

## LWA Membership Meeting Minutes June 10, 2023

Meeting called to order at 10:08 am by Vice President Glen Goodwin

29 total attendance

### A. Old Business

- 1) Introduction of officers, board members, and committee members present.
- 2) Vote to approve minutes from August 13, 2022, membership meeting – Motion to approve made by Beth Moorehead/David Judd – motion carried.
- 3) Treasurer's Year-to-Date Financials – reviewed by Glen – motion to approve made by Vicki Lipstreuer/Frank Kendall – motion carried.

### B. Reports

- 1) AIS Summary presented by Mark Wolf
  - a) Scheduled full lake survey done by Freshwater in July again this year. It was very exciting that we had no EWM identified last year anywhere on the lake. Added shoreline inspection looking for yellow iris, purple loosestrife, and flowering rush. Added Zebra Mussel Veliger sampling and analysis. Added close inspection of public and Birch Bay launch sites.
  - b) Inspector Hours for the Public Launch – Cass County allows lake associations to purchase additional hours for \$27.50/hour. We have contracted for 132 additional boat inspector hours this year at a cost of \$3,630.00. In 2022 the public launch was not monitored during the Labor Day weekend. There were periodic absences during the summer. LWA has received grant assistance from Cass County and Crooked Lake Township (CLT) to help defray the cost of our lake AIS inspection and boat inspector hours. These funds will not cover the full current full costs or any future treatment expenses. We cannot be complacent about AIS – everyone should always look when you are out fishing, boating, enjoying the lake. Take a close-up photo of any suspicious plant, snail or mussel and send it to the LWA email or contact an LWA board member to share this information. Note GPS location coordinates or take a screen shot of your location on a map app. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REMOVE ANYTHING IN THE WATER.** Place any suspect plant from shore or boat into a zip lock and contact the LWA. We will notify Cass County AIS team to confirm identification. We are doing great – one of the only lakes to eradicate EWM so far. Discussion held.
- 2) Membership Updates by Glen – we currently have 280 members, about the same as this time last year; we have 80 sustaining members; 94 donated to the general fund, 114 donated to the Ted Johnson AIS Fund; and 69 donated to the Fund a Fish Fund.
- 3) Fund a Fish – Glen reports we have about \$5,000.00 in the fund so far. John Harris wrote a great article in the Spring newsletter on pages 14-15. In a nutshell, this is a special fund restricted to stocking Walleye fingerlings we would purchase from a private vendor with permission from the DNR. It would be supplemental to the DNR stocking of frylings. Our goal is to raise \$15,000.00 in 3 years. Stocking is based upon DNR electro fishing results. Read John's article for more info.

### C. Upcoming Activities

- 1) Boat Parade - Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00pm – Greg Hosch and John Harris will lead the parade – gather at Jack & Grace Schuller’s area/by the buoys in Birch Bay
  - 2) Youth Fishing Challenge – Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00pm – shoreline of Pat & Julie Maranda – two grand prizes to give away this year.
  - 3) 48 Clean-Up – Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 am – meet at the South side of 48 across from the campground entrance.
  - 4) Floating Ice Cream Social – Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 pm – same lake location as last year – 4:00 pm at campground if supplies last.
- D. Lake Stewardship Initiative – Frank Kendall shared we have 17 lake stewards so far – the goal is that by the end of the year there will be 45 lake stewards. The purpose of this committee is to help maintain and improve the long-term health of the lake. The mission is Building awareness and encouraging action ... in collaboration with the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Association (MLRA). You can go to the MLRA website to take the lake steward quiz. Someone from the committee will contact you after you take the quiz to see if you have any questions. He also shared that Lake Minnetonka just instituted 5-mph speed limit 300 feet from all shoreline. The committee is working on a idea for an annual social event – possibly a progressive dinner – more info to follow.
- E. Road Ambassadors – Vicki shared the letter all property owners got from Crooked Lake Township and the magnet that was mailed out with important information. She encouraged everyone to sign up and use the NIXEL app which gives us important weather alerts.
- F. New Business
- a. Need for Volunteers – Glen
    - i. CLT Lakes & Shores (L&S) committee is made up of RALALA and LWA area residents – CLT L&S committee is currently requesting Lake Washburn volunteers to join the committee. More detailed information is available. The Lakes & Shores (L&S) meets every two weeks on Wednesday at 10 am. The next meeting is June 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 am at the CLT Hall. There is talk of trying zoom meetings so more could participate. Guest, Gary Langer, from the CLT L&S committee spoke about some the projects the committee handles including AIS/GTLO banners on trailers, Luscher’s Park shoreline restoration, monofilament collection tubes, GTLO campaigns, coordinated inspection and decontamination station schedules with Cass County, and more. CLT chair Mark Skjolsvik sits on the CLT L&S committee and brings a committee report/requests to the full CLT board. L&S will support up to \$5,000.00 for LWA and/or RALALA to pay for AIS surveys/treatments depending on the township budget. The CLT L&S committee also needs 5 volunteers to help at the Lakers Lions Corn Feed on August 19<sup>th</sup> for the “Get the Lead Out (GTLO) booth. You can look on the CLT website for more information, contact person information, and more.
    - ii. MN Lakes and Rivers (MLR) they are a non-profit, major lobbying group and are asking each of us to consider becoming an MLR individual member. They work to keep lake places affordable, protect and improve

water quality, provide grants to help with shoreline management, aquatic invasive species control, and prevention & septic system management; as well as greater transparency in the taxation and permitting process.

There is no other group in Minnesota working to protect your investment and heritage. If lakes are to remain healthy and lake homes and cabins a viable part of Minnesota's heritage, please join MLR today. Get on their email list – great information is shared almost weekly.

iii. LWA – please consider supporting LWA with your time and ideas.

Consider being a board member – 4 ZOOM meetings and one in-person meeting a year. Find a committee that you are passionate about and lend a hand. Continue the legacy of great lake management. Contact any board member or send an email through the LWA website to get involved.

b. Proposed Changes to Bylaws – Vicki shared that the proposal is to go from a two Membership meeting format to a single Membership meeting.

Current language – Bylaw section

B. Meetings.

1. General membership meetings will be held on the second Saturdays of June and August. The August meeting shall be called the Annual Meeting.

Proposed language:

B. Meetings

1. A single Membership meeting will be held once a year during the Summer season. This meeting shall be called the Annual meeting.

c. Questions, general discussion – Sue Gable congratulated the newsletter committee/staff for putting out such a great newsletter with a “far beyond professional look and pieces”. Glen also thanked the Lakes Area Printing staff for their help with addresses, layout, and the printing.

G. Guest Speaker – Glen introduced our guest speaker - Cass County Sheriff Bryan Welk. Sheriff Welk has been with the Cass County Sheriff's office since 1997 – first as a dispatcher, then as deputy, and now as the Sheriff. He encourages questions to the Sheriff's office anytime. He explained a little about Cass County's government structure and gave some statistics about our county such as – Cass is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest county in the state, is approximately 2,200 square miles and we have 514 lakes in our county. He shared a fun fact: there are 22 new Sheriff's in Minnesota this year, of which he is one! In 1997 when he started, there were 15 deputies and now there are 46 sworn deputies with a new one coming on soon. Our county population is about 30,200 and much higher in the summer. The county is divided into 3 areas, for Sheriff Deputy coverage, with the goal of having 2-day cars/deputies in each area. This will hopefully be attainable in the next 4 years. There are 3 boat & water deputies – typically on high traffic lakes, most often with one deputy per boat unless responding to an incident – then they will have 2 deputies in the boat.

#### **Boating Safety and Being Courteous – Boat and Water Safety**

Anything on the water is the Sheriff's Department jurisdiction by state statute. Typically, only coordinate activity with the DNR when it is an emergency. The county boat & water

patrol is supplemented with volunteers, this is a huge thing, water patrol is mostly about education, not always about giving tickets. Currently the biggest complaint the Sheriff Department gets is about wake boats – the new study by the U of M will probably bring forth good information to affect change to preserve shoreline and improve safety for all who use the lake. A wake boat should be 20 feet out before they plane out. If you observe unsafe behavior, call the Sheriff's office, you can ask to remain anonymous, so it isn't a "neighbor against neighbor" issue. It is so important to educate our guests and visitors to the lake. Tell them about the boating rules, have a boating regulation book handy to share with them, and be a good example of boating safety and courteousness yourself. You can call Cass County Sheriff to report an incident at 218-547-1424 or 1-800-450-COPS (2677) – the information will get transferred to Cass County Sheriff's office from the 1-800 number also.

The Sheriff welcomed other questions and discussion from the group. We thank Sheriff Welk for coming today and sharing some important information with us.

Frank Kenall/Sarah Hildreth made a motion/second to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 11:43 am

Next meeting will be Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 am – CLT Hall.

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Janis Judd  
Secretary