

Minutes
Ida Lake Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Ida Township Hall
August 24, 2024

Members Present

President – Lee Gustafson (beginning)	Vice President – David Geddes
Treasurer – Mike Kleve for Julie Speck	Secretary – Pamela Phillips for Jana Berndt
District 1 – Jerry McClure, Wesley Smith	District 10 – Frank Steen, Deb Oleson
District 2 –	District 11 – Bob Reed, Dave Murphy
District 3 – Jeffrey Sorum	District 12 – Mary Saarion
District 4 –	District 13 – Mike McNab
District 5 –	District 14 – Jim Conn
District 6 – Mike Kleve	District 15 – Roger Schultz
District 7 – Tom Duxbury, Dick Sudmeier	District 16 –
District 8 – Mark Nellerhoe	District 17 –
District 9 – Andy and Dian Lopez, Lynette Dempsey	District 18 – Matt Gunlogson
Past President – Elaine Greer	

Vice President David Geddes called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

Meeting Agenda Jim Conn moved to approve the agenda. David Murphy seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Water Quality Updates –

President Lee Gustafson – Lee needed to speak first before any reports since he needed to leave right away.

Pilgrim Point Update – prep for September meeting discussion – There’s a big tree down on the point – Lee has been pestering the county to protect the park shoreline– some areas need more protection than others. The county feels like the DNR has too many regulations to do anything and the county is not willing to kick in any money. Lee suggested that since the County doesn’t seem inclined to work the issue, we should discuss at the September meeting if we want to take the lead to push the DNR to take action. We should give some thought as to how to protect it. Different soil types, wind, elevation, etc. require different solutions. Lee suggested the directors all do some online research about natural vegetation and shoreline protection to get informed before the meeting.

Ditch 23: The Upstream project is out for bids – four decent bids have already been received. Bid will close in another week or two. The Upstream project will be completed this fall.

The other issue at hand is cleaning the ditch that runs through the wetlands. Lee sent us all a copy of a Ditch cleaning request form that needs to be submitted to the County in order for the County Board to consider cleaning the ditch. He also mentioned that County staff has already submitted an excavation notice to the DNR – it is not a permit request – it is a notice. The County has ditch cleaning laws in place that allow them to correct flow in ditches such as Ditch 23. The DNR would have a hard time justifying saying no to cleaning out the ditch when it is in the County's purview. This cleaning will improve the flow so that the water won't sit in the wetlands so long and won't pick up so much phosphorus. The County ditch person has submitted the request to clean it out according to County ditch laws. The DNR just has to sign off. No permit required. If they approve it, we'll move ahead with it. There are some funding issues that will need to be addressed. Ditch cleaning wasn't part of the original project, so who pays for it? The County has money to pay for ditch cleaning in the budget, but this project wasn't part of it. Lee will talk to the Water Quality Legacy Fund (WQLF) about using the funds they approved for the original larger-scale Ditch 23 project that the DNR denied. We can explain that this will still benefit the lake, which is part of what they originally approved.

Dick Sudmeier moved to approve the Ditch Cleaning request form and moving ahead with this project. Jim Conn seconded the motion. Motion passed. The County needs a request from an adjacent landowner, and they said lake association was close enough since any landowners are affected. Lee will send the form in to the County. ~~So the form will be sent in.~~

Little Ida Drainage Issues: There is still significant run off coming from the farm – even though vegetation has been planted and the cows have been removed. Lee is going to meet with the County again to see what would propose to solve this issue and clean up the water.

Danielle Anderson (of Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation) was able to get a \$100,000 grant for Lake Ida ~~alone~~. She was able to get this because there are other lake improvements identified in the lake water quality study that was done for the Ditch 23 improvement. We hope to use some of that money for the Little Ida runoff problem.

Lee mentioned that the district directors should help identify either small or large improvements that should be done to correct runoff issues in their areas. Talk to the neighbors. We need to continually improve water going into the lake.

Lee may ask the engineer working on Ditch 23 – could we/should we monitor what's coming from in from Lake Miltona to Lake Ida? It would be nice to know what's in the creek. Maybe in 2025 they could set up temporary stations to take water quality samples.

Vice President David Geddes took over the meeting at 8:22.

Secretary's Report – Pamela Phillips filling in for Jana Berndt. Roll Call. Matt Gunlogson moved to approve the June minutes (there was no July meeting). Roger Schultz seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Kleve filling in for Julie Speck. Report as of July 31, 2024.

Total cash assets of \$110,444.

Membership dues paid so far in 2024: \$9,111.

We are under budget so far for the year. Investment account running about 5% over balance.

Previously the directors approved \$1000 as a local contribution toward the county terracing project that was done on the north end of the lake off of Co Rd 5. The property owner also kicked in some money. The County paid 80% of the \$65,000 project. Our commitment encouraged the property owner and ensured the project got done. We are paying that money now (it was already approved so didn't need new approval).

Roger Schultz moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Bob Reed seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Old Business

Fish Stocking: Mike Kleve - We are in the 3rd year of a 3-year walleye stocking commitment we made to the provider. Each year was to cost \$11,000. We are short \$1689 to meet this year's invoice. Mike Kleve will go to some other donors; we usually get \$2500, but it's not guaranteed. If we come up short, the Fish Stocking Committee suggests that it borrow the money from the general fund, and it will repay the loan as more walleye stocking money comes in. The walleye stocking will take a gap year (as it did once in the past) to build the funds back up before committing to another 3 year commitment.

Dave Murphy moved to approve a loan of up to \$1700 to the fish stocking fund that will be repaid from future walleye fund donations. Bob Reed seconded the motion. Motion approved.

AIS Report: David Geddes reported that the treatment was done at the end of May/early June. He will work with the treatment company to get the plan in place for next year. The survey and treatment cost was \$6470. ILA received a grant of \$3250 from the County and \$2250 from the DNR. The net cost to ILA was \$970. \$1000.

Plant Material Washing Up: ILA has received numerous reports (particularly in Little Ida) of masses of vegetation washing up on shores that appears to be cut or pulled out by the roots. The DNR will approve some removal with a permit in order to access the lake, but the plant material must be removed from the lake.

DCLA Report (Dian Lopez) – Nothing to report

New Business

Elections at Annual Meeting (Pamela Phillips) –

- a. Vice President –David Geddes is stepping down. He will continue as AIS chair. It was asked if anyone had a suggestion, and Elaine Greer suggested Dave Murphy. Dave agreed to have his name put forth at the Annual Meeting to be voted on.
- b. Treasurer – Julie Speck was appointed as interim Treasurer last year by the Directors. Her name will be put forward at the Annual Meeting to be voted on.
- c. Even numbered district directors – no incumbents notified that they would be stepping down, so all incumbents will be considered at the caucusing at the Annual Meeting. There are two districts that each have one vacancy.

Newsletter Update- Pamela Phillips discussed the issues with the publishing and printing and timelines for getting two newsletters done each summer. She mentioned the issue with not being able to get an August Newsletter out this August. The Newsletter will be updated with information from the August meetings, including an update from Lee on Ditch 23 and will include the results of elections. Pamela had discussions with David Geddes and Tricia Drury and she suggested options for moving forward. Discussion included the following: moving to a postcard in May. Changing to only ONE Newsletter in the middle of the summer which would have more substantive information (after having 3 directors meetings). It would save on printing costs and postage, and will cause less stress trying to meet deadlines to get two Newsletters out prior to full membership meetings.

Jim Conn made a motion to send a postcard in May to remind people of the May general membership meeting (which would include the usual label with paid membership information). The motion also stated that ILA will print and mail one Newsletter in mid-summer with substantive information and a reminder of the August Annual meeting. Mike McNab seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Ida Cemetery – The plaque for a bench at the Township cemetery close to Lake Charlie that was provided by ILA is faded and nearly unreadable. Does ILA want to provide for a new plaque? There were some questions as to whether we're just providing the money or whether we actually have to have the plaque created. A question was also raised as to whether the bench is in good enough condition to warrant a new plaque. We will check with Lee and handle this at the September meeting..

Budget items will be discussed in September. Think about what items you may want to bring up.

Fall Cleanup – The two coordinators for Co Rd 34 cleanup suggested two dates – either September 7th or 21st. In looking for volunteers, it appeared that none of the directors was available on the 7th, so it was voted to have the clean up on the 21st.

The Directors thanked David Geddes for his service as Vice President.

Next Directors Board Meeting: Saturday September 28, 9:00am.

Adjourn: Bob Reed moved to adjourn the meeting. Jerry McClure seconded the motion. Motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:53.

Respectively submitted,
Pamela Phillips, Acting ILA Secretary