

ELK- SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

September 16, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruth Bay, Don Bonato, Bob Campbell, Steve Francis (present via Zoom), Jan Garvey, Dean Ginther, Andrew Hogarth, Mary Beth Kazanski, Bob Kingon, Ken Krentz, Brenda Miller, Pat Pierce, Nancy Schreiber, Deanna Seifried, George Seifried, Linda Slopsema, Phil Spangenberg

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Dale Claudepierre, Kate Lett

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

Bob Campbell, Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association (ESLA) Board President, called the meeting, run both live and virtually through Zoom, to order at 10:06 am.

The minutes of the July 15, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

Bob Campbell announced the following committee changes: The membership and communication committee will be separated into two separate committees (i.e., the membership committee and communications committee). The communications committee will be chaired by Bob Kingon and will include Dean Ginther and Kate Lett. The membership committee will be chaired by Deanna Seifried and will include Ruth Bay. The finance committee will be chaired by Nancy Schreiber and will include Phil Spangenberg and Pat Pierce.

The next ESLA meeting will be held on November 18, 2021 and will be conducted via Zoom.

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. Phil noted that utilization of Amazon Smiles, rather than Amazon, provides income to ESLA. Phil also noted that the increase in the web maintenance expense is attributable to cleaning up the website and that the absence of an expense for water treatment is due to the fact that a bill has not yet been received. In response to a question from George Seifried, Phil stated that ESLA pays the full postage rate.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Brenda Miller gave the membership report. Brenda reported that current membership is 518 and that membership at this time last year was 467. The following data was provided by Brenda to compare 2021 membership with 2020 membership:

<u>Category</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Admiral +	20	34
Admiral	112	149
Commodore	18	16
Captain	111	145
Basic	206	174

There was a discussion related to the membership duties that will be relinquished by Brenda and assumed by Samantha. Brenda reported that she and Samantha have reviewed the ESLA data base and that they need to research software Samantha will utilize to manage the data base.

There was a discussion regarding the difficulties encountered in identifying riparians and potential new ESLA members. Bob Campbell emphasized that it is important notify Samantha of potential new members when there is a house sale or a new home is constructed. Brenda noted that tax records are not immediately updated when these events occur and that she usually has to wait until December to obtain up-to-date data. Having zone representatives assume responsibility for identifying new homeowners was mentioned as a possible way to keep the data base current.

Also discussed was the desire to increase the number of Torch River and zone E residents who are ESLA members. Jan Garvey mentioned the possibility of sending targeted communications to those residents to inform them what ESLA does for their benefit.

FISHERIES:

Ken Krentz gave the fisheries committee report. Ken began by discussing mayflies, noting that there were fewer mayfly hatches this year. Ken stated that the DNR believes the decrease in hatches is attributable to the weather. Ken stated that he would continue to monitor this issue. Ken also discussed gobies and began his discussion by explaining how to identify gobies. Ken stated that he could not definitely determine whether the pictures recently sent to him depicted gobies or some other species. Ken plans to write an article for the newsletter and website to educate readers about gobies and their identifying characteristics. Although Ken said that gobies are not a “bad” invasive, it is his priority to obtain a positive identification because he and the DNR have not yet done so.

SAFETY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:

Pat Pierce gave the safety and recreation committee report. Pat began by discussing water level, noting that the current water level at the dam is normal, but that it was 4 inches higher than normal after the recent heavy rain. Pat stated that he may begin taking water

measurements after it rains. With respect to buoys, Pat said that another buoy went missing after the recent storm, so 2 buoys are currently missing. One of ESLA's buoys was donated to ESLA and that buoy does not float upright, a problem Pat will attempt to correct. Finally, Pat discussed the Torch River no wake sign, noting that the sign will be rebuilt and reinstalled next spring.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE:

Jan Garvey gave the environmental committee report.

The article Samantha is writing to chronicle her activities during the last few years was the first topic of discussion. Bob Campbell stated that he did not believe it would be a problem if the article informs readers about the water quality issues at Spencer Creek involving Burnette Foods. Board members voiced their agreement with Bob, emphasizing that the article will provide a factually accurate summary of what has occurred. Action taken by EGLE against Burnette Foods was briefly reviewed and Andy Hogarth identified the likely reasons for EGLE's delay in taking further action.

The written report submitted by Jan is attached and was briefly reviewed by Jan. Regarding purple loosestrife, Jan noted that the nature preserve area has the biggest problem and that Samantha is hoping to obtain a permit to treat that area this year.

GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

The governmental committee report was given by Steve Francis. Attached is the written report submitted by Steve.

Bob Kingon reported that he attended the Elk Rapids Township meeting at which there was a discussion about the proposed extension of a sewer line to Milton Township. Bob stated that citizens petitioned for the extension and that a survey indicates that 76% of residents are in favor of the extension. Bob reported that the next step to be taken is a public hearing scheduled for October 18, 2021.

ERCOL

Mary Beth Kazanski reported that data provided by TOM indicates the golden brown algae problem is worsening. ERCOL is trying to obtain input from EGLE about this problem. Regarding Rugg Pond, Mary Beth reported that the next steps depend upon funding and decisions have yet to be made. Mary Beth also reported that Paddle Antrim needed safety boats on Torch Lake for its September event. Finally, Mary Beth stated that she asked Heidi Schaeffer about the RV park proposed for Milton Township and Heidi advised her that there has been hydro seeding and mulching to address the erosion problems.

Mary Beth discussed the issue of loon harassment and Board members were provided a picture of the signs at Intermediate Lake utilized to alert and educate the public about applicable law. The signs and possible locations for signage were discussed. There was also discussion about

loon harassment and what constitutes prohibited harassment. The Board passed a motion authorizing the purchase of up to 20 signs at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.

TOM

Mary Beth Kazanski reported that TOM is still searching for an executive director. Mary Beth also reported that TOM has a drone and that a question has arisen regarding whether TOM's use of the drone for shoreline surveys violated a patent held by Zero Gravity Aerial.

OLD BUSINESS

Bob Campbell advised that the drone survey conducted by Zero Gravity Aerial has been completed and that the post survey analysis will not be completed until this winter.

Bob Kingon briefly commented upon the RV park in Milton Township, indicating that the public is waiting to see who sues who.

ESLA's Facebook page was discussed. The discussion focused on the importance of "following and liking" and "posting and posting pictures." Difficulty in accessing ESLA's Facebook page was also mentioned.

Pat Pierce discussed what he has done to assess whether ESLA's current insurance is adequate. Pat reviewed the types of coverage and coverage limits on our current insurance.

Dean Ginther stated that he is shooting for a mid-October deadline for articles for the next newsletter.

Ruth Bay stated that the final *It's a Shore Thing* event is scheduled for September 24, 2021 and that she is currently checking on the necessary arrangements. Ruth noted that this event was mentioned in the recent email blast.

NEW BUSINESS

Dean Ginther reported on the final recommendations from the ad hoc committee on dues/giving, a copy of which is attached. Dean began by reviewing the formation of the committee, what it was tasked to perform and its activities to date. Dean discussed the committee's strategy for encouraging donations and the three major accounts identified in the attached final recommendations. The discussion of the final recommendations included donation recognition, whether increasing dues might lead to a decrease in members, whether current membership levels should be maintained or changed, the distinction between a strategic fund and general fund, and training for Board members pertaining to giving opportunities. Bob Campbell stated that he would like a new dues structure to be in place by November 1, 2021. A motion was passed to institute the following dues levels: \$50 (supporter), \$100 (contributor), \$250 (sustaining) and \$500 (silver) effective November 1, 2021.

Samantha's position with ESLA was discussed. Brenda Miller is willing to assist in transitioning Samantha to perform some of the tasks currently being done by Brenda. It was agreed that a job description for Samantha would be presented by the November meeting.

George Seifried reported that the Michigan Environmental Council scheduled a free webinar on septic systems and manure for September 17, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Donald Bonato.