

SUGAR LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

9.23.17

Call to Order

A board meeting of the Sugar Lake Association was held on September 23, 2017 at Corinna Town Hall. It began at 9:03 AM and was presided over by chair Ron Elsner, with Andrea Welter as secretary.

Attendees

Voting members in attendance: Paul Gustafson, Doug Miller, Don Peterson, Keith Theisen, Sheldon Brown, Ron Elsner, Larry Jude, Andrea Welter, Scott Radtke (left at 11:00 AM), Jim Schimelfenig, Sally Quinn Phenow

Members not in attendance: Marsha Schrupp, Kathy Suddendorf, Gary Borrell, Dan Erdmann, Dave Arnason, Peter Ramme, Jan Tift

Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous August 19, 2017 meeting, was made by P. Gustafson and seconded by Sally Quinn Phenow. Motion carries.

Open Mic

None. Ron posted the guidelines near the signup sheet

Officers' Reports

A. Treasurer's report (D. Miller)

T. Latterell is working on the year end report.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by P. Gustafson and seconded by S. Brown. Motion carries

- Not much activity for September
- Tax info needs to be mailed to members after Dec. 31st.
- Past practice has been to let the CD roll over.
- Question about the \$100K with Capital One. At the time it was opened, it offered a better return. We need to look at this some more.
- Jackie Bistodeau (at the accounting firm we use) is working on creating a chart of accounts in Quickbooks for our statement of operations. Hopefully this will be ready by October. This will streamline data entry. The cost of this service is unknown at this time. We will be charged on an hourly basis in the future. A letter of engagement will be brought before the board at a future meeting for approval before a contract is entered into.

Committee Reports

A. Membership (Keith Theisen)

- Membership will have the option of online sign-up with use of a credit card
- Chart of accounts in Quickbooks will match the SLA general ledger accounts. The actual vs. budget will show.
- Plan for future is to make the website interactive. Timeframe is hopefully next spring. This will include a membership button, links to articles, and newsflashes to name a few.
- The increased automation will hopefully free up membership committee members to focus more on increasing membership. Currently there are approximately 100 properties that are not members.

B. Fisheries/Water Culvert Flow (Paul Gustafson)

Carp Barrier Update:

- Has been checked and cleaned (if necessary) 93 times to date this year.

- Beginning Nov. 1, the cleaning process is completed once per week.
- Wright Soil and Water Conservation District is our ambassador.

C. Water Quality Statistics (Dan Erdmann via email)

September 12th, 2017

Water Clarity	11.5 feet
Water temp	70 degrees F
Air temp	75 degrees F
Culvert Inlet	14.5 inches
Culvert Outlet	19.5 inches
Overall score	2 (on a scale of 1=good and 5=poor)
	Slight green algae tint

D. Water Quality/Lake Vegetation (Dale Gustafson)

- Since the last meeting, the DNR has determined that the inspection process at the landings maintained by SLA is illegal because it is not being implemented by a government agency. They ordered that it be halted immediately.
- In the future, Anchor Dock and Lift will contract with Wright Soil & Water Conservation District, and not us.
- This was stopped in Wright County only.
- The DNR let the Wright County Board know that they were taking full financial responsibility.
- Remote enhanced cleaning facility will hopefully be ready for use beginning October 4th.
- WCSWD will have to reapply again for next year.
- The money for this project is from a grant from the Legacy Fund, which has a contract with the Greater Lake Sylvia Association.
- Concern is that the program is fundamentally flawed-the belief is that boats need to be cleaned AFTER they leave infected lakes, not just before.
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Special Guest Speaker: Alicia O'Hare

Ms. O'Hare shared a presentation of the results of an extensive, comprehensive subwatershed assessment that was completed this past year. Both online data, and in person physical observations were collected. The goal was to identify areas/neighborhoods who share a subwatershed to understand it's impact on the lake, and hopefully create plans to improve water quality.

- The computer program chose 10 sites based on the data collected
- The staff then chose an additional 5 that they felt were important
- Assessment looked at 27 inputs to Sugar Lake:
 - Overland flows, culverts etc.
 - Focus was on the amount of sediment and phosphorus contributed
 - Looked at 5 water storage areas, 6 filtration (3 grass waterways and 3 filter strips), and 5 source reduction areas.
- When looking at the data, it is important not to target individuals or farm property owners.
- When selecting projects, it is important to consider cost effectiveness, priority, and reduction potential.
- Potential financial support for projects include grant money, and offering compensation to farmers, and educating them on the benefits to them (less erosion on their fields for example)

E. Budget Discussion

At this time the board decided not to move on to the budget discussion at this time, but instead address it at the Oct meeting. Board members will receive a spreadsheet, and are asked to review it before the meeting.

When Alicia O'Hare returned, the board held a brief discussion to get on the record with WSWCD that the SLA believes that EXIT inspections are important, and that we want to be allowed to participate as soon as possible (currently county and DNR are not accepting any more lakes until they gather data). One of the greatest DNR concerns is that a decontamination facility must be within a reasonable travel time to the lakes. We should communicate our interest/wishes and our concerns to the GLSA since they are the holder of the grant.

At the November meeting we will discuss and formalize plans to enter into contract with service provider for inspections.

F. Communications (Don Peterson)

Needs all articles by the close of business Sunday.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Paul Gustafson that the meeting be adjourned and was seconded by Sally Quinn Phenow. This was agreed upon at 11:32 AM.

SECRETARY APPROVAL: Andrea M. Welter
