

ELK-SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruth Bay, Don Bonato, Bob Campbell, Gary Chenoweth, Dale Claudepierre, Dean Ginther, Kathi Gober, Delores Hibbard, Andrew Hogarth, Mary Beth Kazanski, Bob Kingon, Dave Lawicki, Joan Richardson, Phil Spangenberg.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Melissa Culver, Jan Garvey, Ken Krentz, Sue McCraven, Brenda Miller, Pat Pierce, Jim Sak, Tim Wheeler

Nikola Brown attended the meeting as a substitute for Brenda Miller

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

GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the July 19, 2018 Board Meeting were approved as written.

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

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Nikola Brown gave the membership report on behalf of Brenda Miller. Ms. Brown noted that the membership was 579 as of the end of last year and stands at 534 as of September 2018.

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Ruth Bay gave the communications report.

Ruth requested officers to send their biographies and pictures to her so they can be posted on the website. Ruth suggested that officers check the website of the Long Lake Association for examples of biographies.

Ruth noted that September 28, 2018 is the date for the next "It's a Shore Thing" event and that Artic Grayling is the topic of that event.

Ruth stated that there was water damage to the ESLA storage unit and that it has to be cleaned out. Ruth is investigating the cost of a replacement storage unit at a different facility. Joan Richardson will recruit and organize help to perform the cleaning. Dale Claudepierre suggested that the clean out provides an opportunity to review ESLA's record retention policy or practice. Dean Ginther suggested that old records be scanned and archived rather than destroyed.

Bob Campbell raised a concern about lack of communication regarding a recent "It's a Shore Thing" event. The reasons for the communication breakdown, a rare occurrence, were discussed.

Ruth led a discussion about adding membership information (i.e., names of members) to the website and said the communications committee recommends this addition. Andrew Hogarth suggested that an opt out option be given to members who do not wish to be identified. Bob Campbell stated that future newsletters could include a section welcoming new members and identifying them by name.

Ruth requested feedback about the website and suggestions regarding how it could be improved. Ruth discussed restructuring the website to facilitate email communications. Gary Chenoweth noted that website management should ensure that someone regularly reviews and responds to emails sent to the website. Mary Beth Kazanski suggested that the website could include a link to other websites allowing people to document events (e.g., occurrences of swimmers' itch) to facilitate data accumulation.

SAFETY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE: Due to Pat Pierce's absence, there was no report from the Safety and Recreation Committee. Dale Claudepierre noted that the "no wake" sign that was paid for was not installed at the entrance to Torch River from Skegemog Lake and stated that this created an enforcement problem. Gary Chenoweth stated he would alert Pat Pierce to ensure that the sign is installed next year.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE: Dale Claudepierre reported that Purple Loosestrife treatment was performed this year and that the ESLA intern, Bethany Dickerson, will cover this topic in a report later this year.

OLD BUSINESS

Swimmers' itch was discussed by Gary Chenoweth. Gary stated that Ron Reimink of Freshwater Solutions should complete his report during the first half of October 2018. Gary stated that he will continue to work with Ron until Ron's project is completed.

Gary Chenoweth discussed the Maple Harbor storm water runoff issue. Gary stated that residents of the area were correct in their assertion that the water runoff had increased and caused serious erosion. County officials or employees were incorrect in asserting otherwise. Concern was expressed because although a county official recently assured Gary the problem would be addressed, nothing has yet been done. Gary noted that ESLA should make sure the county properly addresses water runoff increases when it performs future road projects. Gary stated that the environmental committee should work on this issue. Bob Campbell suggested that a letter expressing ESLA's concerns be sent to appropriate state and local officials, such as officials of the Department of Environmental Quality and Michigan Highway Department.

DNR fish sampling was discussed by Gary Chenoweth who reported that the DNR has not done the sampling and that ESLA does not need to take any action at this time. Gary stated that volunteers may be needed next year.

A Rugg Pond update was provided by Dave Lawicki. The estimated cost of the desired sampling/testing is \$8000. The cost includes \$3000 for sampling/testing and \$5000 for the boat equipped to perform the

work. Gary Chenoweth noted that until appropriate sampling/testing is completed, further progress cannot be achieved. Gary stated that ESLA's 2019 budget was being developed and that preliminarily it includes money allowing ESLA to be more aggressive in its efforts to persuade county officials to conduct appropriate sampling/testing. Gary asked Dave to continue to work with county officials and noted that Dave has done everything he could with the county. Gary stated that he would work with Dave to ascertain what could be done in 2019. Issues regarding removing the dam versus shoring up the dam were discussed. There is concern regarding whether ESLA should take a position on this issue until sampling/testing is completed. It was agreed that ESLA's December meeting should review what should be done to address Rugg Pond water quality issues and the dam, and that other agencies, such as the DNR and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, would be contacted so that representatives from those agencies will be in attendance at the December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mary Beth Kazanski provided an ERCOL update and noted that ERCOL would conduct a seminar on swimmers' itch on November 3, 2018. Mary Beth stated that Golden Algae lake sampling was recently conducted on nearby lakes and will be the topic of a future review. Mary Beth noted that there is a concern about high water levels in Intermediate Lake and that the dam in Bellaire does not have the capability to address this problem. It was noted that the other lakes in the chain of lakes are also experiencing high water level issues. Mary Beth mentioned that it is believed that climate change has caused severe storms resulting in significant rainfall increases affecting water levels. These issues may necessitate future changes to building codes and hydrology studies.

Dean Ginther discussed the Fall ESLA Newsletter. Dean noted that the Newsletter would include articles discussing dark skies (light pollution), swimmers' itch and work performed by ESLA's intern, Bethany Dickerson. Regarding light pollution, Dean mentioned that Milton Township officials may consider expanding its existing light ordinance so that it pertains to residential dwellings in addition to commercial buildings. Bob Campbell mentioned that he believes Torch Lake has an agreement of some sort regulating lights.

Bob Kingon thanked ESLA for its recent monetary donation to Kewadin Park.

Bob Campbell expressed a hope that more lake front residents would become involved in local government to assure early awareness of issues affecting water and environmental quality. Bob mentioned two recent incidents where involvement of community members successfully thwarted township zoning changes that would have adversely affected the environment.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP UPDATE

Bethany Dickerson provided an update regarding her activities as ESLA's intern. The update included a discussion of purple loosestrife treatment, cooperative activities with Antrim County regarding eradication of invasive species, and water sampling pertaining to swimmers' itch and e. coli studies. Bethany also discussed aerial photo studies pertaining to brown algae growth. Bethany's water sampling pertinent to e. coli generated discussion about notification to home owners when water

samples indicate there are e. coli problems and obtaining home owner permission to conduct water sampling on private property.

Andrew Hogarth and Bethany Dickerson reviewed erosion issues related to two creeks which discharge water into Elk Lake. Pictures depicting the erosion were reviewed. Andrew expressed his opinion that storms are becoming more severe thereby causing increases in water runoff, sediment lake contamination and erosion. How sediment from water runoff affects aquatic ecosystems was discussed. Andrew stated that how to remediate the problem presents a difficult question and mentioned that there is interest in applying for a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Association Sustaining Our Great Lakes Association. Andrew requested ESLA to work with Heidi Shaffer to begin to address this problem.

The need to consider extending Bethany's contract was discussed. Mr. Hogarth noted that follow up water sampling is needed given Bethany's recent sampling activities and findings. Mr. Hogarth stated that the environmental committee will get closure on the water sampling activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 pm.

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Donald Bonato.