

Minutes
Ida Lake Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Ida Township Hall
June 26, 2021

Members Present

President – Elaine Greer	Vice President – David Geddes
Treasurer – Mike Kleve	Secretary – Pamela Phillips
District 1 – Jerry McClure, Wes Smith	District 10 –
District 2 –	District 11 – Dave Murphy, Bob Reed
District 3 –	District 12 – Mary Saarion
District 4 –	District 13 – Leon Bresley, Michael McNab
District 5 –	District 14 – Jim Conn, Elke Richards
District 6 –	District 15 – Roger Schultz
District 7 – Tom Duxbury	District 16 –
District 8 – Lee Katzmarek, Bud Nielsen	District 17 –
District 9 – Andy Lopez, Dian Lopez	District 18 – Matt Gunlogson
Past President – Dick Sudmeier	

President Elaine Greer called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Meeting Agenda: Elaine had two additions to new business. Dian Lopez moved to approve the agenda. Bud Nielsen seconded the motion. Motion approved.

We welcomed Roger Schultz as a new District 15 Director and had him introduce himself.

Secretary's Report: Pamela noted one correction received from Elaine for the May Director's meeting minutes. Jim Conn moved to approve the Directors May minutes with the correction. Dave Murphy seconded the motion. Motion approved. Dave Murphy moved to approved the general membership meeting minutes from May. Dick Sudmeier seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report as of June 5, 2021.

Total assets of \$69,143.01 (bank accounts \$12,139; investments \$57,004)

Membership dues received so far in 2021 = \$6,500.

327 memberships paid for 2021 as of 6/5/21 (plus 48 memberships paid into future years)

Payments (noting only largest – others in Treasurer's report):

West Central Initiative donation (to the Water Quality Legacy Fund) - \$25,000

PLM (for CLP treatment) - \$15,533

Douglas Co. Lake Assn Dues - \$1765

Upcoming bills to be paid:

- Weebly website (\$144)
- G Suite email (\$70)

Leon Bresley moved to pay open bills and approve the Treasurer's report. Bud Nielsen seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Old Business

Ditch 23: There is no real update right now. ILA did receive a June 17th letter from the DNR noting a potential temporary suspension of any state contracting on or after July 1, 2021 because the state hasn't passed an appropriations bill yet. All work would be suspended on June 30 until there is a budget resolution. The funding for Ditch 23 doesn't go through DNR, so even were work to begin before a bill is approved, it is not likely to affect the work.

AIS Report: David Geddes – CLP treatment that we contracted for was complete. David has looked at an area on Little Ida where the CLP is lodged and growing under docks in a particular area and has sent off more info to PLM. PLM will come back with suggestions for treating CLP in and among the docks in that area.

We got a \$3600 grant from DNR for the CLP treatment this year. ILA spent less than we allocated from the budget for CLP treatment, so there is extra money that was allocated for CLP treatment. The recommendation was to hold the extra money separately for CLP treatment for next year in case we don't get the full grant amount next year. Jim Conn made a motion to hold and designate the extra money specifically for CLP treatment. Dave Murphy seconded the motion. Motion approved.

The separate issue of large patches/mats of vegetation floating up and around the lake is going to be looked at by the DNR for an opinion on what it is and what can be done. This is most noticed in Schwab's Bay and Little Ida. If you see large mats of weeds, call David.

There are already the large green globs of filamentous algae floating around that have been noticed the past couple of years. We are seeing it earlier this year because of the hot temperatures we had and the high water temperatures, and we may expect more of it this year. It is not harmful – just annoying.

Watercraft Inspection: Thanks to Elke Richards for setting this up. Inspections seem to have been pretty consistent at the launch at Sugar Sands, and the decontamination unit has been there quite a few times, according to directors who have been by. David Geddes reminded us if we go to another lake that has AIS other than CLP or zebra mussels, be sure to inspect carefully. (Go to Minnesota Lake Finders and see the status of any lake.) The inspectors noted that it's really hard to clean out the ballast of the wake surf boats – hard to get up inside to clean effectively.

Douglas County Lakes Association (DCLA) Report: Dian Lopez attended the June 9th meeting where the biggest discussion was on Nelson lake drainage. Steve Henry and Gene Rose were not able to attend the latest Otter Tail County Commissioners meeting but received minutes. Highway 6 is the big problem, but if they raise the road and don't lower the lake, they still have problems with other roads. They are still pushing to take down the level of the lake because of that.

The DNR reported they have 12 AIS inspectors hired now.

Douglas County Soil and Water Commission (DCSWC) reported that they sold 30,000 bare root and potted trees this year. People can rent no-till drills so they can plant seed without tilling the ground.

Four projects have been done by the Water Quality Legacy Fund (WQLF). As of June 9, they have over 80% of the funding for Ditch 23. They said that the ILA money that we donated will help them to get more funding from other donors.

Chloride in Lake Winona is causing big problems (the waste water is treated and then is dumped into Lake Winona, but the treatment cannot remove all of the chloride). It will cost millions to fix, and they don't know how they will fix it yet. The biggest recommendation is to have water softeners be set to run on demand. There was some discussion about possibly imposing rules in the future against softeners in the city limits and have the city soften the water first, since it is provided by them. No idea how that might affect people out of the city who are on well water.

DCLA talked about lake density – how many residences could be on a lake. Suggestions was 2.5 boats per acre on a lake and perhaps 3 boats per acre on big lakes.

Rentals by owner are still under discussion. The county has rules and ordinances in place. The problem is that people are not following the rules. People can call the sheriff if something bad happens near them at a rental property. If it is continual, call Dave Rush.

Fish Stocking Fund: There is currently \$3380 in fund. We will move the \$250 grant money that we received for the boat launch lighting project that was cancelled into the fish fund. The past 2 years we came up short for paying for stocking, even with outside funding. We may not be able to do any stocking until 2022 unless we can get a great deal on fish. We are still catching 12" walleyes.

There was some discussion that REA (who gave us the grant for the lighting) may have more money available that we can apply for – they have quarterly allotments. Elaine will send out a thank-you for the other grant. (Jim Conn mentioned that Sue is the communications director at REA who we may want to contact. He will get her last name to Elaine.)

ILA may want to consider fundraising with businesses in town since the Pilgrim Point Park will be used by the whole county, and supporting this lake association will help to keep the lake attractive and healthy for use. There is also a tourism fund in the city that we could possibly pursue.

Nelson Lake Project: covered by Dian in the DCLA report

Grant Payouts: ILA received \$3600 from DNR for CLP treatment. The grant from the County for \$16,573.31 for CLP treatment was approved. Now that treatment is complete, ILA paid PLM, and we had to request the money from the county. We are just waiting for the money to arrive.

July 4th Boat Parade Reminder: Boats will meet on the north side of Pilgrim Point at 10:00 a.m. on the 4th (rain date is the 5th). Jim Conn will lead the parade around the north end of the lake. It was suggested that both Little Ida and Big Horn Bay be covered. Jim noted that it takes longer than an hour. Discussion was that it's OK if it takes longer – boats can peel off and head home if it's too long for them. Elke will do a graphic to be posted to the Facebook page and to provide to Pamela to include in an email reminder and on the web page.

Storage Development Begins Construction: They have started construction on the site for the new storage units at the intersection of Co. Rd 5 and Co. Rd 34. The land is being leveled. They have already put pine trees in along Co. Rd 34 (they appear to be 3-5 feet tall). This is one of the first projects approved by the county that included outdoor lighting conditions in the approval. The lights are to be on timers, hooded, yellow lights, and on motion detectors to be on after a certain time of day – basically following the Dark Skies initiatives.

Update on Healthy Water Initiative: ILA received a letter from the U of M – ILA provided a donation last year for its wake board study. They are working diligently to submit a report for publication 6-9 months from now. They are focusing on many issues such as wave height, energy, different distances from data sensors, propeller wash, etc. They are digging in to how far they need to be from shore and what the impact is. ILA will sign up to their email list for their notifications. It will be early next year before we see the report. The report will give lakes muscle in pushing for regulations. Property owners should remind neighbors and guests about the rules of boating.

Tom Duxbury is very concerned about the huge wake boats and the damage they do. He said that three or four come into the Sugar Sands landing on nice nights. The boat inspectors say they are new owners, and they are not always aware of rules. It is felt that Lake Ida residents with those types of boats are more aware and courteous. It was suggested that ILA see if we can get a sign with the DNR boating rules for the landing. Tom will pursue getting a sign for all of the boat launch sites on the lake (even the privately owned ones, like Christopherson's Bay and Big Horn Bay).

Another suggestion was that we put a section in the Newsletter for boat etiquette – with reminders each time. Keep it simple – keep it positive.

Pigrim Point Development, Committee: Elke Richards attended the informational meeting held by the county for the commercial development and was disappointed – they didn't present much information at the meeting, barely summarizing the 62-page Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) report on environmental issues. They basically mentioned the number of lots and holding ponds and asked for questions. Elke is nervous about the single family townhomes and the small holding pond areas, but she trusts that Dave Rush will take it seriously. ILA can't do anything once the lots are sold. They talked a bit about Dark Sky initiatives and seem to understand what that is about. There will not be a marina for the townhomes.

David Geddes did read the report. Most of the big decisions are to follow County ordinances. Things are tighter than they used to be – for example cutting down trees, etc. Anyone concerned can write a letter to Dave Rush. The EAW doesn't deal with the actual development as much as the flora, fauna, protected species, etc. Bud Nielsen is concerned about a lack of natural wood and trees. Someone also noted that the report mentions impervious surfaces on page 7, and that it is only 8.9 acres after development. Is that the right amount? Any individual lots would still have to meet the County's 25% or less impervious surfact requirements. Lots will be 100 feet of lakefront shoreline with a 30 foot setback.

Bud made a suggestion to get the Swansons (the developer) and the team they're working with to develop the property to our meeting in July to discuss the developments and give us more information. Then we may have information to pass on to the association at the general meeting in August. Dave Murphy said that the invitation should be collaborative and we should keep the questions positive.

Jim Conn will approach developer Tom Klemenhagen for a chat and feel them out about coming to provide information, and the Swansons can come if they like. We would invite them to come and provide information at 9:00 *prior* to the Board meeting, which would begin at 9:30.

Other Discussion: There was some discussion about building issues and the county cracking down on property owners who do not follow the rules. Once a build/renovation is approved, no changes can be made without further approval, even if it doesn't impact the environment. On Caroline Beach, a private resident was doing a tear down/rebuild and was approved to follow the same footprint. They made a change in roof pitch and height of the building while staying in the footprint, but because they did not get the change approved, they have to tear it down.

New Business

SUP Event, July 16-17: The concerns with people going on private property on the sides of the dam has been addressed with the event organizers. The organizers will take care of having a ladder to get over the dam and will have people there to help.

Hospitality: Should we provide coffee and cookies or donuts at meetings, particularly the full membership meetings? Dick Sudmeier noted that the Past President should be in charge of doing that, and he volunteered to handle it. Elke Richards will take care of obtaining organic recycling supplies for our use, and she will check with the Township Hall about have an organics waste bin in the hall.

Betsy Ross Road: A project was done about 3-4 years ago to correct drainage from a farm along Betsy Ross Road that was flowing directly into Lake Ida. Dick Sudmeier asked whether that project has made a difference in the erosion. Jerry McClure, who lives along there, said the new culvert redirected the water. The project included raising a lane in the farm lot. Water flow has been reduced and doesn't dump straight into the lake. He said it appears to be totally successful. A good news story about how ILA's efforts and willingness to fund these projects and apply for grants helps our mission of keeping Lake Ida's water healthy.

Next Directors Board Meeting: Saturday July 24, 9:00am.

Adjourn: Jim Conn moved to adjourn the meeting. Leon Bresley seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 10:32.

Respectively submitted,
Pamela Phillips, ILA Secretary