

ELK-SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

May 21, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruth Bay, Don Bonato, Bob Campbell, Dale Claudepierre, Jan Garvey, Dean Ginther, Andrew Hogarth, Mary Beth Kazanski, Bob Kingon, Ken Krentz, Dave Lawicki, Sue McCraven, Brenda Miller, Pat Pierce, Jim Sak, Nancy Schreiber

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Phil Spangenberg

Mary Beth Kazanski, Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association (ESLA) Board President, called the meeting, run virtually through Zoom, to order at 10:04 a.m.

GENERAL MEETING

No guests were present and no public comment was provided.

The minutes of the April 16, 2020 Board Meeting were approved as written. Mary Beth Kazanski mentioned that an earlier draft of the aforementioned minutes was supplemented by her to note that at the April 16, 2020 meeting Pat Pierce stated that the boating safety courses were placed on hold.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Because Phil Spangenberg was absent, a verbal treasurer's report was not given. However, the written treasurer's report previously submitted by Phil was discussed. It was noted that membership as of April 2020 was down because the dues letter, which will accompany the next ESLA Newsletter, had not yet been sent. A motion was passed to approve the following dues and grants for 2020 (the dues and grants are enumerated in the aforementioned written treasurer's report):

Waterfront Alliance--\$100 Tip of the Mitt--\$500 Freshwater Future--\$100

Watershed Ctr GT Bay--\$300 Adopt a Stream and \$200 General Support

ER Chamber of Commerce--\$205 Michigan Lake and Stream Association--\$500

Bob Campbell agreed to obtain and send information about FLOW so that a grant from ESLA to FLOW can be considered at the next meeting.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Brenda Miller gave the membership report. Brenda noted that there has not been a change in the membership numbers because the dues letter has not yet been sent. There was a lengthy discussion about the membership analysis prepared by Bob Campbell and the desire to increase membership. The discussion included how ESLA membership compares with other lake associations, ways ESLA can

attempt to increase membership and past membership campaigns. Mary Beth suggested that the membership committee have a meeting to examine membership issues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Ruth Bay gave the communications report. Ruth stated that there were no developments to report and confirmed that *It's a Shore Thing* events were on hold.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: No report was given.

FISHERIES: Ken Krentz gave the report. Ken stated that a fish plant was conducted on April 24, 2020 and that annual fish plants were scheduled for the next 4 years. Mary Beth questioned whether it would be advisable to expand the topic of fisheries to include wildlife. Ken opined that anything interesting or unusual about wildlife would be newsworthy. Pat Pierce asked whether the ESLA website had the capacity to include videos. Ruth Bay confirmed that the website had that capability and Pat stated that consideration should be given to include wildlife videos, such as videos from trail cams, on the website.

SAFETY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE: Pat Pierce gave the report.

Pat discussed buoys and noted that 10 buoys were in place and that 3 buoys became loose from their moorings and were missing. Pat speculated that the buoys were in Elk Lake and mentioned the search efforts he planned. It was agreed that an email blast about the missing buoys would be sent to enlist the aid of the public in the search.

Pat noted that he received a call alerting him to the fact that a sign had become loose and washed ashore at the south end of Skegemog Lake. Fortunately, there was no damage to the sign or property. Pat retrieved the sign and will arrange for its reinstallation.

Pat summarized his discussion with Mark Stone of the Antrim County Dam Commission about water levels and measurements. Pat was advised that the dam in Elk Rapids meets safety requirements and that the water level was appropriate. However, the fall from the dam is less than desired due to high water levels in Lake Michigan.

Complaints regarding the slalom course at the south end of Elk Lake were discussed. Pat stated he received a complaint because the permit for the course issued by Whitewater Township erroneously suggests that the course was approved by ESLA. Since ESLA did not give its approval, Pat stated that he would gather information to ascertain whether the permit application was properly completed. Bob Kingon stated that ESLA opposed the permit application in 2014 and that the township issued the permit over ESLA's objection. Mary Beth stated that she received an anonymous complaint about the permit. Mary Beth believes the permit is up for renewal and that the township has the authority to issue a permit without ESLA's approval.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE: Jan Garvey issued the report.

Jan noted that Samantha Krause has been rehired as a summer intern. Jan summarized the reasons why it is her recommendation that Samantha's compensation be increased to \$16.50 per hour from last year's rate of \$15 per hour. Jan noted that this increase would cost approximately \$600 and that the increase would not apply to future interns. A motion to approve the rate increase was passed unanimously.

Swimmer's itch was discussed by Jan and Mary Beth. Mary Beth briefly mentioned the April 20, 2020 ESLA subcommittee meeting with Freshwater Solution and noted that whether a drone survey should be conducted was one issue raised at the subcommittee meeting. Jan summarized her conversations with Ron Reimink of Freshwater Solutions about swimmer's itch programs. Ron stated that he is continuing to work on qPCR technology for community based monitoring. Although Ron indicated there was considerable interest from the lake associations in Leelanau County, he has not received much interest from our area. Ron suggested there was a realization that the community based monitoring successful in Alberta Canada would not work here and that there was a need to repackaging the program for it to be successful in this area. Jan stated that Ron is also encouraging lake associations to join in the Synchronized Parasite Community Assessment project. Jan described the project and its benefits. The annual cost of the project is \$5500 per lake association. A discussion ensued about the funds available to participate in this project, such as the \$2000 donation earmarked for swimmer's itch and money received last year from MISIP. A motion was passed approving contracting with Freshwater Solutions for the Synchronized Parasite Community Assessment project at a cost of \$5500 for 2020.

Jan discussed the swimmer's itch rack cards. Jan noted that ESLA has been part of a group effort to produce 8"x 4" cards that address what can be done to minimize and report swimmer's itch. Utilization of these cards and their cost were discussed. Mary Beth suggested that we delay any decisions at this time.

Purple Loosestrife was also addressed by Jan. Jan mentioned that CAKE SISMA contacted ESLA last summer to conduct a survey, but subsequently advised ESLA that it did not have sufficient funds. Jan discussed the survey ESLA subsequently conducted to ascertain the success of the 2018 Purple Loosestrife treatments and mentioned that the survey results were shared with CAKE SISMA. Jan stated that in March 2020 CAKE SISMA requested monetary assistance from ESLA for beetle treatment at a Purple Loosestrife hotspot the Torch River, and that ESLA approved this request via email. Jan summarized subsequent communications with CAKE SISMA regarding giving notice to, and obtaining permission from, property owners for Purple Loosestrife treatment. Jan stated that the CAKE SISMA Purple Loosestrife project was funded by the Dole Foundation and discussed the hurdles she has encountered in her efforts to include herbicide treatment of Elk Lake and south Skegemog Lake in this project at no cost to ESLA. Jan stated that if her efforts are not successful, it is hoped that ESLA can contract for the treatment with the company used by ESLA in the past. A motion was passed to approve such a contract with a maximum cost to ESLA of \$1000.

Milfoil was discussed by Dale Claudepierre. Dale stated that it will be mid to late June before we are able to determine whether the previously treated areas are still active.

ERCOL:

Mary Beth discussed the May 20, 2020 ERCOL meeting. The meeting covered the watershed protection plan, an update on the water trail and planning for mobile water stations.

Bob Kingon mentioned the hydrology study and raised a concern about the lack of representation by ESLA on the hydrology study subcommittee. Whether representation was needed was discussed and Mary Beth stated she would request the subcommittee to include Dale Lawicki in their communications.

Andy Hogarth and Mary Beth discussed communications with Burnette Foods regarding *E.coli* and water runoff monitoring. Andy will continue to monitor the runoff issues and may request a tour of Burnette's waste water operations. Several Board members mentioned their desire to participate in the tour.

Tip of the Mitt (TOM):

Bob Kingon stated that TOM is making progress with the ERCOL watershed plan even though its employees are working remotely due to the pandemic. Mary Beth discussed communications with TOM about water testing in our area. Mary Beth indicated she has not been successful in her attempts to obtain information about the costs and results of the tri-annual tests conducted by TOM. Reassessment of the TOM testing was debated. The debate focused upon whether ESLA should continue to pay for testing if it could not obtain the test results. Bob Kingon mentioned the importance of distinguishing the TOM testing from the testing conducted by Dale Claudepierre and Dean Ginther. The discussion concluded with Mary Beth's statement that she would contact TOM to obtain a proposal and information about testing and costs.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rugg Pond: Dave Lawicki reported he was advised that sampling would be conducted at the end of June or early July.

Boat Wash: Bob Campbell reported that TOM has a new portable boat wash and that TOM's 2 seasonal employees are capable of doing on-site washes without additional assistance. Boat washing is scheduled for June 28 at the Baggs Road launch, August 8 at the Elk Rapids Municipal Harbor and August 9 at Whitewater Township Park. Due to the pandemic, ESLA will not staff the aforementioned activities or the Landing Blitz scheduled for the week of July 4.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Watershed Council desires to form Water First Group which will develop proposals to make money available to ERCOL. The discussion about Water First Group addressed possible ESLA representation in Water First Group. Concern was expressed that the exact nature and function of Water First Group are indefinite at this time.

Future meetings and the need for ESLA to stay in contact with its members were discussed. After discussing the pros and cons of conducting an annual meeting during the pandemic, including a webinar meeting, it was determined that an annual meeting would not be held this year and that Mary Beth would draft a letter to members. Swimmer's itch cards will be included with the letter.

Zone representation will be addressed at the next ESLA meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Donald Bonato.