

ELK- SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

July 15, 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, Pat Pierce, Deanna Seifried, George Seifried, Linda Slopsema, Phil Spangenberg

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Kate Lett, Brenda Miller, Nancy Schreiber

Samantha (Krause) Ogle, ESLA's lake biologist for the 2021 summer season, was also in attendance.

Bob Campbell, Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association (ESLA) Board President, called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

The minutes of the May 20, 2021 meeting and June 25, 2021 annual meeting were approved as written.

The Board briefly discussed storage of ESLA minutes on the Google drive.

Bob Campbell discussed posting of information on Facebook, noting that Board members could post information without assistance from Kate Lett.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Phil Spangenberg gave the Treasurer's report. Attached to these minutes are the Treasurer's report, line item details and Vanguard investment information reviewed by Phil.

FINANCE REPORT:

Dean Ginter gave the Finance committee report, stating that he is in the process of scheduling a meeting of committee members to review the investment portfolio and discuss financial issues, such as a future audit.

FISHERIES:

Ken Krentz gave the fisheries committee report. Mayflies was the first topic of discussion. Ken stated that the mayfly hatch is influenced by various factors, such as weather, rainstorms, algae blooms and water clarity. Ken surveyed Board members regarding their assessment of the mayfly hatch. Twelve Board members indicated they felt the mayfly hatch was less than normal, which Ken indicated was consistent with what was happening in northern Michigan. Board members opined that the hatch was spread over a longer period and one Board member noted that this makes it difficult to determine whether the total hatch was less than normal.

Ken also discussed bass die off, mentioning that Glen Lake experienced a large die off of approximately 1,000 bass. Ken stated that the DNR thinks the die off was attributable to heat stress and said that this is not abnormal and happens occasionally. Ken explained how water temperature change causes a strain on fish and discussed his measurements of water temperature in Elk Lake. Although Ken stated that the DNR wasn't interested in reports of fish deaths after 12 hours of the time of death, he indicated the DNR should be called if fish were observed in the throes of death, which Ken described as "swimming around looking goofy." Ken also reported that the DNR does not believe that fishing tournaments are significant factors in fish kills.

Ken also discussed pictures of tiny fish he recently observed in Elk Lake. Ken stated that he could not definitely determine the species.

SAFETY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:

Pat Pierce gave the safety and recreation committee report and began by reviewing his written report, which is attached. Pat stated that the total cost of replacing the buried anchors and chains for the Torch River mouth no wake sign is approximately \$250 - \$300. This cost may be offset by the sale of the buoyant dock.

There was discussion about the approval needed for installation of no wake signs. There was also discussion of the possibility of relocating the no wake sign near Rycenga Island in Elk Rapids to reduce erosion on the island.

Pat reported that the ER Dam water level is appropriate.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE:

Jan Garvey gave the environmental committee report and reviewed the written report, which is attached. Regarding the "Loon Alert" mentioned in the written report, Jan discussed the signage at Spider Lake designed to educate the public about laws/rules protecting loons and stated that we may want to consider similar signage for Elk and Skegemog lakes.

GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE:

Steve Francis gave the governmental committee report. Steve reviewed the written report, which is attached. Steve requested Board members to contact him if they have additional information that should be addressed by the committee, including the Torch River RV park, cultivation of marijuana in Whitewater Township and the manure issue involving Horse Shows by the Bay.

Bob Kingon reported that the proposed legislation pertaining to short term rentals has not been voted upon by the state legislature. Bob urged Board members to contact their legislators regarding the proposed statute.

TIP OF THE MITT WATERSHED COUNCIL (TOM).

Bob Kingon reported that he is ending his 7 years on the TOM Board of Directors and that Mary Beth Kazanski will become the new ESLA representative on the Board. Bob also discussed the retirement of the TOM Executive Director, Gail Gruenwald, and the filling of that position.

OLD BUSINESS

Bob Kingon reported that the Milton Township Planning Commission did not approve the special use permit for the Torch River RV Park and that he did not know what the developer will do to address that denial. Dean Ginther stated that the Commission's decision was based upon the report by Beckett and Raeder commissioned by the Township.

Bob Campbell discussed the drone survey to be conducted by ZeroGravity Aerial. Bob stated that the survey will be done at the beginning of August and that landowners will be given advance notice of the survey. Board members discussed preferred language for the notice so that landowners are properly advised that the survey is a use of current technology to more efficiently perform a job that ESLA has always done. Suggestions by Board members included (1) focusing on historical perspectives, (2) focusing on invasive species issues and (3) emphasizing the proprietary nature of the images captured by the survey. Linda Slopsema was requested to draft an article about the survey for the Elk Rapids News. Andy Hogarth noted that the survey will show drainage pipes on property covered by the survey and that some of the drainage pipes are part of geothermal heat systems and, therefore, do not adversely impact water quality.

There was a brief update addressing ESLA's website and Facebook page.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board briefly discussed loon harassment, including how to educate the public about the topic and what steps should be taken if loon harassment was observed. Since publication of an ESLA newsletter is not imminent, Bob Campbell suggested educating the public by an email blast, Facebook article, website post and newspaper articles. The DNR dispatch phone number will be placed on the ESLA website to inform the public who to call if loon harassment is observed.

An ad hoc committee will be tasked with making recommendations on endowment fund raising. Dean Ginther, Steve Francis, Nancy Schreiber, Pat Pierce, Phil Spangenberg, and Chip Visci will be on the committee. Bob Campbell requested the committee to be open minded and consider alternatives.

A second ad hoc committee will make recommendations regarding liability and insurance. The committee will be chaired by Pat Pierce and include Phil Spangenberg and Bob Campbell.

Dean Ginther issued a call for articles for the ESLA Newsletter. Regarding the newsletter, there was a discussion about the pros and cons of digital versus hard copy versions. Lack of email addresses was mentioned as a problem for digital versions. It was noted that it costs approximately \$3500 to print and mail a hard copy version.

Private star buoys were discussed. Bob Campbell stated that the DNR wants our help in notifying the public of the law governing buoys. Bob stated that the use of these buoys is and that they are being located further offshore. Potential landowner liability was mentioned. Bob Campbell indicated he will write a newsletter article that will also be posted on our Facebook page and website designed to notify landowners of these issues.

ESLA meetings for September 16, 2021 and November 18, 2021 were confirmed.

The following *It's a Shore Thing* events were noted:

July 23-----ER Dam visit

August 27-----Healthy Lake Shores--venue is Kewadin Township Waterfront Park

September 24-----Rain Gardens---venue is Twisted Fish Gallery

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Donald Bonato.