

# SUGAR LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

9.15.18

## Call to Order

A board meeting of the Sugar Lake Association was held on September 15, 2018 at Corinna Town Hall. It began at 9:03 A.M. and was presided over by Dan Erdmann, with Andrea Welter as secretary.

## Attendees

*Voting members in attendance:* Gary Borrell, Sheldon Brown, Ron Elsner, Dan Erdmann, Scott Radtke, Jan Tift, Mike Emerson, Mark Ertl, Diane Hall, Dan Salfer, Mark Snyder, Andrea Welter

*Members not in attendance:* Larry Jude, Dave Arnason, Peter Ramme, Jim Schimelfenig, Michael Rosenburger.

## Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion to approve the August 2018 minutes was made by G.Borrell and seconded by S.Brown. Motion carries.

## Treasurer's Report (R. Elsner)

- Delay in getting financial info from Carlson to board members due to email issues.
- August was a very busy month with the golf tournament and picnic.
- P & L statement budget vs. actual (year end report on our financial status)
- revenue was up (\$10K), and expenses were down overall.
- Income was \$12K above what was budgeted.
- Donations were \$20K above what was anticipated.
- Expenses \$75K budget vs. \$50K actual
- General expensed down ( picnic and office)
- Treatment expense down as we did not treat for Eurasian Water Milfoil
- Printing and mailing costs down
- Carlson fees lower than anticipated
- Picnic expenses down

Question was asked if the treasurer thought there was a large push to make donations before the new tax laws kicked in. Answer unknown-will try to determine.

Question about creating an emergency fund for invasive species. Look into using certificates of deposit as a backstop. May be necessary to access funds quickly if Starry Stonewort is discovered. Lake Koronis has spent upwards of \$400K, and Lake Sylvia has surpassed \$85K

Changes for next fiscal year:

- Will need to increase the budget for monitoring and prevention to \$74K to include annual inspections at both landings by Blue Water Science. Current costs include monitoring at 2 landings 30 hours per week for 20 weeks, at the rate of \$20 per hour.
- Add \$750 line for rental of filter strip off of 115<sup>th</sup> St. (This amount is based on the farmer's lost income from that 5 acres). Future goal is to try to get it designated under conservation easement status from WCSWCD.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by G. Borrell and seconded by M. Emerson. Motion carries.

## Committee Reports

### A. Chair's report

## B. Membership

- Cindi Peterson is taking over the clerical portion, but we still need a board member to oversee the committee

## C. Government Relations

- Sheldon suggested we confirm 2019 meeting dates and then book the township hall soon. Ron has a calendar with suggested dates ready to go over after the meeting and will check in with Town hall this week.

## D. Fisheries (P. Gustafson)

Carp barrier has been checked/cleaned 8 times since the last meeting, and will go down to once per week.

## E. Water Quality Statistics (D. Erdmann)

Water temperature	74 degrees F
Air temperature	82 degrees F
Water clarity	11 feet
Inlet	12 inches
Outlet	18 inches
Overall quality 2 on a scale of 1 (good) to 5 (poor)	

- Will contact Wright County Soil & Water to have them check on a potential beaver dam obstruction on private property near culvert
- while the lake may appear to have gone down substantially (depending on the slope of your shoreline), the water level is only down 5.75 inches from this Spring.
- Suggestion that Don share information in the newsletter about what the “ordinary high water mark” is, and how the county uses it to determine property size, etc.
- Almost all of our water comes from groundwater, not an inlet/stream, so rainfall greatly affects the lake level.

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

- Blue Water Science did a dive by both landings and the old boyscout area. Did not find any Starry Stonewort
- Shared info about the MN Aquatic Conference held at the U of M campus in St. Paul. They are developing research to attack invasives. Starry Stonewort in our lake could potentially grow from the bottom to 15-18 feet of water. Divers need ropes to pull them up through-not able to swim through it-too dense.
- Also shared info on Lakes and Rivers Advocates Conference in the Spring.
- Steve McComas from Blue Water Science suggests we do a complete plant survey of the lake (200-300 locations) next July. This info will be loaded onto our database. We are tracking to monitor and demonstrate that we have not lost any species or impacted the density, quantity or frequency of our native plants with the treatments for invasive species.
- No major projects have been undertaken. Need \$ from the state to distribute funds to the county, who transfer money to the township. We need to get on the County soil & water list for funding. Then we need to get property owner permission.

## G. Wright County Regional Inspection Program (R. Elsner)

- 4-6 weeks ago found out the Initiative Foundation notified the pilot program that matching funds will be ending as of June 2019. Went to the county board and was rebuffed. The AIS committee in WCSWD is now going to take a leadership role.

## H. Communications (D. Erdmann)

- i. newsletter
  - please send any items to Don
- ii. website (J. Tift)
  - nothing new at this time

## Old Business

### A. Strategic Plan Development

- No activity to report. R. Elsner will send info soon

## New Business

### A. WCRIP

- As discussed earlier, the Soil & Water is getting involved-new committee formed is supportive to address the county inspection program. The city of Annandale is behind it. Goal is to get all area lakes included in a central inspection program. The state can't do a law to require-the county must change the ordinance, and then the DNR must approve.
- Enforcement is a challenge-they must ticket a person, not a trailer.
- If a group of 10 or more fishing boats is participating in a tournament, inspectors will go to the access.
- Wait time at the facility is usually less than 10 minutes, and most are less than 6 minutes
- Inspections also apply to docks/lifts that are transported across county public roads.
- SLA is currently on the record as being supportive of an inspection program

### B. Joel Williams request

Inquiring about the possibility of a 501c3 letter acknowledging a donation if he decides to donate a barge to the association and then purchase it at a reduced rate. Recommendation not to approve. Tax laws require donations be based on book value. No motion, so no vote required.

## Adjournment

G.Borrell moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by D. Salfer, and this was agreed upon at 11:12 A.M.

### SECRETARY APPROVAL:

(Signature & Date) Andrea Welter

[Organization Name] Sugar Lake Association

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