

# SUGAR LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

## Call to Order

A board meeting of the Sugar Lake Association was held on MAY 20, 2017 at Corinna Town Hall. It began at 8:02 AM and was presided over by Sally Quinn Phenow, with Andrea Welter as secretary.

## Attendees

*Voting members in attendance:* Todd Latterell, Suzanne McDonald, Sally Quinn Phenow, Paul Gustafson, Doug Miller, Don Peterson, Keith Theisen, Gary Borrell (left at 9:30), Sheldon Brown, Ron Elsner, Dan Erdmann, Andrea Welter. Marsha Shrupp arrived at 8:08.

*Members not in attendance:* Robin Fox, Sue Mann, Robert Strom, Kathy Suddendorf, Larry Jude.

## Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous April 8, 2017 meeting, was made by P. Gustafson and seconded by S. McDonald.

## Open Mic

None

## Officers' Reports

### A. Treasurer's report (T. Latterell)

**Motion to accept:** Paul Gustafson and seconded by P. Gustafson to accept the treasurer's report. The motion carried.

## Committee Reports

### A. Membership (Keith Theisen)

Currently has 260 members in the database

There are an additional 250 prospects from the county database

Discussion regarding dinner meeting/gift for purpose of welcoming new members

### B. Fisheries/Water Culvert Flow (Paul Gustafson)

Carp Barrier Update:

From January 1-May 20, 2017 there have been 12 reviews/cleanings at the sight. On Sunday, May 21, 2017, the door chain will be removed, and on Monday, May 22, 2017 the door will be closed. It will remain closed until approximately July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Per our DNR permit, a daily review and cleaning is required when it is closed.

Shared newspaper article from the May 14, 2017 Drummer "Bowfishing on area lakes after dark", by Ed DuBois.

### C. Water Quality/Lake Vegetation (Dale Gustafson)

*Hart Ave. & 108<sup>th</sup> St. discussion.* Property owners have been in contact with the County Soil and Water department. Lots of Federal and State budget cuts are anticipated.

The fields are taken care of. The "big ditch" project costs were only \$5000 instead of the \$20,000 we budgeted for due to a county Soil and Water grant.

We will be looking at treatment of curly leaf for next year. This is the last year of our grant for the treatment of invasives. Our last application was not accepted.

### Starry Stonewort Rapid Response plan (Ron Elsner/Dale Gustafson)

Ron shared that he inquired whether Sugar Lake could be included in the pilot program that is being developed for Lake Sylvia, Lake John, and Pleasant Lake. "No" was their response. However, next year they might add more lakes.

Ron attended the Starry Stonewort conference and believes there were about 125 people in attendance .

The current recommended treatment of boats/trailers is call "enhanced cleaning"

The Greater Lake Sylvia Association is petitioning the county to enact legislation. The ordinance that is currently being put forth is a petty misdemeanor, which does not have much “teeth”. The county is not ready/willing at this time to do battle in court.

The current timeline is to have the townships weigh in by June 6, then bring it to the county by June 13, and then submit it to the DNR shortly after that. So, realistically, mid-July is likely the earliest that the project could begin. The city of Annandale is willing to lease 22 acres of land.

Due to the extremely fast rate of growth of starry stonewort, combined with the intense damage it does to the lake, Ron and Dale prepared a proposal for a plan that we would submit to the DNR, and if approved, we would follow immediately upon the discovery of SS in Sugar Lake. This would be done by trained personnel and verified. They believe it is imperative to have a prearranged plan in place ahead of its discovery, so that precious time is not wasted. The normal process for approval of treatments is lengthy and time is of the essence with this invasive. It not only causes inconvenient recreational use issues, but threatens the very health of our native plants and our fish. We can not take a “wait and see” approach. By then, it is too late.

Suggestion that the board move to set aside a set amount of money that the chair of the vegetation committee would be authorized to spend. P. Gustafson pointed out that the executive committee already has the authority to vote to release funds in an emergency situation where a full board vote is not possible in a timely manner.

Dale stated that Lake Restoration has large quantities of keloid copper in their warehouse that they could get to the lake quickly, if that becomes part of an approved plan by the DNR.

Starry Stonewort is relatively easy to identify, so the suggested plan is to dive at the landings in the spring and the fall and check monthly between. In addition, some property owners on each of the end of the lake could be trained to be looking for it as well.

If the plan is accepted by the board, the next step is to talk to the DNR.

**Motion to accept the Starry Stonewort Rapid Response Plan proposal for submission to the DNR for approval: K. Theisen. 2<sup>nd</sup>-Doug Miller. Motion carries.**

Additional Discussion: P. Gustafson asked if there are any chemicals on the horizon that are being tested and if any have been effective.

Ron answered that copper sulphate, with some compounds attached to it have had some positive effect. Straight copper sulphate was not effective. Paul asked if the state is getting involved. Ron replied yes, but they are 0 for 5 in any treatment that would be in line with DNR approval.

Ron stressed that eradication is very unlikely, but control is possible. It would require 2-3 applications per season. Lake Sylvia has a \$300,000 fund to fight this, and Lake Koronis has already spend \$800,000+ in an effort to save the lake.

The current research shows that it is spread by boats, and not carried by waterfowl.

#### **D. Water Quality Report (Dan Erdmann)**

5-19-17

water clarity            9 feet  
water temperature 58 degrees F  
air temp                55 degrees F  
culvert inlet            20.5 inches  
culvert outlet          25.5 inches  
significant algae bloom present  
overall condition 3 on a scale of 1 (good) to 5 (poor)

#### **E. Plant Exchange**

May 27<sup>th</sup> from 9-11AM at Quinn's

#### **F. Newsletter (Don Peterson)**

This month will include a paper copy to all members because included are the raffle tickets. Don requested help stuffing envelopes and that any info be submitted by Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Shared that the raffle tickets have a new design with an enlarged portion for writing in name and phone number to make it easier.

Sold tickets and money will be sent to Todd Latterell, treasurer.

The mailing allows us up to an 8 page newsletter. Don suggested we use it as an opportunity to get info out.

Group suggested we highlight invasive species with links to pics and information, and recap what we have done.

G. Borrell expressed concern that we might create unnecessary fear.

Dale's response was that we are being proactive, that we need to be ready. He has been involved in hundreds of conversations about invasive species, and he has never heard this level of desperation like he hears regarding starry stonewort.

### **G. Picnic**

S. Quinn-Phenow questioned if we want to continue with prizes (yes was response)

Asked if we should include a silent auction? Decision was made to table that discussion and ask the picnic committee to meet and decide.

### **H. Zebra Brick Monitoring (Bob Peltier)**

Is using 3 tier plastic "bricks"

They are sent to the U of M each month, and a new one is placed in its spot.

We currently monitor 43 different areas

### **Old Business**

### **Adjournment**

Dan Erdmann moved that the meeting be adjourned, and seconded by Paul Gustafson. This was agreed upon at 9:45 AM.

**SECRETARY APPROVAL:** Andrea M. Welter

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