

LAKE METONGA ASSOCIATION
2020 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 8/8/2020

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: City Park Pavilion

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Gary Goeman, Julie Janquart, Gary Mueller, Steve Parks, Lynn Smith & Mark Truyman

ATTENDANCE NUMBER: 34 Individuals (Including the Board)

I. WELCOME [PP Handout Page1 / Slides 1-3]

Prior to the start of the meeting Julie Janquart gave a brief description of each of the documents handed out to attendees one of which was a printed copy of the informational PowerPoint slides referenced throughout the meeting. Gary Mueller then opened the meeting at 9:07a.m., welcoming everyone to this unusual setting due to current recommended distancing and concluding with leading the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting agenda was reviewed by Julie Janquart prior to the start of the meeting without calling for formal approval during the meeting.

II. DATA REPORTS [PP Handout Pages 1-3 / Slides 4-9]

A. 2020 MEMBERSHIP DATA

Julie Janquart, LMA Secretary summarized the current membership data indicating that there are 158 members this year which does not include any individuals completing a form and paying dues at today's meeting. She also summarized the total number of lake-access parcels as being 333 with there being 262 riparian, 39 condo, and deeded-access parcels. She said this number fluctuates slightly as we become aware of changing situations through the county land mapping updates that are reviewed periodically. Finally, she explained that she can be contacted by email anytime someone needs clarification of their membership status.

B. APPROVAL OF 2019 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Julie Janquart asked attendees who have not already done so to read the minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting. After a brief silence she asked if there were any questions or comments of which there were none. She then asked for a motion to approve the minutes as written to which Mark Truyman so moved. The motion was second by Kim Reed and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

C. 2019 AUDIT REPORT

Treasurer, Steve Parks explained that the 2019 Financial Records were officially audited on July 25, 2020 by LMA members Deb Gaurke and Julie Van Lannen with an assist by Julie Janquart to record confirmation of data, all of whom were present at this meeting. He indicated that other than \$1 typo in the account balance ledger the records were confirmed to be in good standing.

D. TREASURER REPORT

Referencing the chart on Slide 7 which gives financial data for Year-to-Date Summary for 2017 to 2020 and Year-End Totals Comparison for 2016 to 2019, Steve explained the income and expense trends (Slide 8) over the last four years with emphasis on the fact that 2020 income and expense are significantly impacted by Covid Restrictions throughout this year. He concluded his comments by saying that LMA is still in strong financial condition despite the lack of fundraising but continued solidification of membership and a goal to increase volunteerism would be of high value for the future as reliance on government funding may deteriorate.

III. LAKE HEALTH & FISHERY UPDATE [PP Handout Pages 3-6 / Slides 10-22]

A. WATER QUALITY DATA

Grant Reed explained and interpreted 2019 data and trends related to water quality addressing *clarity*, *temperature*, *chemistry*, and *trophic state* referencing detailed data gathered from the "deep hole" over a period of years [See slides 10-13 for exact data]. He explained that data is gathered the first two weeks after "ice out" then the first two weeks of each month thereafter although the DNR only uses data collected in July and August of each year. He continued explaining that Lake Metonga is part of the Northeast Region which includes 37% of all Wisconsin Lakes and data comparisons are made between lakes in the same regions as well as region to region. After addressing actual data in each of the four water quality categories Grant summarized by saying that Lake Metonga water quality is exceptionally good with a 1.9 chlorophyll rating which compares to the entire Georegion of 1.8. In conclusion Reed explained that Lake Metonga trophic state based on chlorophyll results in the deep hole as being Oligotrophic then summarized by saying "you will not get better quality as Lake Metonga is excellent!"

B. FISHERIES REPORT

Gary Mueller invited attendees to review the 2019 data pertaining to *Walleye*, *Smallmouth Bass*, *Northern Pike* and *Yellow Perch* [Slides 14 to 18] on their own but emphasized that the count in 2020 was at 3.8 Walleye per acre over 15" and longer, also indicating that there are "lots of small ones". Continuing on Gary explained that once again this year we were unable to have the Bullhead harvest completed this time due to everything being on hold with Covid restrictions but that we have free butterfly nets available for folks interested in harvesting minnow schools.

C. SPEARING UPDATE

Gary Mueller indicated that there were factually 887 Walleye harvested during the 2020 spearing season by the Mole Lake tribe and then addressed the “rumor mill” information by explaining that after hearing from some folks he asked for clarification from Greg Matzke, DNR. Gary then summarize the quoted email conversation [Slide 21] by saying that Greg Matzke made it noticeably clear that the “rumor mill” had misinformation and confirming the 887 Walleye harvested.

D. AIS TREATMENT UPDATE

Gary Mueller explained that AIS treatments are not permitted by the DNR for Lake Metonga until the 10-Year Management Plan has been approved and finalized.

E. MEMBERSHIP INPUT AND/OR QUESTIONS

Dennis Klemick commented that he is seeing numerous schools of 3” to 4” Bullheads in recent days and has also been extremely unsuccessful with his crab traps unlike most other years. He then suggested the idea that bullheads will dig up crabs for food in early spring and with this concern he explained that he contacted Mike Preul recently to discuss. Gary Mueller then acknowledged that he has heard other comments about the lack of crabs and an abundance of bullhead to which Dennis then suggested that perhaps LMA hire some individuals to work with Mike Preul to complete a harvest next spring. The idea was met with a positive response from board members.

IV. FUNDRAISING & PUBLIC RELATIONS EVENTS [PP Handout Pages 6-7 / Slides 23-28]

A. 2020 FUNDRAISING

Gary Goeman explained that due to Covid-related social distancing recommendations, all fundraising for this year is pretty much on hold including the July picnic and Weeds “n” Walleye Banquet.

B. BOAT PARADE SUMMARY & PICNIC CANCELLATION

Gary Goeman explained that the changes in the boat parade which included a shotgun start for participants leaving their own location, inclusion of undecorated stock boats and clockwise route were for this year only with the hope that we can resume next year with parade plans as in years past. He indicated that parade prizes were purchased by LMA to support local businesses and the Chamber of Commerce during this difficult time. He summarized by saying that despite the confusion this year due to changes he felt that with the great weather a good time was had by all.

C. WEEDS “N” WALLEYE BANQUET

After indicating that the banquet will not be held this year, Gary Goeman fielded a question from Dennis Klemick who asked if donations for baskets will still be taken this year to hold onto for 2021. Gary Mueller responded indicating with a chuckle, that he and his wife Chris had plenty of baskets in his basement to fill yet. Mueller than added that “people have really been generous” in previous years and expressed his deep appreciation for all past efforts!

D. KENTUCK DAY FESTIVAL & ART-IN-THE-SQUARE

Indicating that LMA did have a Kentuck Day Festival booth year, Gary Goeman explained that it was set up as an informational one that included “self-serve” documents including membership forms, brochures, and newsletters. In response to a question about a booth for Art-in-the-Square, Gary Goeman informed all that the same booth format will be used again conditional on the event not being cancelled.

E. APPAREL SALES

Lynn Smith informed attendees that Chris Ebben had recently ordered new apparel which includes a variety of styles and colors in long and short sleeve. LMA apparel is sold at Smith Sport & Hobby throughout the year.

V. OLD BUSINESS UPDATES [PP Handout Pages 8-9 / Slides 29-34]

A. LAKE MANAGEMENT PLANNING GRANT UPDATE

Mark Truymen summarized the status of the management plan process indicating that within just a few days LMA received a list of suggested and required changes from Scott Van Egeren DNR that need to be made by Onterra prior to finalizing the plan. He further explained that having received the same information, Eddie Heath, Onterra indicated that it would take some time to complete the changes as they were busy doing field work. After all the edits are completed Onterra will need to hold a meeting to go over the final document with interested individual and group stakeholders, which Mark indicated Onterra representatives may wish to do in some type of online format. Asked by Mark for confirmation of the suggested meeting format, Julie Janquart agreed with Mark that it is what was suggested but that Mark and Julie would push for an in-person socially distanced meeting in lieu of online.

Mark then informed attendees about the three committees that included in the management plan as being the Fisheries & Habitat, AIS & Aquatic Plant and Outreach, summarizing the type of responsibilities each group will focus on. Using an actual question that is up for discussion at the present time pertaining to the installation of Woody Habitat (fish sticks) in Lake Metonga, Julie Janquart summarize how individuals on the Fisheries & Habitat Committee would approach decision-making process and then then read aloud actual email quotes of opinions from three regional experts in the field (Gregory Matzke DNR; Scott Van Egeren DNR; and Mike Preul Lake Fisheries). In summary she said these are the type of important questions that need to be addressed that have a significant impact on the future of Lake Metonga and should not be left up to only the LMA board. Finally explaining that people on the lake like Dennis Klemick and others like him who have been fishing Metonga for years are experts also, by virtue of experience, making them an asset to the association as committee members.

B. MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Mark Truyman explained that LMA continues to pursue increased membership of individuals and local businesses indicating that invoices and invitations continue to be sent out in January of each year. He mentioned the fact that although our membership period follows the calendar year it is still acceptable to sign up at any point during the year.

C. CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATER

Julie Janquart explained that Emma Eisenschink, CBCW Coordinator was unable to attend the meeting but provided information to share. Although there was a delayed start due to DNR policy related to Covid-related recommendations, the team of 5 inspectors will complete the required 200 inspection hours at each landing this year. Julie indicated that LMA received another \$5,000 grant from the Sokaogon Tribe (Mole Lake) this spring along with a DNR Grant for \$8,000 (Shared Grant 75/25%). Finally, she indicated that the county collects a fee from all campsites at Veteran’s Park for lake management which is paid to LMA for ongoing efforts.

D. LOON REPORTS

Loon Ranger, Kayla Reed reported that the nests in Farmers and Peterson Bays each hosted a pair of loons again this year with each pair hatching two chicks. The Peterson Bay chicks continue to thrive while the first two chicks hatched in Farmers Bay disappeared during their second week without awareness as to the cause. Kayla suggested it was likely due to typical natural causes but added that the same pair are now nesting again with the chicks due to hatch within one or two days of this meeting. She also indicated that there is also an average of 4 to 5 “floaters” on the lake which are 2 to 7-year old loons who spend an entire summer without a fixed location. Kayla also reported that the nest in Peterson Bay needs rebuilding which will be done over the winter months by Steve Parks. At this point Gary Mueller stood up to thank Kayla for her continued work on this program throughout the previous years and then, on behalf of Les Schramm in memory of his wife Donna and Lake Metonga Association, presented Kayla with a check in the amount of \$2,000 for her pursuit of a degree in this very field.

E. MEMBERSHIP INPUT AND/OR QUESTIONS

There were no questions or comments related to old business

VI. NEW BUSINESS [PP Handout Pages 9-10 / Slides 35-37]

A. DNR SPRING MEETING RESULTS: UNDERWATER SPEARING & MOTOR TROLLING

Referencing two specific questions and response data [Slide 35] that were included on the DNR 2020 Spring Survey related to underwater spearing and motor trolling, Gary Mueller summarized that these two questions pertained specifically to Forest County unlike most other questions in the survey which is why he wanted attendees and other interested stakeholders to be aware. He then explained the current DNR regulations are and how it would change if the questions were passed then extending an invite to anyone concerned to share their opinions with Greg Matzke, DNR.

B. 2020 – 2021 CALENDAR

Gary Mueller indicated that focus on setting up the calendar for 2021 will not happen until we have a better idea of where we stand in relationship to the Covid Virus.

C. LAUNCH FEE STATUS

This item was not verbally addressed during the meeting, however slide 36 on page 9 of the handout indicated that boat landing receipts will be approximately \$500 this year with the south landing is doing better than usual.

D. EAGLE & CHARLIE’S WEBSITE LIVE-CAM UPDATE

Gary Mueller mentioned that all cameras were up and running on the website with specific comment about the wonderful live video show throughout the spring in the eagles next from the mother braving the winter snow to the vast menu of items served up to the eaglet. Several comments were noted regarding a higher number of juvenile and adult eagles nesting near the lake this year.

E. MEMBERSHIP INPUT AND/OR QUESTIONS

There were no questions or comments

VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS [PP Handout Page 10 / Slides 38-39]

Julie Janquart indicated to attendees that three positions were up for election which include the vice-president, secretary and director held by Gary Goeman, Julie Janquart and Mark Truyman, respectively. Explaining eligibility criteria including the fact that nominees must be current member and present to accept the nomination, she opened the floor for nominations. Grant Reed nominated all three current board members (Gary Goeman, vice president; Julie Janquart, Secretary; Mark Truyman, Director) to serve another 2-year term in their respective position. The nomination was seconded by Judy Van Zuiden and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT [PP Handout Page 10 / Slide 40]

Gary Mueller adjourned the meeting at 10:34 and then names were drawn for door prizes.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Julie A. Janquart, LMA Secretary

Signature

Date