

ELK-SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION (“ESLA”) BOARD MEETING

December 1, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruth Bay, Bob Campbell, Dean Ginther, Mary Beth Kazinski, Ken Krentz, Bob Kingon, Bob McCririe, Pat Pierce, Deanna Seifried, George Seifried, Linda Slopsema, Phil Spangenberg.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Don Bonato, Dale Claudepierre, Steve Francis, Jan Garvey, Andrew Hogarth, Kate Lett, Nancy Schreiber

Samanths Ogle, ESLA Lake Biologist was in attendance.

Bob Campbell, Elk-Skegemog Lake Association (ESLA) Board President, called the meeting via Zoom to order at 9:00 am.

General Meeting

Bob Campbell began by noting the presence of and welcomed Bob McCririe to the meeting as our newest board member.

Committee Reports

Membership:

Deanna Seifried noted various membership levels and talked about our having a banner year in terms of new Champions and the large increase in income from dues paying members. Deanna is still very focused on encouraging members to pay online and not by check. The check deposit process is cumbersome and inhibits accurate accounting especially during the summer months. Deanna asked that the upcoming Membership Appreciation newsletter focus on asking the membership to pay online. Bob Campbell acknowledged Deanna’s gargantuan effort and hard work in soliciting current members to pay their dues for the current year. She made a big difference.

Government:

George Seifried reported that not much is happening in the sphere of government relations. The Village of Elk Rapids has completed their shoreline survey and the results are sure to be interesting once they are reported. He believes this process from the Village will encourage Antrim County to abide by their commitments to include Skegemog and Elk Lakes into their hydrology study. Bob Campbell suggested that ESLA may want to offer \$2,000 to fund the completion of the hydrology study so that it would include the two lakes; but to make sure that Antrim County doesn’t shirk their responsibilities in meeting their obligations with respect to the hydrology study.

Champions:

Dean Ginther stated that there another couple have committed to the Champion level. Dean said that no envelope will be included in the forthcoming Membership Appreciation newsletter. This is to encourage members to pay online. In response to questions from George, Dean indicated that he wasn't sure about the direct impact of one or two additional pages of the newsletter in terms of cost but that adding pages also increases the postage expense.

Safety and Recreation:

Pat Pierce noted that the Torch River buoys are still on the water. He was disappointed in the tardiness of Lake Shore Marine in installing the pedestal for next year's No Wake Sign. But it will be ready for the summer of 2023. The Elk River Dam is on the mark. Pat said that he will be turning over the Chairmanship of the Recreation Committee to Tim Wheeler, who has a civil engineering background and has previously served on the ESLA board. Pat will insure that Tim fully understands the responsibilities of the Recreation chairman and will hand over all of the ESLA materials that Pat has sprinkled throughout his house.

Fisheries:

Ken gleefully reported that he caught a big catfish in Elk Lake. Around 32' and 12-14 pounds. First time Ken has ever seen a catfish in our waters. Ken also shared a picture of the fish.

Bob Campbell indicated that he is working with John Spevacek to develop an Introduction to Fishing on Skegemog and Elk Lakes to be given at our April meeting. The location of which is not yet determined. Bob will work with John to plan this event which, based on the prior year, should be well attended. John will be able to handle the technical aspects of the presentation. Ken added that he hopes this will increase the probability of a higher level of fishing activity on Elk Lake.

Finance:

Phil Spangenberg reiterated the happy news of our having a banner year with member dues and Champions income far in excess of our budgeted amounts. Phil will have the year end results hopefully by the next board meeting in January. Also, happily, the Vanguard Funds finally showed a positive return for the current quarter. Bob Kingon reported that as a member of another organization, they had made a decision to liquidate their position in short term bond funds and moved the money into short term cash. Phil asked that board members please give him 2023 budget information on projects or other activities so that he can begin to work on the 2023 draft budget.

Communications:

Bob Kingon reported on the efforts to create the ERCOL Riparian Resource Guide and that the focus group they followed strongly recommended that they establish a web site to create and maintain the content. ERCOL would own the web site and maintain it and it would reflect the input from all of the associated lake associations. Updates to the web site would primarily be the result of changes due to local government activity.

Environmental:

Sam reported that she and Jan Garvey had spent a lot of time brainstorming over their summer activities and analysis of projects. The reports for each project are available on the ESLA Google Drive.

Jan, Sam and Dennis met to update the drone footage with the missing shoreline pieces from the drone malfunction in 2021. The drone survey was used to help choose the permit size for invasive species treatment, shoreline consultations and identifying areas of concern.

Sam reported that NOAA offers a free Phytoplankton Monitoring Network Program that helps to identify Harmful Algal Blooms. The program asks volunteers to obtain bi-weekly samples from ice out to ice in, for ideally at least one full year (ideally this will be a long term program that ESLA participates in). Sam and Jan, supported by Ken, brought up the idea to add in regular plankton tows in 2023, which would provide valuable data for ESLA regarding the energy base of the lakes. A project proposal for the plankton tows will be available before the budget meeting in February 2023. Ken observed that these tools would be an excellent methodology to find out what is happening with the fish.

Linda Slopsema provided news regarding the Whitewater Township Boat Wash which is funded by a \$200,000 grant. She explained that the project has been scaled back from 4 to 3 launch lanes. Longer term she expressed frustration with the DNR constantly working to increase lake access without care for the availability of boat wash stations. Longer term the goal is to have boat wash stations at Aarwood Road, Baggs Landing and Torch River Bridge. Linda also noted that Cheryl Goss, the project manager for the township resigned and that a new candidate will probably alter the priority of the whole effort, hopefully for the better, in the future. Bob Campbell complimented Linda for her hard work in representing ESLA's interests in the boat wash developments.

New Business:

Bob explained that ESLA would be advertising for a new administrative person and hope to have someone in place by the end of March. Sam would be devoted exclusively to lake biology work.

Bob requested that he will be making more email blasts and asked everyone to please make very specific activities that volunteers can participate in for the new year.

Bob recognized Sam's work on the Burnette matter and the shoreline consultations and moved that a \$1,000 bonus be paid. Seconded by Bob Kingon. All approved.

Future board meetings will all be scheduled to begin at 9:00 am. The last in person meeting in August will be held at the Seifried compound on the north end of Elk Lake. Details to follow. The last week before Labor Day.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 am.

Submitted by Correspondence Secretary, Nancy Schreiber (based on a Zoom recording)