

ELK- SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

February 18, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruth Bay, Don Bonato, Bob Campbell, Dale Claudepierre, Steve Francis, Jan Garvey, Dean Ginther, Andrew Hogarth, Mary Beth Kazanski, Bob Kingon, Ken Krentz, Kate Lett, Brenda Miller, Pat Pierce, Nancy Schreiber, Deanna Seifried, George Seifried, Phil Spangenberg

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Linda Slopsema

Mary Beth Kazanski, Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association (ESLA) Board President, called the meeting, run virtually through Zoom, to order at 10:03 a.m.

Mary Beth began the meeting by noting that it is a strategic planning and budget meeting focused upon preliminarily plans/projects and budgets for 2021.

The agenda was revised by adding the governmental relations committee to the list of committees on the original agenda.

The Board approved the minutes of the December 10, 2020 meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Phil Spangenberg gave the treasurer's report. Phil reviewed the attached financial statement and related documents, noting that membership dues levels were the best ever and that 2020 total income increased while total expenses decreased. In response to a question from Bob Campbell, Phil explained that the expense for the Administrative Assistant did not increase in 2020 and that this expense item was actually \$3600 per year for both 2020 and 2019. In response to a question from Steve Francis, there was a brief discussion of the endowment fund and its inception. Phil also reviewed the attached ESLA 2021 budget draft. In his review Phil explained how he derived the dues budget figure of \$36,000, stating that it is an average of the dues for prior years not including the \$10,000 donation received in 2020. In his discussion of the Vanguard financial data, Phil commented that potential changes in investments will be considered.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Dean Ginther gave the finance committee report. Dean stated that the committee will conduct audits annually and that the audit completed in 2020 has been submitted. Dean also stated that within the guidelines established for ESLA, the committee will continue to discuss rearrangement of financial vehicles.

The Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation (GTRCF) was a topic of discussion. The discussion covered how GTRCF is structured, the inception of ESLA's relationship with GTRCF

and the financial relationship between ESLA and GTRCF. Dean said that over the years ESLA's contributions to GTRCF have been inconsistent and that he would like to see more consistency in contributions. Dean recommended that ESLA contribute \$1,000 annually and said that ESLA should also try to establish a matching contribution system with a \$1,000 cap so that ESLA's total contribution could be \$2,000 per year. Dean's recommendation was tabled. A subcommittee appointed by Mary Beth will study Dean's recommendation and make a recommendation to the Board at the next meeting. (Mary Beth has appointed Dean Ginther, Pat Pierce and Steve Francis to the subcommittee).

The Board voted to confirm that donations to the endowment fund are not in lieu of dues payments. Dean stated that donors to the endowment fund will be acknowledged in the December newsletter which will recognize all members.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Brenda Miller gave the membership committee report. Brenda noted that dues notices were sent out with the December newsletter. Brenda also noted that there were 217 member contributors and that 35% of the members are Admiral or above Admiral levels. Mary Beth questioned membership records security. Brenda stated that records are not kept on a network computer and are secure.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:

Ruth Bay gave the communications committee report. Ruth stated that the following are the tentative dates for *It's a Shore Thing* events: April 23, May 28, June 18 or 23, July 23, August 27 and September 24. Ruth also identified the planned topic for each event. In response to a question from Mary Beth, Ruth stated that a budget has not yet been developed, but the costs will likely be less than last year. Brenda Miller noted that budgets were not established for these events in the past, because venues were donated, venues supplied beverages and volunteers supplied food.

Mary Beth requested Kate Lett to provide an update addressing her website activities. Kate discussed her goals for the website and described her efforts to organize information on the website so that it is easier to locate. Kate mentioned that she is searching for a new home page picture and Dean Ginther offered his assistance. Kate stated that she started a YouTube channel to host videos and that the website will provide information to access the videos. Kate said she is also considering the possibility of starting a Facebook page to facilitate communications between ESLA members and non-members. Kate noted that she will have discussions with the website manager to obtain information needed to develop a budget.

FISHERIES:

Ken Krentz gave the report for the fisheries committee. Ken mentioned past discussions about mayflies and shorelines, noting that he plans to write an article about mayflies for a future

newsletter. Deanna Seifried confirmed that she is working on an article about shorelines. Ken stated that he will be monitoring the fish plant planned for April 2021.

Bob Campbell discussed action to establish additional fish shelters at the south end and western side of Elk Lake and reviewed his discussions with the DNR and the steps needed to obtain a permit. There was a discussion of the possible equipment, materials, labor and permit costs. Mary Beth stated we should consider adding \$1,000 to the budget even though costs cannot be precisely determined at this time.

SAFETY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:

Pat Pierce gave the safety and recreation committee report. Pat stated that he estimates that costs for 2021 will be approximately \$2,000. Pat reported that the cost of installing and removing buoys has doubled to \$1,200. Pat also reported that it will likely cost \$400 to replace the missing sign. Pat stated that the Elk Lake water level is on the mark.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE:

Jan Garvey gave the environmental committee report. Jan began by noting that she sent Board members a document containing information about past environmental projects. A copy of the document entitled "ESLA Environmental Control 2021 Draft Budget Document 2/16/2021" is attached. Jan reviewed this document, noting that the monetary figures in the document are based upon experience and that there are many unknowns at this time. Jan explained the difficulties in determining costs, mentioning many of the costs and possible projects that are unknown at this time (e.g., possible cost sharing with placeholders, invasive species treatment costs, potential drone costs, possible educational mailings costs and potential swimmer's itch projects). Jan recommended the following:

- Dues and Grants-----\$1905 (includes Chamber of Commerce)
- Summer Intern-----\$8,000
- Water Testing (*E coli*)-----\$3,000
- Water Treatment-----\$2,600 (purple loosestrife/EWM)
- Additional water treatment----\$3,000
- Boat washing signage-----\$1,000
- Project work_____ \$3,500 (possible swimmer's itch, sedimentation, etc)

The discussion also included speculation regarding whether there is a link between mayflies and golden brown algae. There was also a brief discussion about water sampling. Jan noted that the Watershed Council plans to conduct water sampling this year and that Bob Reider and Dale Claudepierre plan to be involved.

OLD BUSINESS

Mary Beth discussed Rugg Pond, noting that the State of Michigan has mandated the repair of dams before dredging can be conducted.

The recreational vehicle park project in Milton Township was discussed. Mary Beth mentioned that she was unable to attend a recent meeting and that she is not sure what has been done. Bob Kingon stated that the township has hired a consultant.

Tip of the Mitt conducted water sampling and Jan stated she will draft a report to provide Board members with an update.

NEW BUSINESS

It was noted that Fresh Water Solutions will conduct a conference.

There was a brief discussion about the Paddle Antrim Water Trail and “adopt a trail.” Mary Beth stated that at the last ERCOL meeting, Paddle Antrim announced that it will have a sponsorship program that will have two levels and provide for recognition of sponsors on signage. Board member comments establish that it is generally felt that ESLA should not participate at this time.

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

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Donald Bonato.