

SUGAR LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

7.20.19

Call to Order

A board meeting of the Sugar Lake Association was held on July 20, 2019 at Corinna Town Hall. It began at 8:06 AM and was presided over by chair Dan Erdmann, with Andrea Welter as secretary.

Attendees

Voting members in attendance: Gary Borrell, Sheldon Brown, Ron Elsner, Dan Erdmann, Larry Jude, Andrea Welter, Dave Arnason, Scott Radtke, Jan Tift, Mike Emerson, Diane Hall, Mark Snyder. Jim Schimelpfenig arrived at 8:46.

Members not in attendance: Peter Ramme, Mark Ertl, Michael Rosenberger, Dan Salfer.

Open Mic

- Dick Naaktgeboren addressed the board regarding a possible Indian Lake outlet into Sugar Lake concept. Water levels on Indian are flooding property. He has been corresponding with the DNR to find out what steps can be taken long term to lower the lake levels if they continue to rise in the future. One proposal/concept they are exploring is to construct an outlet into Sugar Lake and pump water from Indian into Sugar. There are many steps that would need to happen before this would take place, and getting permission from Sugar Lake is just the first step, so they need to find out if we would support it before they continue to look into this idea. Water would only be pumped from Indian into Sugar if the water level on Indian is ABOVE a predetermined level above ordinary high water AND Sugar is BELOW an established height below our ordinary high water level. It would also require detailed analysis and cost studies. He simply asked the board if they are willing to look at the proposal and entertain discussion regarding it at this point. The rate and volume of water pumped would be controlled and capped. If they are high, we are most likely also going to be high, so they don't anticipate this would need to occur very often.
- Discussion included concerns such as how it might impact the water chemistry and water quality of Sugar Lake, potential for transfer of invasive species, etc.

Motion to LOOK AT a proposal from Indian Lake to pump water into Sugar Lake and its potential effects by G. Borrell and seconded by L. Jude. Motion carries.

Approval of Previous Minutes

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

Officers' Reports

A. Treasurer's report (Ron Elsner)

- At the end of the fiscal year the goal is to leave \$70K in the account.
- We incurred \$93K in expenses this year
- Due to some generous additional donations, the deficit is projected to be \$10K instead of \$20K at the beginning of next year. The top 100 donors contributed 75% of the fund, and the top 10 donors contributed 32%. We are very fortunate that we have been able to make budget due the generosity of a few large donors.
- Suggestion of possibly raising dues was brought forth. This idea was discouraged due to the fact in previously when they were raised, membership declined.

Motion to accept the June Treasurer's Report by G. Borrell and seconded by J.Tift. Motion carries.

Committee Reports

A. Chairman's Report (Dan Erdmann)

- Received a letter from Clearwater Lake asking about the bog removal process.
- Ron's response is that permits are required, but you can establish a fund for use when they create a navigational hazard or water flow problem (obstruction)

B. Membership (Keith Theisen not present. Info shared by R. Elsner in his treasurer's report)

C. Government Relations

i. Corinna Township (S. Brown)

- Reminder last Saturday in July is Junk amnesty day at the township hall

D. Fisheries

- No work on the carp barrier modifications will happen until the water level comes down
- The door is now open and the water is flowing freely

E. Water Quality (Dan Erdmann)

7.11.19

- water clarity 11 feet
- water temp 79 degrees F
- air temp 77 degrees F
- culvert inlet 23.75 inches
- culver outlet 28.75 inches
- overall score of 2 on a scale of 1(poor) to 5(excellent) due to light green tint

F. Water Quality/AIS (Dale Gustafson)

i. Zebra Mussels Watch/Inspections

- Dan E. asked if we are still collecting data and reporting it to Bob Peltier, as it would be beneficial to know where the colonies are potentially located.

ii. Vegetation/Water Quality

- Steve McComas (Blue Water Science) came on July 11th and completed a whole lake plant survey. We will get a detailed report later. He and one other employee collected samples from 250 locations.
- report will delineate for significant areas of Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed for use to apply for DNR treatment permit process next year. It's difficult to find Curly in time to treat it, so it is helpful if we know where to check for it in the spring when it emerges.
- We now have 6 complete surveys
- New studies providing new information about zebra mussels. For example, sunfish will eat the small ones. The entire genome has just recently been mapped, which can be used to study its vulnerabilities at different stages.
- MAISRC workshop is September 18th in St. Paul at the U of M Campus Conference Center
- Concern about boating patterns-especially pontoons-that are destroying/cutting up vegetation. Is there anything we can do? Response was to educate people that they need to look at the back of their boat when they are "cruising" along the shoreline and see if you are churning anything up and doing damage. If you are-don't do it-go deeper!
- Buoys do not seem to be keeping people away from sensitive vegetation. Has seen boats drive close to and in between buoys marking them. Do we need to rethink their use or retool them? We are only allowed to do square ones with information on them. We can't place ones that state "NO Boating" The county has to approve all buoys (we have no legal authority). Currently we pay Anchor Dock to place and remove them. Adding more would increase our costs. Suggestion to educate by showing an old photo map of the lake alongside a current map and highlight areas to avoid while boating. (Aerial photos are available from

Oak Realty in Annandale). G. Borrell volunteered to be a committee chair to look into adding sensitive vegetation navigational buoys.

G. Fishing Contest

winner info and pics included in the newsletter

H. Sugar Lake Picnic

- Plans being finalized for its new location at the Rachel property
- Committee is in need of more parking directors
- Need more help setting up
- Need someone to return the rented tables to Monticello on Monday-they are not open on Sunday
- Scott R. has cones and tape to help mark parking lanes
- Need runners to determine winners of games and give the list to the announcer
- Need food shift worker from 2-3 o'clock and pop table from 2-3 o'clock
- Still no solution for garbage removal. We have cardboard containers that hold large trash bags, but we have not been able to contract any garbage company to come and pick it up and dispose of it. It is usually @20-30 bags. Suggestion that workers who help clean up please each take one bag and place it in their personal trashcan. Could even do an announcement at the end of the raffle to ask any guests to take one.
- Will purchase a \$100 gift card to Café Jules to give to Don Rachel for use of his property.
- Send email reminder to members to sign up for unfilled spots.

I. Communications

i. Newsletter (Don Peterson not present but sent letter to Dan, Ron and Andrea with requests)

- provide Don with picnic info
- August is the annual membership meeting. Board nominations need to be in place before then. Send names of any potential willing members to Dan Erdmann ASAP. (We need 7 due to one member moving off the lake).

ii. Website (Jan Tift)

changed the bog info link

iii. Directory

suggestion that we remove the list of area communicators as they are no longer used to relay information. Email and Newsflash and the website have eliminated the need for them.

Old Business

A. Diane's Lights

- Will no longer be a contest with a prize, so now should it be a community celebration including all forms of lights?
- Rename to reflect this change to Light Up the Lake or possibly Sugar Lake Lights Night?

Motion to change the name and include any form of lights by L. Jude and seconded by M. Emerson.

- Discussion: Do we want to tie to it something with a specific meaning or purpose? General consensus is that it should just be a fun activity that promotes community and is a "night out" celebrating another summer on the lake.

Motion carries.

Adjournment

motion to adjourn by S.Radtke, seconded by D. Arnason. This was agreed upon by all at 10:12 AM.

SECRETARY APPROVAL:

Andrea M. Welter
