

# SUGAR LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

4.27.19

## Call to Order

A board meeting of the Sugar Lake Association was held on April 27, 2019 at Corinna Town Hall. It began at 8:03 AM and was presided over by chair Dan Erdmann, with Andrea Welter as secretary.

## Attendees

*Voting members in attendance:* Sheldon Brown, Ron Elsner, Dan Erdmann, Larry Jude, Andrea Welter, Dave Arnason, Scott Radtke, Peter Ramme, Jim Schimelpfenig, Mike Emerson, Mark Ertl, Diane Hall, Mark Snyder.

*Members not in attendance:* Gary Borrell, Jan Tift, Michael Rosenberger, Dan Salfer.

## Open Mic

None

## Approval of Previous Minutes

motion to accept November minutes by S. Brown and seconded by M. Emerson. Motion carries.

## Officers' Reports

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

- Will speak to Carlson regarding the size settings of the print for financial reports
- Checking account received many deposits over the winter
- Thank you to Carlson for doing our IRS and MN nonprofit filing for free. They also dropped their monthly clerical fee from one hour per month to less than one half hour.
- Association has received additional donations in excess of \$15K already so far this year! The generosity of our members has helped reduce the deficit budget.

## Committee Reports

### A. Chairman's Report (Dan Erdmann)

- Coalition successfully lobbied to get an addendum to omnibus bill. It is still waiting a vote. In the meantime, the Initiative Foundation will match all of the dollars we contribute to the ramp inspections. This will bring our coverage up to 7 days a week/10 hours per day for the same \$25K we spent last year. With the participation of Sugar Lake in the WCRIP in limbo, we were not sure we would get the ramp coverage we had last year, but we got more!
- SLA needs a member to serve on the WCRIP board. It is a 2 year term, and meetings will likely become more frequent due to the new ordinance.
- Group is still working on definitions of areas like self inspection and tiers/levels of inspectors
- We need representation because we are 1 of the 2 biggest players (Sylvia is #1)
- Discussion of lack of DNR support. They have lots of concerns regarding access. They also feel they do not have enough straightforward data yet. Additional conversation regarding the slow nature of policy change in governmental agencies, and the likelihood that the House will probably not even address it, even if the Senate does.

### B. Membership (Dan Erdmann)

- Still in need of someone to chair the committee. Has a person he has been "leaning on" but they have not yet accepted the role.

## **C. Government Relations**

### *i. Corinna Township (S. Brown)*

No report

## **D. Fisheries**

- Water is flowing and have received no complaints.
- Sheldon is aware of 5 or 6 other barriers in some western suburbs, and wants to go take a look at their designs. Have not been able to meet with the person they have in mind to do the design for SLA.

## **E. Water Quality (Dan Erdmann)**

- Due to the cloudy skies and high winds creating whitecaps, he was unable to obtain a reading this week.

## **F. Water Quality/AIS (Dale Gustafson)**

### *i. Zebra Mussels Watch/Inspections*

- Zebra Mussel watch is back on.
- Question regarding the availability of the document created by the info sent to the person who is collecting it from the people with the 40+ bricks that volunteers are monitoring. Wondering how we have had those for several years and none were ever spotted on any of them, but now all of a sudden this fall we have an infestation. Dale believes this is part of their typical pattern. They increase rapidly for a few years, then max out, and then eventually level off. Our highest level may be higher than other lakes due to Sugar Lake's prime conditions for that species.
- We are hoping for an increased number of self inspections of equipment when it is removed in the fall. (@140 last year)

### *ii. Vegetation/Water Quality*

- Steve McComas (Blue Water Science) is prepared to hit the "sweet spot" (between iceout and when the water gets too warm) to check for areas of curlyleaf that require treatment @1 week before the deadline.
- We did not treat for Eurasian Water Milfoil last summer because the areas were too sparse.
- Steve McComas will do a complete lake survey after the curly leaf is starting to die down and EWM is just emerging (usually late May or early June-weather dependent).
- Other great concern is Starry Stonewort. It can be contained, but you have to act FAST. Discussion that SS is probably our #1 priority and ramps in particular should be monitored regularly. Dale suggested we be very systematic about it and recommends 2 teams (1 at each ramp) to check samples about every 2 weeks. Suggestion was made that we can not always count on people to volunteer for some of these jobs, and perhaps SLA needs to consider hiring some personnel. There are providers of these types of services that can do monthly dives. Recommendation that we create a committee to investigate professional services and associated costs. These could be in addition to volunteers. Ron (Treasurer) mentioned that we have a \$40K budget for milfoil/zebra mussel detection that could be spent in this area. Dale will check with Steve McComas to find out the dive schedule he would recommend.

### *iii. Wright Regional Inspections Pilot Program (Ron Elsner)*

- Dan Erdmann will continue to serve on the WCRIP until a member is found.

## **G. Communications (Don Peterson)**

### *i. Newsletter*

- going out next week
- info to be included: online membership payment info, raffle ticket info, raffle prize info, request for membership chairperson, WCRIP update, vegetation/invasives update, ramp inspections schedule, fishing contest. Hold off on picnic info, as we do not know for sure where it will be held this year. Former property where held is for sale, but deal has not been finalized yet.
- Don is interested in someone else taking over the responsibility of the newflash and for sale emails.

- Also in need of a volunteer to publish the 2019/2020 directory. Hoping to find an interested college student who could perhaps use it as an internship experience. If no one is interested, we will look into the Annandale or Maple Lake newspapers to get a quote.
- We can not go to strictly digital because pdf format becomes publicly available, which makes it impossible for us to limit access.
- Ron will continue to contact the area businesses to solicit advertising.

ii. Website

No report

**Old Business**

- A. Strategic Plan Development
- Due to being overwhelmed by the many hours of his involvement in the WCRIP, Ron had to put the SPD on the back burner. Will resume discussions at a later date.

**New Business**

Bogs in the north bay

**Adjournment**

motion to adjourn by L. Jude, seconded by J. Schimelpfenig. This was agreed upon by all at 9:42 AM.

**SECRETARY APPROVAL:**

Andrea M. Welter

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