

Approved 7-2-21

Pending
Approval at 2022
Annual Meeting

LAKE METONGA ASSOCIATION, LLC
2021 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 3, 2021 9:00 AM



ATTENDANCE: 52 BOARD PRESENT: Gary Mueller, Gary Goeman, Steve Parks, Mark Truymen, Julie Janquart

I. WELCOME

After opening the meeting at 9:00 AM and welcoming everyone, outgoing president Gary Mueller led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and then introduced all board members including Lynn Smith who was unable to attend. Gary then thanked the board for their excellent work over the past six years while Gary served as president making his service to the association a very pleasant and productive one. Julie Janquart then addressed attendees asking for any additions to the agenda of which there were none. Phil Resch made a motion to approve the agenda as written with Dave Patzlaff seconding. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

II. OFFICER REPORTS

A. Membership Data

Julie Janquart, Secretary summarized the current membership data explaining that there are approximately 333 parcels that are either riparian, deeded access and/or condo lots with there being 167 current members which represents 50% of all property owners on the lake. She further explained that the total number does not include new members signed up at this meeting and reminded attendees that she could be contacted by email if someone was unclear if they were an active member or had address changes to make.

B. 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes Review & Approval

Attendees received 2020 Meeting Minutes when signing in for the meeting. Julie Janquart asked people to take a moment to review them and after a brief pause, asked if there were any additions or corrections. With there being no change needed, Dave Patzlaff made a motion to approve the minutes as written which was seconded by Judy Van Zuiden. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

C. 2021 Audit Report

Treasurer Steve Parks explained that the 2020 financial records were internally audited by Janice Flannery, Lee Smith, Jim Elam and Brooke Dewing on June 22, 2021 and found to be in good standing. He thanked the volunteers for their willingness and time to serve.

D. Financial Report

Steve Parks reported that total income for 2020 was \$15,203.66 with expenses of \$20,158.14. Directly as a result of Covid-related cancellation of all fundraising activities for year, the deficit of -\$4,954.48 was countered in large part thanks to the many members who donated generously as part of their 2020 membership pledge. These donations and membership pledges represented almost a third of the association's total income for the year.

Thus far for the 2021 year-to-date balance, income is at \$10,931.22, and expenses are \$11,067.27 of which more than half includes the final expenditures for the Lake Management Plan report with Onterra. Looking forward, the association will most likely receive less DNR Clean Boat - Clean Water grant funding this year as a result of the south landing closure at Veteran's Park, as well as the lost revenue received from Forest County for camper fees at the park. However, with much of the prizes for Weeds-N-Walleye banquet already purchased in preparation for last year's cancelled event, the association is looking forward to a successful fundraising event yet this fall.

In general, LMA expenses are relatively fixed and predictable, with the exception of the newly established Bullhead Reduction program which is yet to be determined. Overall, the LMA remains in strong financial condition.

Phil Resch brought up the idea that LMA consider having an outside audit completed every three years for the protection of the person serving as treasurer. Steve Parks responded that organizations with revenue less than \$500,000 are not required to perform an audit, to which Jim Elam, a CPA in attendance at this meeting, confirmed. Steve mentioned that, while not required, the association does conduct an in-house audit by volunteer association members on an annual basis which provides a simple and straightforward, zero-cost method to review the association's financial records – the monthly bank statements, the treasurer's account ledgers and the financial statements provided to the association board and confirm that all the account balances match.

Gary Mueller also added that our most complicated financial responsibility, our payroll for Clean Boat - Clean Water inspectors is handled by the city of Crandon which dramatically simplifies the association's responsibility as the city takes care of all the employment tax fillings, etc.

Julie Janquart reminded attendees that anyone could make a motion to require an outside audit if they wished to do so but no one spoke up. With that she asked for a motion to approve the treasurer report which Phil Resch so moved and it was seconded by Earl Peterson. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote.

III. PROGRAM & PROJECT REPORTS

A. 10-Year Management Plan Completion

Mark Truyman informed the membership that the 10-Year Management Plan, which is a requirement to attain DNR Grant funds, is complete and then introduced members of the Planning Committee, thanking them for their work to make this a reality. Mark summarized the timeline and project overview explaining that Eddie Heath, Onterra held a wrap-up meeting to reveal the plan to interested stakeholders who learned about Lake Metonga data and the goals set up for the next 10 years of lake management. After indicating that the plan will be available on the website to all interested folks, Mark introduced the three committees (Aquatic Weed & AIS, Fisheries & Habitat, Outreach) responsible for the action plan, the focus for each committee and individuals who have volunteered to serve on them.

B. Clean Boats Clean Waters Program

Julie Janquart reported that the CBCW program is operating at the north landing only due to the county's closure of the south landing with four (4) inspectors on the payroll along with one volunteer, explaining that the landing is staffed 7 days a week which is an increase due to expected higher landing usage. She also explained that grant funding for this year will decrease due to the south landing closure as the DNR will pro-rate the funds originally applied for two landings such that we will receive only \$3,000 total. Hours of operation will far exceed this amount so LMA will absorb more of the expense this year. Julie ended by saying that inspectors have been able to hand out informational flyers and special DNR campaign promotional gifts (ice packs & towels) this year due to the lifting of Covid restrictions.

C. Loon Report

Kim Reed started out her report by saying that the new nest design made by Steve Parks is working very well in Peterson Bay with the pair of loons nesting then hatching a pair which have left the nest now. She indicated the pair in Farmer's Bay got a late start on the new nest (May 1st) and were on the nest for the 28-day period without hatching the eggs. Kim also said that there are two additional pairs lake floating at this time. Phil Resch also offered that he has had sightings of the young loons recently.

D. Eagle Report

Steve Parks summarized the status of the eagle found and taken to the REGI (Raptor Education Group, Inc.) last Labor Day with injuries to its beak and head from 4th of July fireworks. At this point, rehabilitation options are limited, so the eagle will remain a permanent resident at the raptor center due to the inability to feed itself. This will be a costly lifelong expense for the center and that donations toward the care of the eagle at Raptor Center will be conducted at LMA events including Kentuck Day and Art-in-the-Square.

Regarding the Eagle Cam on the website, Mark Truyman explained that he is aware that the eagle camera on his property has not been working for approximately the past two months but prior to the malfunction it was noted that three eggs had been laid but abandoned approximately one week later. Mark asked if there was anyone in attendance who may be able to help get the camera up and running to please call him.

E. Membership Drive

Mark Truyman reported that the annual "membership" mailing took place again in January, 2021 when a group of volunteers met at Charlie's to prepare mailing materials with invoice letters sent out to 178 2020 LMA members and membership invitation letters to 173 riparian property owners, not current members. He thanked the volunteers for their help and concluded by saying that every year we pick up a few additional members and he welcomes help with this project.

IV. LAKE HEALTH & FISHERY UPDATE [Fisheries & Habitat, Aquatic Plant & AIS Committees]

A. Water Quality Data

Grant Reed started out his presentation by saying that there were 10 samplings of water for readings done in 2020 while in 2019 there was only one completed, explaining that this was likely due to miscommunication of who would do it. With that he explained that water clarity continues to be very good ranging in depth between 18' to 26' each year explaining how a secchi disk is used to measure the depth. Grant explained that water temperature in 2020 was typical and that oxygen levels go down in August but overall numbers are excellent. Explaining that chlorophyll level is used to determine the trophic state of a lake, Metonga continues to be in an Oligotrophic state which is very good. Phil Resch then commented that the property owners should be complimented for the effort they put into in keeping phosphorus levels low. Andy Basten commented about the county not putting up silt fencing at Veteran's Campground to prevent run-off into the lake while they wait for restoration work to begin.

B. Fisheries Summary

Julie Janquart began this portion by explaining that the data provided in this summary was attained in 2017 and is available on the LMA website and in the 10-Year Management plan in detail as well as through the DNR, indicating that this study will be completed again in 2022. She then briefly informed attendees that Perch and Walleye continue to be the main two fish populations sought by fisherman with *stakeholder survey* respondents indicating that the quality of fishing as being "fair" to "good" and "remaining the same" or getting "somewhat worse".

C. Bullhead Reduction Project

Julie Janquart explained that the newly established Fisheries & Habitat committee was charged with looking into the apparent bullhead problem which is believed to be negatively impacting walleye and perch fishing. She briefly indicated that DNR studies completed jointly with the Mole Lake tribe, on several lakes in Forest and Florence counties give clear indication that there is a relationship between large populations of bullhead and a decrease in walleye and perch populations and then asked attendees to watch a portion of a YouTube video entitled: *The Fight to Maintain Quality Walley Fisheries in Forest and Florence Counties* in which Greg Matzke, DNR Fisheries Biologist reports the study results. Julie then introduced Mike Preul, Fisheries Biologist and Manager of Mole Lake Hatchery who addressed study results and the current status of the bullhead population as being extremely high in Metonga, with nearly 13,000 bullheads harvested this year alone during 4 weeks of electroshocking. He emphasized the fact that if the association fails to assist the tribe in managing the bullhead population by harvesting bullhead minnow schools every year after electroshocking is done the bullhead population will fill the void and explode causing the walleye and perch populations to decrease significantly.

After Mike answered questions and addressed comments Gary Mueller summarized the details of his plan for collecting bullhead minnows every Saturday, and possibly other days, at the handicap pier on the northeast shore of the lake with disposal and data logging being completed by LMA volunteer attendees. He encouraged people to complete the DNR-required paperwork and concluded by explaining that \$10.00 gift cards will be given to individuals dropping off their catch and those registered as volunteers will be eligible for a drawing of 5 - \$100 gift cards at the conclusion of the harvest season.

D. Spearing Update

Julie Janquart briefly summarized the spearing results for 2021 as being 508 walleye which was significantly less than 2020. Mike Preul then explained the process for determining allowable harvest numbers as being based on a population estimate formally completed every 3 years and is highly regulated and monitored closely. Citing the Mole Lake tribe as an example, he reported that tribal members wishing to spear apply for a permit which entitles them to harvest a maximum of 30 Walleye with size stipulations enforced.

E. EWM Fall Mapping Report

Gary Mueller summarized Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) status in Lake Metonga for the period 2017 to 2020 using maps provided by Onterra each year after the fall mapping is complete. In general, he indicated that although no herbicide management was utilized since 2017, the data for 2019 and 2020 remained largely the same with the density reduced slightly and the overall population much lower than the historically high levels in past year. Gary informed the attendees that fall mapping will be done annually, which was approved by the board and the Aquatic Weed & AIS Management committee will monitor results closely. At this point, Gary asked for volunteers to serve on this committee hoping to line up individuals from different parts of the lake enabling a stronger monitoring system.

V. FUNDRAISING & PUBLIC RELATIONS EVENTS [Outreach Committee]

A. July 4th Boat Parade & Picnic Plan

Details for the boat parade (1:00 pm) and picnic (2:00pm) to be held on July 4th at Charlie's Resort were summarized by Gary Goeman. He informed attendees that there would be five prizes for the parade with judging taking place at his dock and the winners being announce at Charlie's during the picnic where food and drink would be served for a donation of \$5.00 and paddle wheel raffles. Encouraging people to attend Gary indicated that once again there would be a freezer full of meat raffle with the drawing taking place at 4:00pm.

B. Weeds-n-Walleyes Banquet

Gary Mueller was pleased to announce that the banquet would be held this year on October 2, 2021 at the Mole Lake Bingo Hall from 5:00pm to 9:00pm after cancellation in 2020 due to covid restrictions. Chris Mueller asked attendees to consider sponsoring donations citing examples of theme dinners, tickets for Bucks or Packers, booze cruises or baskets. She then explained that this year would be the last year for her and Gary to plan this event and asked for volunteer couples (trainees) to work with them this year with the goal of transitioning the planning on to them for future years.

C. Community Event Public Relations Booth: Kentuck Day Festival & Art-in-the-Square

Steve Parks indicated that once again LMA will sponsor an informational booth, with emphasis of the bullhead reduction project this year, for both events which are expected to be held this year with the dates being July 24, 2021 for KFD and September 18, 2021 for AITS. He also announced that there would be an apparel sale at each event but no raffles.

D. Apparel Sales

Chris Ebben announced that new apparel was now in stock and displayed many new items through a spontaneous "fashion show" with attendees being asked to carry samples around the meeting hall for all to get a better look. After describing a variety of things, she ended by saying that these and some of the previous stock could be purchased at Smith Sport and would also be available for purchase at the picnic, Kentuck Festival Day & Art-in-the-Square booths.

E. Facebook & Website

Steve Parks reminded people that there is a lot of information pertaining to many topics, including those discussed today at this meeting, on the LMA website and also informed attendees that LMA is now on Facebook.

VI. OFFICER ELECTION

A. Positions Up for Election & Appointment (If Necessary)

Julie Janquart explained that there are three positions up for election which include the President Gary Mueller and Treasurer Steve Parks, whom have each served the maximum three (3) terms allowed in the by-laws in their respective positions and Lynn Smith's director position which she is unable to run for due to personal matters. She further explained that in order to avoid a problem of not having willing nominees from the floor which is typical as candidates often run unopposed, the board opted to seek out individuals to accept a nomination, which each has accepted in advance with the intent to also accept nominations from the floor prior to the vote.

B. Nomination Criteria

Attendees were informed that all nominees must be a current LMA member, be present to accept a nomination if nominated from the floor and anyone wishing to speak before the vote will be allowed to do so.

C. Nominations & Voting

1. Julie Janquart asked if there were any nominations from the floor in addition to Mark Truymen for president to which there were none. Asking for a voice vote attendees unanimously approved Mark Truymen as president.
2. Julie Janquart then asked if there were any nominations from the floor in addition to Jim Elam for treasurer to which there were none. Asking for a voice vote attendees unanimously approved Jim Elam as treasurer.
3. Julie Janquart then asked if there were any nominations from the floor in addition to Steve Parks for director (vacated by Lynn Smith) to which there were none. Asking for a voice vote attendees unanimously approved Steve Parks as director.
4. With Mark Truymen's director position with one year remaining, vacated by him to run for president, Mark Truymen appointed Don LeMaster to fulfill the final year.

VIII. Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, newly elected president Mark Truymen thanked Gary Mueller for his many years of service to the organization and specifically for his excellent leadership as president for the last six years. Gary received a lengthy standing ovation from enthusiastic and appreciative attendees. Mark then reminded people about the Mole Lake Hatchery tour with Mike Preul immediately following and then adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by

Julie Janquart
Secretary

7-2-22
Date

Motion by Dennis Klemick to approve, second by Judy Van Zuiden
Carried unanimously.