

ELK- SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

May 20, 2021

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Dean Ginther, Mary Beth Kazanski

Bob Campbell, Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association (ESLA) Board Vice President, called the meeting, run virtually through Zoom, to order at 10:00 am.

The minutes of the April 2, 2021 and March 18, 2021 meetings were approved as written.

Bob Campbell introduced Samantha (Krause) Ogle, ESLA's lake biologist for the 2021 summer season.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Phil Spangenberg gave the Treasurer's report. The financial documents supplied and reviewed by Phil are attached. Of note is the monies invested in "cash" accounts and the monetary amounts in the Vanguard Investment accounts. Phil noted that the Vanguard funds had a positive annualized return of 5% January through April 2021, but that the returns have been negative so far for May 2021. The Vanguard account has a balance of \$92,808. The ESLA fund balance in the Grand Traverse Community Foundation is currently \$69,000.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Brenda Miller gave the membership committee report. Brenda and Ruth Bay noted that ESLA is enjoying a dramatic increase in membership dues throughout the first quarter and into the second quarter of 2021. Membership dues have increased by three times the amount from the prior year. Currently there are 159 Admiral members, 132 Captain members and 159 Standard members.

There was discussion about the possibility of adding a higher membership level for 2022, such as a \$500 per year level, and whether the cost of a Basic membership should be increased from \$25 to \$35. A final decision on 2022 dues will be made at the September meeting.

It was noted that boat slip owners and condo owners could be recruited to join ESLA. There was also discussion about the possibility of creating a business category to improve ESLA's membership base. If that occurs, care should be taken to assure that business membership did not imply endorsement of the business by ESLA. Also, any business alliance should be dated annually to encourage annual membership renewal.

FISHERIES:

Ken Krentz gave the fisheries committee report. Ken reported that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) decided to delay the fishing season on the Torch River and the Rapid River up to the Aarwood bridge until June 16. This decision was made to protect the muskie spawning that occurs in the spring. Ken stated that the DNR law division did not support the change and that they could handle the muskie harassment. Ken stated that the decision penalizes everyone due to the actions of a few bad actors. Ken also reported that in April 40,000 brown trout were planted in Elk Lake.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:

Ruth Bay gave the communications committee report. Ruth reported that the first *It's a Shore Thing* event will be held on May 28, 2021 at Rugg Pond next to the dam. No food or drink will be served.

A question raised by Bob Kingon led to a discussion about whether we can determine the number of Google hits on our website. This would enable us to ascertain whether ESLA communications generated public interest.

SAFETY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:

Pat Pierce gave the safety and recreation committee report. Attached is the written report from Pat (ESLA Water Safety-Navigation Report May '21) that Pat reviewed during the meeting. Pat noted that he will not be able to install the Torch River no wake sign until the first week of June.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE:

Jan Garvey gave the environmental committee report. Attached is the environmental committee update that Jan reviewed during the meeting.

Bob Campbell asked Jan whether she could elaborate regarding her communications with Ron Reimink pertaining to analysis of data garnered from the drone survey to be conducted by Zero Gravity Aerial. Jan noted that the drone survey would be a waste of money if the data from the survey was not analyzed. Jan stated that she had a better vision regarding the analysis after she and Bob Campbell talked to Reimink and Dennis Wiand, noting that the analysis would enable us to compare our lakes with other lakes that were surveyed. Jan stated that it appears that the \$15,000 expenditure approved by ESLA for the drone survey will also cover the cost of an analysis conducted by Reimink's daughter Kelsey, a high school biology teacher who has worked on lake science issues with her father for many years. A contract for the analysis has not been finalized.

ERCOL

Bob Kingon summarized the highlights of the May 19, 2021 ERCOL meeting. Bob mentioned numerous items, including (1) the grant being sought by the Intermediate Lake Association, (2) the Grand Traverse Bay plan approved by EGLE, (3) lake levels and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers development of a model for assessment of lake levels, (4) the scheduled dates of meetings of the Watershed Council's septic committee and shoreline protection committee, (5) the discovery of New Zealand mud snails in Grass River and (6) the brown algae study being conducted at 4 sites.

OLD BUSINESS

Bob Kingon discussed Rugg Pond, noting that the sediment study gave rise to concerns about heavy metal concentrations. The Rugg Pond dam will need to be repaired before dredging can be conducted.

Bob Kingon stated that Paddle Antrim continues to search for volunteers to monitor access sites on Elk Lake and Skegemog Lake.

Ken Krentz will introduce the speaker for the May 28, 2021 *It's a Shore Thing* event.

Bob Kingon discussed the Milton Township R V Park proposal, noting that the Township Board agreed to finance a traffic study if the established sub committee determines a study would be appropriate.

The Torch Bayou plant survey was discussed. The Torch Bayou was approached by the Three Lakes Association (TLA), which is doing a plant survey with TOM. TLA is sharing one-half of the \$350 cost with Torch Bayou residents.

NEW BUSINESS

Steve Francis led a discussion about the signage on Torch Lake designed to discourage use of fertilizers in order to preserve water quality. Steve commenced by discussing the governmental committee and the focus of that committee, noting that he received an email from Mary Beth Kazanski about the signage on Torch Lake. The pros and cons of having similar signage on Elk and Skegemog Lakes was discussed, leading to a conclusion by Steve that there was not sufficient support for signage. Ruth Bay stated that there will be discussions about alternate means to inform riparians of the impact of fertilizers on water quality.

Bob Kingon discussed proposed state legislation designed to limit the power of local governmental units to regulate short term rentals. Whether the proposed legislation involves an issue within ESLA's charter was discussed. Bob Kingon will draft a proposed communication designed to raise awareness of the proposed legislation without ESLA taking a position.

Deanna Seifried discussed the Elk Rapids Garden Club and its need for volunteers to assist with the upcoming tour. Deanna noted that the tour is a way for us to educate the public about shorelines and stated that the Elk Rapids News will contain information about the garden club's event.

Committee spending authority was a topic of discussion. There was agreement that there should be a clear understanding of how the spending process works and that a system of checks and balances is important. There was agreement that monetary expenditure decisions should be made by ESLA's Board, rather than by committees, and that committees are not authorized to change Board spending decisions. Jan Garvey raised the question of whether there should be a threshold monetary limit upon the spending authority of a committee. In response, Phil Spangenberg stated that committees should have the authority to pay minor expenses (i.e., \$100 to \$200). Bob Kingon stated that committees should not have limits on spending for something in the normal course of business, but that Board approval should be obtained for an expenditure that is not in the budget (e.g., new equipment).

Bob Campbell advised the Board that Pat Pierce has agreed to be the next ESLA Vice President.

Ruth Bay stated that there is a slate of officers for next year: President---Bob Campbell. Vice President---Pat Pierce. Recording Secretary---Donald Bonato. Correspondence Secretary---Nancy Schreiber. Treasurer---Phil Spangenberg.

The annual meeting will be an in-person event held at the Elk Rapids harbor on June 25.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 am.

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Donald Bonato.