

ELK- SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

JULY 21, 2022

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, Nancy Schreiber, Deanna Seifried, George Seifried, Phil Spangenberg

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Kate Lett, Linda Slopsema

Samantha Krause Ogle, ESLA's lake biologist, was also in attendance.

Bob Campbell, the Elk-Skegemog Lakes Association (ESLA) Board President, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

The minutes of the May 19, 2022 meeting and the minutes of the annual meeting held on June 23, 2022 were approved as written.

There was a brief discussion of the *It's a Shore Thing* event scheduled for July 22, 2022.

Bob Campbell noted that ESLA's bylaws call for an executive committee. Bob appointed the following Board members to the executive committee: Deanna Seifried, George Seifried, Jan Garvey, Bob Kingon, Nancy Schreiber, Dean Ginther, Phil Spangenberg and Don Bonato.

Bob Campbell reminded Board members that the next Board meeting will be held on September 15, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

GUEST PRESENTATION

Mary Beth Kazanski introduced the guest speaker--- Katie Wolf, the executive director of the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council (TOM). Katie began her presentation by discussing her background and then proceeded to discuss some of TOM's recent and current activities and projects (e.g., monitoring water quality of Elk and Skegemog lakes, the triannual water survey completed in June, the Elk River shoreline survey, the Clean Water Challenge designed to raise attention about water issues and the intern program TOM operates for students). Katie also provided information regarding TOM's board members and the vacant positions that TOM is currently trying to fill. In response to questions from Board members, Katie noted that watershed plans are up for review every 5 years and that TOM will provide technical assistance to several lake associations and partners currently involved in studies of the golden brown algae issue.

Bob Campbell introduced Bob McCririe. Mr. McCririe is a recent retiree interested in the environment and fishing. Mr. McCririe was introduced to the Board because he is interested in helping ESLA as a volunteer and more.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Phil Spangenberg gave the treasurer's report. Attached to these minutes are the financial statements, financial statement detail, Vanguard investment information and Endowment Fund information distributed and reviewed by Phil. During his report, Phil noted that Vanguard is down approximately 12% this year, that the Endowment Fund information contains a typographical error because it refers to 2020 rather than 2022 and that July income includes \$20,000 attributable to four Champion status contributions received in July.

Nancy Schreiber and Bob Campbell expressed their disappointment with the success of business membership recruitment efforts. Nancy stated that she would renew her efforts by attempting personal interaction with businesses and conducting another mailing in the fall when many businesses make their contribution and budgeting decisions. Bob stated that we need more Board members who are familiar with businesses to contact Nancy to offer help with outreach. Dean Ginther and Jan Garvey opined that business recruitment efforts should include identification of potential future projects under consideration by ESLA so businesses are aware of why funds are needed.

WEBSITE/FACEBOOK

Bob Campbell reported that he has been "tinkering" with updates to ESLA's website.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Deanna Seifried gave the membership committee report. Deanna began by stating that many individuals need reminders to prompt dues payments and that she is hoping to take a neighbor-to-neighbor approach to member recruitment. Deanna reported that hats and visors have been received for distribution to Board members to wear at events and during efforts to increase membership. Deanna briefly discussed her efforts to learn how to better utilize Bloomerang and noted business recruitment is very time consuming. Steve Francis opined that using postcards to solicit membership is more effective than emailing.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Bob Kingon gave the communications committee report. Bob briefly discussed grant money secured by the Watershed Center GTB that will support the ERCOL project of creating a "Riparian Resource Guide" that will replace ESLA's "Riparian Handbook." The grant request was for \$6,900 but only \$2,500 was received. Bob is working with

Christine Crissman (WCGTB) and Peg Comfort of the Torch Lake Conservation Center in the development of the project. If additional funds are required, ESLA and other ERCOL lake associations may be asked to contribute.

SAFETY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Pat Pierce gave the safety and recreation committee report and began by noting that the water level at the Elk River dam was “on the mark.” Pat discussed expenditures for new buoys and problems associated with anchoring buoys in the Torch River so they do not become loose or lost. In response to a suggestion from Bob Campbell, Pat stated that he would contact North Shore Marine to ascertain whether they would attach recently purchased anchor shackles to the buoys. Pat also reported that the Torch River sign is missing.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Jan Garvey gave the environmental committee report. Attached to these minutes are the environmental protection committee notes and the ESLA drone survey 5 year plan reviewed by Jan during her presentation. Jan stated that the ESLA drone survey identifies internal goals to assist in the determination of ESLA projects and activities. Jan reviewed and summarized the environmental protection committee notes and mentioned that the DNR is installing a new boat launch on Torch Lake that will not include a boat wash.

GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

Bob Campbell reported that Elk Rapids Township made limited changes to its greenbelt ordinance. Bob also expressed optimism about possible Whitewater Township ordinances attributable to changes in the Whitewater Township board.

ERCOL

Mary Beth Kazanski reported that ERCOL’s meeting was canceled this month and noted that TOM’s activities had already been covered during this meeting.

FISHING REPORT

Ken Krentz gave the report which addressed mayflies, the DNR fish survey and brown trout. Regarding mayflies, Ken reported that a normal hatch covers 10 to 14 days and that we are seeing hatches of longer duration. Ken indicated that the number of mayflies per hatch were either normal or less than normal and that it is difficult to determine if numbers are less than normal because they are spread over a longer period of time. Ken stated that the DNR fish survey was completed, noting that there were lots of minnows, some invasive round gobies and not a lot of big fish. Ken commented that the absence of big fish may be attributable to DNR’s focus on shallow water. Ken indicated a picture of an invasive round goby should be included in the next ESLA

newsletter to assist readers in identification of this species. Regarding brown trout, Ken stated that to his knowledge Bob McCririe is the only fisherman who has caught a brown trout in Elk Lake. Ken is working with the DNR to budget funds for fin clipping to assist in efforts to track brown trout migration.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board discussed possible ways to honor and recognize ESLA Champions. One way that was agreed upon was to give Champions hats with Champion logos that include the year Champion status was achieved or the year the 5 year pledge toward Champion status began.

The next ESLA newsletter was discussed. The goal is to mail the newsletter at the end of September. The agenda identifies potential newsletter topics. Ken Krentz suggested swimmers' itch and golden brown algae as additional topics because they are of interest to the public.

OLD BUSINESS

Bob Campbell gave a Bloomerang update. Bob reported that we had hoped to be registered with the Bloomerang version of PayPal (Kindful). However, the person who manages our website claims we can use PayPal to accomplish our needs and transition to Kindful next year.

Bob Campbell discussed the next steps to be taken on the project with NMC involving deep water research. Bob stated that we will soon receive an update addressing when the project will be completed and also reported that the project will focus on the area of Elk Lake near the Elk Rapids Golf Club.

There was a brief discussion of the boat wash plans for Whitewater Township Park. Bob Campbell stated that we are making progress with the township.

Rugg Pond was discussed. Dave Lawicki, a former ESLA Board member, gave a brief history, noting that Rugg Pond has been on the DNR list of "high failures." Dave stated that Kalkaska County has spent \$62,000 on a study and that later this year a Rugg Pond steering committee will identify solutions. By the end of the year the cost of fixing the problem should be known. Mary Beth Kazanski stated that economic decisions will be made regarding whether the dam should be reinforced or removed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive sessions was held to discuss ESLA's response to environmental issues concerning Burnette Foods.

At the conclusion of the meeting Ken Krentz commented upon the annual meeting, praising the food and meeting format.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Submitted by Recording Secretary, Donald J Bonato.