

# SUGAR LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

11.18.17

## Call to Order

A board meeting of the Sugar Lake Association was held on November 18, 2017 at Corinna Town Hall. It began at 9:04 AM and was presided over by chair Ron Elsner, with Andrea Welter as secretary.

## Attendees

*Voting members in attendance:* Paul Gustafson, Keith Theisen, Gary Borrell, Ron Elsner, Dan Erdmann, Larry Jude, Andrea Welter, Scott Radke, Jim Schimelfenig, Sally Quinn Phenow.

*Members not in attendance:* Doug Miller, Don Peterson, Marsha Schrupp, Kathy Suddendorf, Sheldon Brown, Dave Arnason, Peter Ramme, Jan Tift.

## Approval of Previous Minutes

Motion by P. Gustafson to accept the September minutes, seconded by S. Quinn Phenow. Motion carries.

Motion by P. Gustafson to accept the UNOFFICIAL October minutes, with additions, seconded by S. Radke. Motion carries.

## Open Mic

None

## Officers' Reports

### A. Treasurer's report (R. Elsner)

Motion by K. Theisen to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by S. Quinn Phenow. Motion carries.

## Committee Reports

### A. Chair's Report (R. Elsner)

- Thanked Sheldon Brown for agreeing to be our liaison to Corinna Township. While he will monitor township board activities, he will not be formally represent the Association.
- Shared information regarding an Aquatic Invasives Seminar being held February 28 –March 1 and encouraged board to attend.
- Pointed out that multiple agencies (Advocates for Lakes & Rivers, Freshwater Society, U of M Research Center) are all competing for our attention and our participation. He passed out a handout from Dale. Aquatic Invaders is a combination of science and government agencies.

### B. Membership (K. Theisen)

- Brought up concern that the current tax reform may impact charities. If people chose the new increased standard deduction versus taking itemized deductions, there is far less incentive to make donations, as the tax benefit is reduced/eliminated. There is speculation at this time that @65 members give the SLA a total of @\$30,000. There is also concern about the potential effect the property tax limit could have, as many lake home owners own multiple properties. If the tax law passes by the end of the year, we will suggest members make their donation ASAP to be able to deduct it on their 2017 tax return.
- Shared info about our welcome kit.
- Considering inviting 2018 political candidates to attend the annual picnic.

### C. Government Relations

- Motion by K. Theisen to authorize Paul Gustafson to apply for a carp barrier permit for 2018, seconded by J. Schimelfenig. Motion carries.

**D. Water Quality Statistics** (Boat used to take them is out of the lake. Dan will send Ron the culvert info)

**E. Water Quality/AIS** (D. Gustafson)

i. Zebra Mussel brick reminder was in the previous newsletter. Noted that Medicine Lake now has widespread infestation

ii. Steve McComas has been asked to come back next summer.

Starry Stonewort is different from our previous invasive species in that it requires an early and fast response, as its growth rate/pattern is exponentially faster. It is out of control on Lake Koronis, and Lake Sylvia is managing it so far.

Treatment plan for Curly Leaf Pondweed, and Eurasian Water Milfoil is expected to be similar to last year's.

Hope is to collect data with finer delininations (300 spots vs. 70 spots per acre). The cost is @\$2500. This information allows us to determine the most advantageous areas to treat, since we are not allowed to treat all.

iii. (R. Elsner) Wright Regional Inspection Program is closed for the boating season.

The Wright County Soil & Water reapplication is ongoing, with an anticipated response in February.

300 boats and trailers used the facility, with the bulk of them being providers, due to the timing of it's opening. In the future, variances for providers are being considered since they frequently enter the same lake multiple times on the same day.

**F. Communications** (R. Elsner)

i. Newsletters are done for 2017

ii. Website: Gary Borrell has contacted 2 design companies. Is working with Don as well. We need to decide if we want to pay a professional to maintain the site, or if we want to create something that is easily perpetuated and transferred to the next board.

**Old Business**

**A. 2017-18 Budget** (R. Elsner)

- Reviewed P&L budget overview (September 2017) line by line
- D. Erdmann made a motion in favor of leaving the \$5000 in the budget designated for monitoring.
- Discussion of value of spending money for monitoring vs. treatment.
- In the future the SLA will need to determine its priorities for water quality. This will require tough decisions.
- Discussion of instituting a policy of proposing projects as needed instead of spending money just because it's available.
- According to our bylaws, voting of a quorum by phone is acceptable, but using proxies is prohibited.
- *Motion to approve the budget, as proposed without contingencies or projects, and with the addition of \$50 added to the income section, by S. Radke, seconded by P. Gustafson. Motion carries.*
- Budget for the website by exception after we have some numbers. We can do this with just an executive vote if necessary.
- K. Theisen would like to include a 5 year strategic plan and agreed to approve the budget proposal as long as it is part of new business next year.

**B. North Landing Caution Signs** (J. Schimelfenig)

- Wright County is on board with the road signage, but still figuring out the details (Where? What?)
- DNR response is still pending.

**New Business**

**A. Picnic Coordinator Search**

There has been no response to the note in the previous newsletter. Please continue to look for potential candidates.

**Adjournment**

*Motion made by P. Gustafson that the meeting be adjourned and was seconded by S. Radke. This was agreed upon at 11:25 AM*

**SECRETARY APPROVAL:**

Andrea M. Welter

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