
West Battle Lake Lakeshore Association Executive Board Meeting Minutes 9/12/2020

Call to order

A meeting of the West Battle Lake Lakeshore Association Executive Board was held at Lion's Park in Battle Lake September 12th 2020 at 9:00 am. Attendees were Tracy Rendz-Eldridge, Terry Stroh, Chad Schaefer, Craig Haukebo and John Hofflander. President Tracy Rendz-Eldridge called the meeting to order at 9:15 am.

Quorum Requirement

Less than 50% of directors were present. The quorum requirement was not met. No decisions requiring a vote were made.

Discussion/Business Items

1. Tracy distributed an agenda for the meeting.
2. Tracy discussed the transfer of leadership meeting she had with Jerry Horgen on 8/28/20.
3. Tracy asked if anyone at the meeting was interested in the now open Vice President position. No one volunteered. We will address it in the future.
4. Tracy presented a summary of the financials. Exact amounts were not calculated. We have approximately \$60,000 in un-restricted funds and \$20,000 in the fish fund.
5. Chad reported several things regarding fisheries.
 - The Gizzard Creek spawning habitat improvement project was completed recently. The cost was significantly less than the original estimate of \$25,000 with WBLLA to contribute 10% of the total. Actual cost was \$9,980 with WBLLA to pay \$998 out of the Fish Fund. Chad will contact the installers to see if the scope of the project was reduced resulting in lower costs.
 - Preliminary results are in from the DNR gill net survey performed the week of July 13th. Walleye catch rates dropped from 2.6/net to 2.1. Very disappointing given the DNR's long range plan to improve walleye population. Other fish remained mostly steady with an increase in Largemouth Bass populations. Chad will connect with Fisheries once the complete survey is released to inquire what the stocking plans for Walleye will be moving forward. Due to COVID, no stocking of Walleye fry was performed in 2020.
6. Discussion regarding "swimmer's itch." Several Board Members have expressed concern regarding the significant increase in the parasites as well as how long the outbreak lasts. Tracy mentioned it may be related to the Zebra Mussel infestation. It appears to be worst where there are many snails along the shoreline. The extent of the itch appears to vary widely depending on where on the lake you're swimming.
7. John reported 2020 water clarity (sechii disk) results. The May and June results were very similar to 2019 readings which were record highs (25-28'). The July/August/September results trended significantly downward with the September reading coming in at only 15' which is 10' less than last year at the same time. Tracy will contact RMB labs to see if this is likely due to the Zebra Mussel population hitting its peak and now trending downward. This would be welcome news.
8. Tracy reported 2020 will **really** be the last year Bob Perry volunteers to take the water quality samples (once a month for 5 months in the summer). Everyone agreed the Board needs to address this sooner than later. Discussion was had regarding paying someone to perform the task. Discussion was also made regarding having Board Members potentially share some of the responsibility.

9. Tracy thanked Chad for his spring cleanup efforts. Chad agreed to continue them in 2021.
10. 5 other individuals (Eric Olson, Wes Malmstrom, Shaina Underhill, Ryan Hendrickson, Brady Braun) spent several hours on last ice cleaning up debris left by ice fisherman. They collected a substantial amount of trash. Tracy recommended providing them with a gift certificate for their efforts. She will send out a request to the Board in the near future.
11. Tracy proposed WBLLA purchase an I-Lid camera system for the east public access. West Battle Lake is the only larger lake in Otter Tail county that does not have at least one at an access. Much discussion was had regarding the technology and the benefits or potential drawbacks from installing one. Tracy will send out detailed documentation to all Board members regarding the technology, costs, etc. for consideration. If we elect to purchase one, we would need to make the decision by 2/27/21 to have it ready to go for 2021 open water season.
12. The Beach Captain concept was discussed. Tracy has all the hard work Jerry did to begin organizing the concept. There is definite interest in implementing. Given the limited attendance at the meeting, it was decided to table it until our spring meeting.
13. Discussion around potentially resurrecting the spring and fall newsletters WBLLA used to produce. John will send Tracy copies of some from the archives.
14. Tracy will come up with an appropriate "Thank You!" to Jerry Horgen and everything he did for WBLLA for so many years.
15. Tentative 2021 dates are:
 - Spring Board Meeting – Saturday April 17th.
 - Annual Membership Meeting – July 10th.
 - Fall Board Meeting – Saturday Septemer 18th.
 - All meetings to begin at 9:00 am.

Adjournment

There being no more discussion or business items, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

John Hofflander
Secretary

9/17/2020
Created

Approved