prior study and obtain a copy. Dale also discussed sampling activities he conducted with Sam at Cottage Cove.

NEW BUSINESS

Watershed Center GT Bay proposal to establish the Elk River Chain of Lakes Watershed Coordinator position: The proposed new position was discussed. Concerns were expressed regarding the scope of the job description for the position. In general, these concerns were focused upon the need for more specificity and whether the job description was too broad. In addition, there were questions regarding

how the duties of the proposed position correlate with duties or functions currently being performed by TOM. Since TOM does not have a master plan in effect, it is difficult to assess whether the proposed Coordinator would perform functions currently performed by TOM. Mary Beth Kazanski stated that she would contact Ms. Crissman and obtain more information to address these concerns. Bob Kingon stated that he would contact TOM and discuss concerns regarding the absence of a master plan.

Newsletter: Dean Ginther stated that he will try a themed approach when developing the next newsletter and there was discussion whether the next newsletter should focus upon swimmers' itch. Dean expressed his need for contributions for the next newsletter and indicated that to meet the publication deadline contributions should be submitted by mid August.

Loon update: Mary Beth stated that the local ranger advised her that he was trying to create a new position and that ESLA may be requested to make a monetary contribution to fund the position. The ranger stated that he wanted a new position so there was a person in charge of studying loons who would do more than banding.

Boat noise: Andy Hogarth mentioned the noise created by "cigarette boats." Dean Ginther noted that there are no state limits on boat noise and stated that it is very difficult to legally monitor and control noise. Ken Krentz also discussed the difficulty in measuring noise levels.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Donald Bonato.