

Sugar Lake Association Board Meeting
September 19th, 2020 - 9 AM
Minutes

1. Call to order – Keith Theisen called meeting to order.
2. Roll Call – Secretary Todd Jackson
 - A. Present: Mark Ertl, Rob Gusaas, Diane Hall, Kim Hanson, Nick Hatfield, Todd Jackson, Steve Kowalczyk, Mark Kraemer, Tom Nimmo, Scott Radkte, Trudy Richter, Mark Snyder, Keith Theisen, Kevin Welle
 - B. Not present: Mike Emerson, Dan Salfer, Lisa Salfer,
 - C. Guests: Dale Gustafson and Dan Erdmann
3. Motion to approve minutes made by Tom Nimmo and 2nd by Kevin Welle.
Unanimous vote to approve.
4. Introductions – Board members introduced themselves and told a little about themselves and where they lived on the lake.
5. Chairman Theisen noted that we have 17 of our 18 board member positions filled. He was aware of another person interested and will be reaching out to see if will fill position.
6. Committee Reports
 - A. Chairman's Report – Keith Theisen
 - i. Five Year Road Map / Update By-laws- Keith would like us to develop a 5-year road map for the organization and better document things that need to be done during the year to help future boards. He also believes that the by-laws need to be updated to reflect current times and use of technology.
 - ii. 2021 budget still being developed
 - iii. Board will need to plan annual events assuming we can get people together again but have back up pandemic contingencies
 - iv. Would like board to survey SLA membership to find out what members like, don't like and what else SLA can be doing.
 - v. The finance function has been modernized and automated using technology. SLA should look at doing the same for the Membership Directory

- vi. We've had dedicated members run key functions of the association for many years. We should make it a priority to identify new people to work with them as backups.

B. Membership Update. Keith reported that SLA currently has 285 paying members, up by 60 from 2016 but down 15 from last year, there are approximately 100 prospects on the lake. We had record donations to SLA from members in 2020. Feels that compared to other lake associations we have strong penetration of lake residents.

C. Fisheries. In the process of installing a new carp trap this fall.

D. Water Quality/AIS. Dan Erdmann reported that there has been zero water flow at the culvert for the last few months. This is likely due to a beaver dam upstream. Wright County Soil and Water has been notified and they will take action. No one from SLA should do anything further on this. Water clarity was 14 ft which is much better than prior years and likely due to zebra mussels.

Dale Gustafson reported that SLA spent less than budgeted for weed control as there wasn't enough Eurasian water milfoil to treat it in 2020. SLA did treat 3 areas for Curly-leaf pondweed. SLA is utilizing Blue Water Science to survey the lake for Starry Stonewort twice a month. It is very important to find it early in order to treat and keep it under control. Many lakes around us have seen infestations.

Looking for SLA members to continue to report amount of zebra mussels they are finding when removing docks and lifts. Important to know where the mussels are should a treatment ever get developed.

Buoys will be removed by JJ marine. There was some discussion if we should upgrade the buoys next year and it was noted we need to communicate better what the buoys mean in the various areas of the lake.

E. Communications. Keith reported that Don Peterson is working on the next newsletter and a brief discussion was held about various articles. Keith noted that Jan Tift maintains our website and is in need of help maintaining the site. It was noted that many people also get information regarding Sugar Lake from our Facebook groups rather than our website.

7. Treasurer's Report. Tom Nimmo reported that 2020 was a strong year financially for SLA. This was due to a \$12,500 refund from 2019 lake access monitoring. A

decrease in lake vegetation treatment expense (Eurasian Milfoil not treated) and strong donations from members. Tom is in the process of putting the 2021 budget together and will bring to next board meeting.

8. Old Business. Keith reported that he had contacted the DNR about the idea of closing the North Landing during the summer and expanding the south landing. This would save substantial dollars on monitoring boats entering and leaving the lake. Trudy Richter reported that a number of meetings took place with the DNR several years ago regarding this topic and no success.

Keith also contacted the DNR regarding spearing and the premise that spearing is causing there to be fewer large fish on the lake. The DNR is planning to do a fish census next spring and will note if there are fewer large northerns/muskies. SLA will look at this again next year after census.

9. New Business and Open mic. Trudy Richter brought up that it would be nice if we could reduce the number of fireworks that go off all summer. Many peoples' pets are traumatized by this. We will ask people next year to limit fireworks to the weeks around the 4th of July via our communication tools. Kim Hanson brought up that jet skies seem to be going very fast close to docks. It was noted that there are state rules on how far from shore jet skies need to be stay. We will communicate those rules next spring in the newsletter.
10. Motion to Adjourn. Scott Radkete made a motion to adjourn meeting, seconded by Tom Nimmo. Motion passed unanimously.