

Minutes
Ida Lake Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Ida Township Hall
September 23, 2023

Members Present

President – Lee Gustafson	Vice President – David Geddes
Treasurer – Mike Kleve, Julie Speck by phone	Secretary – Pamela Phillips
District 1 – Jerry McClure	District 10 –
District 2 –	District 11 – Bob Reed, Dave Murphy
District 3 –	District 12 –
District 4 –	District 13 –
District 5 –Mike Shaughnessy	District 14 – Jim Conn
District 6 –	District 15 –
District 7 – Dick Sudmeier	District 16 –
District 8 – Lee Katzmarek	District 17 –
District 9 – Andy & Dian Lopez, Lynette Dempsey	District 18 – Matt Gunlogson
Past President – Elaine Greer	

President Lee Gustafson called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Meeting Agenda: Dick Sudmeier moved to approve the agenda. Jeffrey Sorum seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Secretary's Report: Jim Conn moved to approve both sets of minutes from August – Directors minutes and Annual Membership minutes. Bob Reed seconded the motion. Motion approved. Roll call completed.

Treasurer's Report

No report for today since Mike had an issue with Excel. He did note two payments that were made.

Paid memberships so far in 2023 – 412 members.

Issues with Newsletter Printer – they didn't get the labels printed properly. They printed postcards free of charge, but we paid for postage.

How do we update property ownership easier? Lee will try getting a County GIS printout, so we know all updated property owners. Maybe district directors can help to reconcile the lists.

ACTION ITEM – Lee Gustafson – get the printout from the county to share with district directors.

Dian Lopez moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Dave Murphy seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Old Business

Ditch 23: Lee Gustafson provided an update. Since the last meeting, Lee contacted Alex from DNR Glenwood office. They had a long conversation about the two letters from 2020 and April 2023. Lee asked questions. There were lots of requests for information in the letters that ILA never received. Lee agreed with Alex on most everything. One key thing that came out from the discussion was that part of the project would be on DNR land. The DNR land was purchased with federal money. There are lots of strings attached when land is bought with any percentage of federal funds and what the property can be used for. In order for the project to proceed, the MN DNR would need to fully buy in to the project. They didn't. The project also needed to be approved by the people above the MN DNR due to Federal funds being used to purchase the land. If the local DNR is not on board, they're not going to give a great report to the regional office and on up the chain.

It would take another year at least to get the local DNR on board, and there is no guarantee that would happen. Another year to get a regional office to approve. That would put us out for a minimum of 2 years. Lee doubts they'll get the local folks on board. The DNR needs the answers. They don't know that the upstream stuff may have already been corrected, and yet stuff is still going into the lake. So the DNR doesn't know if the wetlands issue is the correct answer because they never got answers.

To get the questions properly answered, it would take another 2-3 years, leading Lee to believe this project won't happen. Back in 2020 everyone should have gotten the DNR's questions answered. To attempt to get them to reconsider would push the project way out. And who would get all the questions properly researched and answered and who would pay for it?

So the question at this time is what else could be done upstream that wouldn't impact the DNR's land? And then there's the question of the money from the big grant that was earmarked for the project, as well as a commitment from the Water Quality Legacy Fund (WQLF). Lee asked Alex about the grant money. He suggested that there's still some upstream projects that we can use the money for without worrying about the wetlands project on the DNR land, and Alex indicated a possibility the grant money could be used for that.

Then Lee had conversations with Steve Henry, president of Douglas County Lakes Association (DCLA) and WQLF, and Gene Rose. He had a separate conversation with each and a joint phone conversation last week. They all agree that getting the Ditch 23 project approved by the DNR is going to be extremely difficult. Steve went out on a limb and got a lot of funding for the WQLF and wants to see it spent on Ida. He wants to see some

positives-come out of it. They suggest that perhaps some upstream projects can still be done.

Little Ida problem. Perhaps we can put a project together that can use some of the funds. We don't know yet. Lee is asking questions and will get the people together who can discuss it. After the conference call, Steve and Gene decided that they should be the two who talk to Jerry Hagenmiller. They met with him last Friday. Jerry responded to Lee's other questions. One of the things he put in the email is that he met with Steve and Gene and that he could set up a meeting with the BWSR - the State Board of Water and Soil Resources. They had originally approved the project and money.

Jim Conn mentioned that they took readings of phosphorus in this area for 5 years every several months and the information was sent to Detroit Lakes. The data is available if anyone wants to try to look at it and use it. Lee reminded everyone that the DNR has made its decision about any project on their land, and providing additional information at this point likely won't help.

Dick Sudmeier said that clearly the DNR doesn't want it done, so no matter what questions we answer, they'll ask more. We need to work with Soil and Water and work on other projects.

So, our task is to figure out how we can best lobby to use the grant money for other water quality projects. There are sunset dates on spending the money. We could get an extension, but there is a limit. ILA should try to use the Soil and Water grant money first, before it sunsets. Lee will continue with meetings over the winter and will update us.

Little Ida Farm Runoff: When Lee and Wes met with Jerry Hagenmiller and the County Feedlot manager, it looked like they could put a good project together, similar to the elevated structure on the east side of the lake that is performing so well. Jerry Hagenmiller has since looked at the project area with his staff engineer. He said it's a no brainer to put an elevated structure. It will hold the water back in the farm field. It could be done in the next year. They will also look at the upstream drainage to see about putting terraces in like they have on Little Ida Beach Road. Jerry thinks his staff engineer could have a concept design by winter or next spring. Perhaps we could go to BWSR for money.

Pilgrim Point: A meeting is set up for Tuesday. Lee Gustafson and Lee Katzmarek will be there to see if we can keep the point from eroding. Brad Bonk will be there, too.

Secretary Position: Still need someone to take minutes at the meetings. Pamela will continue to manage the website, update email aliases, and send out communications.

Fish Survey/Stocking: Mike Kleve reported that we will do the walleye stocking in October. The permits have been filed and approved. We will do it at two south landings. This is year 2

of our 3-year commitment. We will start the year next year with over \$5,000. With expected donations next year, we should have just enough for next year.

AIS Report: David Geddes noted that PLM's David Hillstrom will apply for the spring treatment permits this fall. We will most likely continue to use the cheaper chemical. Mark Ranweiller was supposed to do a post treatment survey so that we can plan our budget. PLM will try to force the issue. The Curly Leaf Pondweed problem is staying stable.

Aquatic plants – northern water milfoil is clogging the outlet at the south end. It's washing up all along the shorelines. It is one of the most common native plants on the lake. David has emailed Wendy Crowell at the DNR to see if something unusual is going on. Many people have reported it washing up along shorelines all around the lake. And boat motors are cutting it off. Batches of it can be seen floating along the surface. If David gets some answers, he will report.

ACTION ITEM: David Geddes will write something for an email communication or the Newsletter regarding his findings from Wendy.

DCLA: Dian Lopez reported that Jeff Forrester (Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers) spoke at the last meeting. There are 500 lake associations in MN. Many donators create a lot of power. Lakes and Rivers works with the legislature to leverage more money to help lakes and rivers. Even though ILA as an association donates to Lakes and Rivers as an organization, they can leverage better by showing larger numbers of participants. So if individuals could donate their own small amounts, it would help. Dian or Lee will provide information on how to donate that can be sent to our membership and/or put in a Newsletter.

Stream water testing for phosphorus continues to be done on 12 lakes. Douglas County has the least number of projects in the state. Steve Henry and Gene Rose are retiring from DCLA and the WQLF.

Highway Cleanup: Still need a volunteer to coordinate twice a year. Pamela will send out an email looking for a volunteer to do this and to schedule this fall's cleanup.

Newsletter - Tricia Drury is taking over. She and Pamela met to go over all the materials and timelines. Tricia has the officer's emails and will work with them.

New Business

Approval of 2024 Directors: The following slate of directors for odd numbered districts was included in the agenda and offered up for approval:

- a. Jerry McClure and Wes Smith (D1 incumbents)
- b. Jeffrey Sorum (D3 incumbent)
- c. Charlie Leonard (D5 incumbent)
- d. Tom Duxbury and Dick Sudmeier (D7 incumbents)

- e. Andy and Dian Lopez (1 vote) and Lynette Dempsey (D9 incumbents)
- f. Dave Murphy and Bob Reed (D11 incumbents)
- g. Mike McNab (D13 incumbent)
- h. Roger Schultz (D15 incumbent)
- i. Corinne Malecha and Brian Kargar (NEW directors for D17!!)

Lee Katzmarek moved to approve the slate of directors. Dave Murphy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Budget for 2024: Mike provided a proposed budget for 2024. A few corrections were made at the meeting. Mike Kleve made a motion to approve the 2024 budget. Jim Conn seconded the motion. Motion passed. The updated budget will be attached to these minutes when they are posted on the website.

Mike Kleve requested volunteers to be auditors to do the annual audit of expenses and revenue in October. It takes about an hour using an audit. Jim Conn and Jeffrey Sorum volunteered.

Dave Murphy suggested the possibility of having Lake Ida clothing that could be sold to advertise the association and generate interest. He will touch base with Elke Richards about designing some new items and can contact Cowing Robards about also offering the old loon logo items and producing the products.

Next Directors Board Meeting: Saturday April 27th, 9:00am.

Adjourn: Jim Conn moved to adjourn the meeting. Dave Murphy seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectively submitted,
Pamela Phillips, ILA Secretary