

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

September 15, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruth Bay, Bob Campbell, Dale Claudepierre, Steve Francis, Jan Garvey, Dean Ginther, Bob Kingon, Brenda Miller, Pat Pierce, Nancy Schreiber, Deanna Seifried, George Seifried, Phil Spangenberg.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Don Bonato, Andrew Hogarth, Kate Lett, Mary Beth Kazinski, Ken Krentz, Linda Slopsema

Samanths Ogle, ESLA Lake Biologist was in attendance.

Bob Campbell, Elk-Skegemog Lake Association (ESLA) Board President, called the meeting, run in person at the police station in Elk Rapids, to order at 10:00 am.

### **General Meeting**

Bob Campbell began by noting the next meeting was not until December which triggered discussion over whether to hold a meeting in November. It was agreed to hold a meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 am by Zoom and to change all future meetings to start at 9:30. There was a discussion about the elimination of Zone E (Torch River and the Torch River Bayou) but nothing was decided.

Another discussion was held surrounding the printing or not printing the newsletter and sending it out electronically. The printer/ mailing costs run about \$4,000 per newsletter. Deanna Seifried noted that we don't have access to all of our members' emails. Steve Francis stated that it would be advisable to have a printed version because people leave it on their coffee table and it is seen by other visitors. Steve said that a few well placed advertisements in each newsletter could absorb the cost of the printing and mailing. It was decided to continue with printing the newsletter. No decision was reached regarding the advertisements to defray the newsletter costs.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

Phil Spangenberg gave the treasurer's report. See attached "Financial Statements" including the 2022 Annual Budget.

#### **Membership:**

Sam Ogle reported that in 2022 there are 397 total members in comparison to 488 in the prior year. However, our dues income is higher than previous years most likely as a result of the increase in our dues schedule. Deanna also reiterated the need to get emails for all members as it is less expensive to email members about our upcoming events. Deanna requested that board members seek out the email addresses for members they may personally know and forward them to her.

### **Fisheries:**

Ken Krentz was not in attendance (on vacation) but he reported via email that he believes there are round gobies in our waters, but this has not been fully substantiated. The status on brown trout is they are still being caught in Torch Lake but not Elk Lake.

### **Safety and Recreation Committee:**

Pat Pierce reported that the Elk River dam is at the proper level.

A new concrete pedestal for the Torch River No Wake sign is being made and will be installed in a week. Three new stump buoys are in place to mark the Torch River's right side beyond the first bend going up river. Three new buoys on the left side going up river were added during the summer. Pat reported that we now have 20 summer stump buoys to place annually and 20 new unsinkable winter buoys. Pat changed the cable to buoy clasps this summer and with the unsinkable winter buoys he believes lost buoys will be a thing of the past. Every buoy will have an ESLA identified waterproof, weather-proof label on it so if one is lost the finder might return it to ESLA.

### **Environmental Committee:**

Samantha Ogle, our independent contractor, chemically treated for Eurasian Watermilfoil and mechanically dug out smaller invasive purple loosestrife plants at more than 25 locations. Digging out plants is more effective because it costs less and is less permission-from-landowner dependent. Samantha does this work with PLM Lakes and Land Management Corp. PLM is one of the largest aquatic herbicide and algacide application companies in the United States.

Samantha identified and treated Curly Leaf Pondweed on the north end of Elk Lake. This is the first time this species has been identified in our lakes. See the attached Environmental Protection Committee write-up for further detail.

Samantha talked about the shoreline consultations she has conducted throughout the summer. These are very enthusiastically received by members. Sam has conducted over 20 consults.

Jan Garvey reported on the Boat wash projects. Her team has visited other boat wash sites handled by area lake associations. They have learned a lot about challenges dealing with opening/running a boat

wash. They are working with an expert in grant writing to try to secure a grant to finance a fully operational and staffed boat wash on Elk Lake. See the attachment for further detail.

Jan reported that Jan Stevenson an MSU professor has spent time this summer trying to identify the biological source of the Golden Brown Algae ("GBA"). He was working with Torch Lake on a study to monitor the effects of phosphorus addition in a controlled environment. We will get a copy of his study when it is done. As part of that study, he conducted GBA sampling at several northern Michigan Lakes, including Elk and Skegemog. Unfortunately, he is retiring this year and will not be replaced. This is another significant challenge.

#### **Government Committee:**

George Seifried took over the Government Liaison job from Steve Frances. He is working on an effort now to ascertain who controls any work permitting or non-permit shoreline work between the state, counties, townships and villages in our lake areas. This is a big undertaking. There are many different government entities in our lake association area. George wants to find out about projects that are being contemplated before the work begins so that we can influence what may impact our waters.

#### **Communications Committee:**

Bob Kingon reported on the efforts to create the ERCOL Riparian Resource Guide. They are conducting focus groups via Zoom with to discuss the contents. Bob says the project is moving along very well.

#### **Old Business:**

Milton Township RV Park Update: Nancy Schreiber reported that the 80 Unit RV Park was not approved and that lawsuits are still pending and that a new owner is contemplating a 14 home private residence development.

Update of Newsletter: Dean Ginther reported that any material board members want to include in the October Newsletter has to be sent to him immediately. He said the newsletter will be about 10-12 pages long. There was discussion about the lag time between completing the newsletter material and the actual mailing of the newsletter. Dean explained that it is in the hands of the printer. It takes them time to set up for the printing and the mailing.

Burnette Foods testing: Samantha Ogle reported that water and soil testing throughout the summer showed extremely high levels of ecoli next to the Burnett property.

Business Support: Nancy Schreiber reported that currently are 22 Business Supporters and that Bob Campbell did a great job in soliciting business support.

#### **New Business:**

Annual Meeting/Shore Things: Deanna Seifried and Ruth Bay stated that we need to reserve the Harbor Marina Pavilion for the 2023 "It's A Shore Thing" now. After some discussion it was decided to hold all Shore Thing events on Thursdays in the months of May, June, July, August and September. The April

event is eliminated. Bob Campbell reminded everyone to seek out compelling speakers and topics. Deanna reminded us that these events are not exclusive to members only. Everyone is invited. After some discussion it was decided that food for the annual meeting will be catered and we will provide wine and water. The last annual meeting had 150 people. Ruth and other volunteers will provide food for the Shore Things.

Champions: Dean Ginther made a motion to make permanent the Champion Plan that allows Champions to pay \$1,000 per year for 5 years. Champion membership status will be awarded in the first year of the commitment. It was agreed to unanimously.

Zone E: Bob Campbell is promoting the suggestion that Zone E be eliminated. This topic was deferred until the December meeting.

Board Expansion: Bob Campbell and Bob Kingon want to nominate a new board member. This topic deferred until the December meeting.

Challenge from Mark Stone: Bob Campbell referred to the Mark Stone hydrology study that was featured at our summertime It's A Shore Thing. He said it is a clear challenge to our lake association and that it is time to take the gloves off. There is a uTube explaining the details behind it. Mark Stone is retiring and is trying to rile up attention to this critical situation. The three main areas of concern are the Bellaire Dam, the Elk Rapids Dam and the Rugg Pond Dam. The solution is simple but it is not cheap. Kalkaska County is committing \$600,000 to an engineering study about the problem. In the discussion a question surfaced about whether the turbines in the Elk Rapids Dam continue to turn. George is looking into this matter.

Torch River Bayou: Bob Campbell explained that a barge operated by Luhr's Landings was observed tearing up the two-way access to the Torch Bayou. It caused a big blow-out of silt and debris into all of the Bayou waters. Riparians called DNR, the police, etc. This matter will be deferred until we know more about what happened.

Submitted by Correspondence Secretary, Nancy Schreiber