

ELK- SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 23, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruth Bay, Don Bonato, Bob Campbell, 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: Dale Claudepierre, Kate Lett, Nancy Schreiber

ESLA President Bob Campbell opened the meeting with introductory comments regarding ESLA's mantra and recent activities.

Phil Spangenberg gave the Treasurer's report dated December 31, 2021 (attached to agenda). Phil reviewed the report by commenting upon the assets, income and expenses, noting that assets are approximately \$4800 greater than last year's and explaining that membership dues are less than the prior year because of the \$10,000 contribution that was received in 2021. Phil also explained how ESLA benefits from the use of Amazon Smiles to make purchases.

Bob Campbell briefly discussed ESLA's lake biologist, Samantha (Krause) Ogle, mentioning her increased duties and hours. Bob discussed ESLA's membership figures, noting that there were approximately 560 dues paying members at the end of last year and that he would like to see membership hit 600 this year. Bob stated that currently there are approximately 300 members. Because dues levels and membership options have increased, Bob stated he was pleased with the current membership income level, noting that last year's average dues payment was approximately \$50 compared to an average of approximately \$117 this year. Bob identified ESLA's zones and encouraged those in attendance to work with zone captains to increase membership. Bob mentioned the plan to contact former members who have not paid dues this year.

Mary Beth Kazanski thanked Pat Pierce for his dedication and work as ESLA's Vice President and chair of the Safety and Recreation Committee. Mary Beth identified the slate of officers for ESLA and ESLA's zone captains. A motion was passed to approve the slate of officers.

Bob Campbell reviewed some of the many activities and projects ESLA is involved with, noting that it has been busy, challenging and rewarding. Bob mentioned the increase in buoys on the Torch River, work to control invasive species and purple loosestrife, work with municipal bodies to have better signage at launch sites, ESLA's collaboration with Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) and Hans VanSumeren, the DNR fish survey, how ESLA's updated software will make it easier to track membership, *It's a Shore Thing* events, the drone survey conducted last year and how ESLA has addressed privacy concerns related to the drone survey, the hydrology study and how ESLA can assist riparians by providing advice about greenbelts. Bob concluded his comments by recognizing Pat Pierce's dedication and work.

Jan Garvey discussed activities of the Environmental Committee, personally identifying Board members and others who have worked on the Environmental Committee's many projects and activities. Jan mentioned some of the Environmental Committee's projects, including efforts to control Eurasian milfoil and purple loosestrife, boat washing stations, water quality monitoring, the drone survey commissioned

by ESLA, efforts to increase loon awareness, ESLA's collaboration with NMC, ESLA's involvement with the Adopt a Stream project, ESLA's activities regarding the expansion of Whitewater Township Park, healthy shorelines, golden brown algae monitoring and issues involving Burnette Foods. Bob Campbell encouraged attendance at the July 12 Whitewater Township meeting related to the expansion of Whitewater Township Park.

Ken Krentz discussed fish, focusing on Elk Lake and three topics: (1) brown trout, (2) the DNR net survey and (3) future issues related to fish and fishing. Ken began by reviewing the history of fish planting in Elk Lake by the DNR, noting that fish plants were conducted in 2018 and 2019, and that 2020 was the start of a \$330,000 six year program to place brown trout in Elk Lake. Ken stated that he is aware of only 2 brown trout being caught in Elk Lake and discussed the question of where the brown trout are located. Regarding the DNR net survey, Ken stated that the DNR is in the process of analyzing the data that has been collected and that the results will not be reported before next spring. However, Ken shared information regarding preliminary findings which indicate that lots of 8" to 10" brown trout from this spring's DNR planting were found in shallow water, the perch population is good, small Atlantic salmon, probably from this spring's planting in Torch Lake, have migrated from Torch Lake to Elk Lake, rock bass and minnows are plentiful, there are normal amounts of whitefish, no rainbow trout were observed, there were fewer than expected small mouth bass and round goby were found. Ken discussed his concerns regarding the discovery of round gobies and explained why the discovery is problematic. Regarding future issues, Ken mentioned there will be continued efforts to determine where brown trout are going and to track round gobies. Ken also discussed the large mouth bass virus and quagga mussels. Ken concluded his comments by noting that Skegemog Lake is a healthy lake and not in need of monitoring by the DNR.

Pat Pierce briefly discussed ESLA, thanking everyone for the opportunity to serve and identifying Board members who have assisted Pat in his work with the Safety and Recreation committee. Pat concluded by emphasizing that you do not have to be a Board member to help ESLA and be involved in its work.

Deanna Seifried discussed ESLA membership and the efforts to increase membership. Deanna mentioned the steps taken to attract business membership and identified the 12 businesses that are currently members. Deanna stated that approximately 200 letters were sent to businesses and that the next step is to attempt to make personal contact with these businesses. Deanna concluded her comments by discussing the efforts being made to increase the health of lakeshores and the healthy lakeshore resources that are available.

Dean Ginther discussed his work as the ESLA newsletter editor and previous head of the Finance Committee. Regarding ESLA's finances, Dean mentioned that an annual internal audit is conducted. Dean reviewed work to create new financial resources and vehicles to donate money to ESLA, explaining why relying upon dues can be insufficient and how this led to creation of an endowment fund and strategic fund to encourage donations. Dean then discussed the recently created Champions status and ESLA Legends, noting that achieving Champions status entails a \$5000 donation and that ESLA Legends requires a pledge to donate \$25,000 or more to ESLA.

Steve Francis addressed why and how Champion status can be achieved, emphasizing that everyone should desire to leave a legacy and the generational obligation to make things better. Steve explained that collective action through ESLA is how things will be accomplished and that a Champions status fund commitment is needed because the worst time to raise money is when you need it. Regarding the

\$5000 donation to achieve Champion status, Steve stated that there is currently a one-time opportunity to make consecutive annual \$1000 donations totaling \$5000 and that this opportunity will expire after August 31, 2022. Steve stated that the donations will be designated specifically for the strategic fund. Further, anyone who met the \$5000 threshold before the date of today's annual meeting would have Champion status, regardless of whether the donation was to the strategic fund (e.g., a donation of \$5000 to the Community Foundation). Steve concluded by stating that there will be special recognition in the ESLA newsletter of those individuals who have Champion status.

Bob Kingon, the chair of the Communications Committee, mention that committee's activities. Bob discussed ESLA's newsletter, how ESLA is utilizing email blasts to communicate with members, improvements to ESLA's website and the increased presence of ESLA on Facebook. Bob also recognized Ruth Bay's efforts as events coordinator, mentioning her work with *It's a Shore Thing* and local hikes. Bob concluded by mentioning that the Riparian Handbook is being redone and should be completed in late 2023.

Bob Campbell ended the meeting by expressing his thanks to everyone in attendance.

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Donald J Bonato.