

ELK-SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

September 17, 2020

BOARD 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, Nancy Schreiber, Phil Spangenberg

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Linda Slopsema, George Seifried, Deanna Seifried, Steve Francis

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

Presentation: Rick Kiehle of Garrison Digital made a presentation addressing digital communication and his experience managing the Long Lake Association (LLA) and the Long Lake Foundation. Mr. Kiehle stated that LLA is a 501 C (4) organization and explained the difference between 501 C (4) and 501 C (3) organizations. The presentation covered the modes of communication utilized by the LLA to communicate with riparians and the public, including use of a website, social media (e.g., Facebook), emails, and print and digital newsletters. The diverse topics discussed by Mr. Kiehle included LLA's partnership with NMC to perform water testing, LLA's use of drones to monitor Eurasian Milfoil treatment, LLA's membership, examples of projects and activities funded by the Long Lake Foundation and LLA's success in garnering broader involvement by the public and local government in LLA's projects and activities.

GENERAL MEETING

Mary Beth introduced Kate Lett, a prospective Board member. Ms. Lett briefly summarized her history and why she desires to assist ESLA by becoming a Board member.

The agenda was revised by adding email address update under Old Business.

The minutes of the July 16, 2020 and August 13, 2020 meetings were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Phil Spangenberg gave the treasurer's report. (See attached Financial Statement and related documents distributed by Phil). Phil mentioned the recent \$10,000 donation to ESLA. Mary Beth stated that she sent a letter of thanks to the donors and that she has not heard back from them. Phil stated that disbursements are in line with last year's disbursements and that the major difference is attributable to a reduction in project expenses this year. Phil noted that the Vanguard account is "ahead" for the year with a return of slightly more than 4% year to date and a projected year end return of 6%. Phil discussed the endowment fund, noting that it had a balance of \$57,000 at the start of the year and a balance of \$53,000 at the end of June. It was agreed that the membership committee would review and make a recommendation addressing Phil's request that donors to the endowment fund be counted as

ESLA members. Phil stated that on average 4 individuals per year donate to the endowment fund and that the average donation is approximately \$800 per donor.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Brenda Miller gave the membership report. Brenda reported that the total membership is 426 (approximately 130 less than last year). The total membership consists of 107 Admirals, 14 Commodores, 99 Captains and 206 regular members. Mary Beth requested Brenda to explore the possibility of having multi-year memberships.

Ruth Bay discussed 3 issues. First, Ruth stated that we should wait until the beginning of next year to determine whether to recommence *It's a Shore Thing* events. Second, Ruth discussed the possibility of adding pictures, albums and videos to the website. Third, Ruth discussed instituting programs for children in grades K through 6 and collaborating with elementary schools to ascertain what programs may be of interest to elementary school children. With respect to *It's a Shore Thing events*, there was also discussion about possible speakers (e.g., Mike Randolph and Mark Stone), potential topics, and whether Zoom could be utilized to conduct programs.

There was a brief discussion of website issues after Kate Lett mentioned problems she encountered while navigating the website.

Bob Campbell summarized issues related to membership and Board representation, noting that concerns related to zone representation were solved with the addition of several new Board members and the possible addition of Kate Lett to the Board. The membership committee will review the possibility of business membership and business sponsorship and Nancy Schreiber will work on compiling a data base of businesses. It was noted that the membership committee discussed publications or handouts that could be distributed to potential members (e.g., the riparian handbook written by Mark Stone) and steps that could be taken to add new members (e.g., door to door recruitment). Ruth Bay mentioned that the membership committee had also discussed adding Board member pictures and biographies to the Newsletter.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Mary Beth proposed adding Nancy Schreiber to the finance committee and there were no objections. Mary Beth requested Dean Ginther to provide a finance update by the end of the year and Dean stated he would meet with the finance committee and determine what recommendations should be made.

FISHERIES:

Ken Krentz stated that there were no new developments to report. There was a brief discussion of mayflies and several Board members noted that the mayfly hatch this year was less than previous years.

SAFETY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:

Pat Pierce reported that the water level at the dam in Elk Rapids is at capacity and that the buoys in the Torch River will soon be pulled. The Board approved Pat's \$585 reimbursement request for the Torch River buoys and hardware. It was noted that one buoy remains missing.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE:

Andy Hogarth reported that due to weather conditions, water sampling for *E. coli* was reduced this year and that he plans to conduct additional sampling. Andy discussed sediment discharge in the creek near his residence and the possibility of growing plants to reduce sediment discharge. Andy also discussed *E. coli* issues at Burnette Foods and Spencer Creek. Andy stated that last year Burnette Foods claimed it was not responsible for the *E. coli* issues because there isn't sanitary waste in its discharge.

Jan Garvey reviewed the Eurasian Milfoil treatment programs that should be considered for next year. Jan noted that there is Eurasian Milfoil growth in areas where it did not exist in the past and stated that we need to evaluate what we should be doing next year.

With respect to Purple Loosestrife, Jan stated that treatment was completed on September 8 or 9. Jan will continue to work on obtaining consent to treat forms from property owners and collaborate with CAKE SISMA about financial help for treatment next year. Jan stated that the Dole Foundation grant to CAKE SISMA may be extended next year.

Jan discussed the July study regarding swimmer's itch and stated that Ron Reimink reported that the water sampling results would not be received until October or November. After those results are received, we will have a data base for 3 years.

Jan also addressed the issues and activities ESLA could potentially address in 2021, such as shoreline protection, boat washing, adopt a stream, invasive species and TOM data. Jan stated that she would discuss potential issues with the environmental committee.

ERCOL

It was reported that ERCOL will meet next week.

TOM

Bob Kingon reported that the Lake Association Summit will be held on October 9, 2020 and that the summit will be conducted virtually. Bob also reported that the TOM executive director will retire in May 2022 and that TOM has 6 new Board members. Finally, Bob stated that TOM has a drone that is available for use by lake associations.

OLD BUSINESS

Mary Beth stated that she conferred with Mark Randolph and that the preliminary report on the Rugg pond testing indicates the presence of some arsenic. At this time the arsenic level is not known.

Mary Beth reported that she sent a letter to Whitewater Township regarding the plans for Whitewater Township Park. The letter complimented the township and recommended that 2 boat washes be installed at the park. Jan Garvey stated that she was told by the township supervisor, Ron Popp, that the township has not yet received grant money for the park's improvements.

Mary Beth reported that the Milton Township vote regarding the proposed RV park was postponed until the township's October meeting. Mary Beth stated that it would be worthwhile for ESLA to continue to communicate with TESA regarding the proposed RV park.

Mary Beth stated that she has established a new email address (elkskegemoglakes@gmail.com) for ESLA emails. Brenda Miller reported that she is updating the ESLA email list.

Andy Hogarth discussed the Google Drive platform he established for ESLA (ESLAsorage@gmail.com). Andy discussed the system's features and the categories of information that can be stored in the system.

NEW BUSINESS:

The 2021 ESLA meeting dates are: March 18, May 20, June 18 or 25 (annual meeting), July 15, September 16 and November 18. There was a brief discussion about whether a building should be reserved for the annual meeting.

David Lawicki reported that FEMA reviewed the Antrim county flood plan and that FEMA will tour the ERCOL watershed with the Army Corp of Engineers. Dave will keep ESLA updated.

There was a brief discussion about the duration of ESLA meetings and whether ESLA should meet more frequently. Mary Beth stated she would make a recommendation on these issues.

Whether Kate Lett should be added as a Board member will be addressed at the next meeting.

Andy Hogarth reported that Samantha Krause will be getting married in October. A present from ESLA will be sent.

Mary Beth questioned whether we need a meeting regarding the ESLA newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Donald Bonato.