



Sugar Lake Association Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2019

Call to order

A meeting of the Sugar Lake Association was held at [Corinna Township Hall](#) on October 19, 2019

Members in Attendance

Attendees included Scott Radke, Keith Theisen,, Jan Tift, Mike Emerson, Diane Hall, Mark Snyder, Tom Nimmo, Dan Erdman, Steve Kowalczyk, Dan Salfer, Mark Kraemer

Members not in attendance

Members not in attendance included Jim Schimelpfenig, Dave Arnason, Peter Ramme, Mark Kraemer, Doug Miller, Mark Ertl, Nick Hadfield, Rob Gusass

Non Members in Attendance: Dale Gustafson

Open Mic: none

Approval of minutes

Motion to accept the September Minutes by Mike Emerson and seconded by Steve Kowalczyk. Motion carries

Officers Reports

Committee Reports

A. Chairman's Report: Zebra Mussels have flourished. Committees will be established with chairs to work over the winter.

B. Membership: Keith Theisen

Mark Ertl volunteered to be on the Membership committee. There has been a Nextdoor group set up for Sugar Lake for communication. It is a way so share things: for sale, lost dog, etc that are going on in our area and is an alternative to Facebook. Keith will send out invites to Next-door to all of the board members. You need an invitation to join and can invite others once you are a member.

C. Treasurers Report: Tom Nimmo

Because of the changeover to Tom Nimmo, the financials were not sent to the accountant as of yet. There are no big changes this month but there is about an additional \$1000 from last month's report.

C. Governmental Relations

- Corrina Township Update-no report. Scott will talk to Sheldon to see if he will continue to be the governmental relations contact. Keith reports that they will re-chip the road on the west side of the lake

D. Fisheries:

- Carp Trap Status- Jim Schimelphfenig and Sheldon Brown are working on a re-design of the carp trap and we have money budgeted for this change.
- Keith said we may consider bringing someone in to talk about fisheries

E. Water Quality Stats: Dan Erdmann

10/5/19 the clarity was 11 ft, Water temp 60°, Air Temp 60° Culvert Inlet 21.5", Culvert Outlet 26 3/4". Condition 2 on a scale of 1 (good) to 5 (poor). Slight Algae bloom

F. Vegetation/Water Quality: Dale Gustafson.

- We will be treating some Curly Leaf Pondweed in the spring and we will probably be treating Milfoil. We have not been this low on Milfoil since the early 90's. It's a very small area to treat so we did not treat last year. It costs more for us to do our own treatment than to hire it done. Lake Restoration is able to put in hoses deep into the water and make the chemical work more effectively.
- Steve McComas from Blue Water Science came several times this summer to do a point intersect where they lay a grid over a spot to look for signs of aquatic invasives and take a sampling and repeat every 5 years or less. Steve can look at the samples to determine if we have affected the native plants. He has determined that we are doing the right things for our lake and that where we have treated, there has not been an impact on natives. Dale recommended that we bring Steve McComas to a board meeting in the spring to talk about the health of the lake.
- A question was brought up about treating algae with *Aquacide* by individual lake owners, which is easily available. We need to put an article in the newsletter to educate people about what it does. It is like putting Round-up in the lake and is not selective in what it kills. Lake Restoration does treat shorelines as well. The law says we cannot kill lily pads and we cannot kill emergent vegetation such as bullrushes. We need to educate people about this. Keith will work with Dale to do a write up for the spring newsletter.
- Starry Stonewort: Steve McComas came out on Oct 8 to look for Starry Stonewort at the two landings, which is where Starry has been found in other lakes. He did not see any sign of Starry! Starry shows up later in the summer and into Sept and October We have approved a plan to treat if necessary. Starry is much for difficult to detect. Dale feels like we will get Starry in the future.
- We will need to update our strategic plan to reflect the needs of treating AIS as we improve methods of treating AIS
- Zebra Mussels: Dale suggests that we continue to monitor for zebra mussels and report to zebra@sugarlake.org. We have about 30 reports so far this year. The east shore and the north shore have the largest amount so far, where the prevailing winds go. Keith will do a membership blast to

encourage people to report so we can determine trends. The treatment project at Lake Minnetonka report should also be sent out to the membership. The brick monitoring that we have done was not the best method so Dale suggests that we go to a different monitoring system. Steve suggests that we monitor 30-40 docks with the disk method. The cost of the disks is about \$20. We will allocate \$800- \$1000 to do zebra mussel monitoring next year.

G. Communications

- **Newsletter:** Put in something about Nextdoor for all members and an article about what to do with the mussels that are on their equipment. (scrape them off!) Don is looking for more articles for the Newsletter
- **Website:** Jan Tift: We need to look at how we can tie the website into other methods of communication (Facebook, Nextdoor, Newsflashes, Emails) so that there is an easier flow to the website. Westin Miller and Keith Theisen are willing to work on this. Jan will contact Westin Miller.

Old business

- **Strategic Plan Development:** We need to look at our budget for treating AIS to make sure it is adequate to keep it under control

New business

- **Bog removal-** We have had a request to remove a large bog on the lake. It is not our policy to remove bogs and they need to get a permit to remove the bog and tell the DNR where the bog will be brought to. We are willing to help but there are very few boats in the water to at this time of the year to help them. We will refer them to resources who can help. Dan suggested the Dive Guys might be the best.
- **Monitoring the Accesses- Historical Methods vs. Future Goals:** We have set aside \$25,000 in our budget for monitoring. Do we continue to spend this amount of money on monitoring or do we allocate it somewhere else? We have gotten about \$6000 in grants for monitoring. There is money that comes out of the legislature that is allocated to lakes for invasives. It is given to the county and they can choose to use it how they like. Monitoring is one of the ways it can be spent. \$25,000 was allocated by the SLA several years ago for monitoring to try to prevent Zebra Mussels. Now that we have Zebra Mussels should we spend this money for monitoring? Discussion about spending less for monitoring and allocating money elsewhere included having Blue Water Science come out more frequently for detection of Starry Stonewort at the cost of \$1000 per time. We could also think about spending money for signage and education. We will wait to see how much the county will be spending on inspections before we decide how to spend the \$25,000.
- **Budget:** The new budget was presented A motion to approve the budget was made by Keith Theisen and seconded by Dan Erdman
- **Committee Assignments:** The following people have signed up for committees:
 - **Annual Picnic:** Mark Kramer, Mike Emerson, Diane Hall, Jan Tift, Sally Phenow
 - **Water Quality:** Dan Erdman, Steve Kowalczyk
 - **Fisheries:** Dan Salfer

- Lake Vegetation/AIS: Peter Ramme, Scott Radke, Dan Erdman, Dale Gustafson
- Lake Improvement: Dale Gustafson, Steve Kowalczyk, Scott Radke

It is not necessary to be a board member to be on a committee and we encourage our membership to participate in a committee

- November Meeting will be cancelled. Keith and Scott will get together to establish committee chairs and get members on the committees. Committees will be formed to work over the winter. Our next meeting will be in April!

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dan Erdman and was seconded by Mark Kraemer

Jan Tift

Secretary