
West Battle Lake Lakeshore Association 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

6/24/2023

Call to order

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the West Battle Lake Lakeshore Association (WBLLA) was held at the Battle Lake High School Auditorium on 6/24/2023 at 9:00 am. Directors present: Michael Smith, John Hofflander, Tracy Rendz-Eldridge, Sean Belmont, Dan Kolpin, Mike Anderson. Absent: Kyle Johnson, Steve Slatten

President Tracy Rendz-Eldridge called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Attendance

72 property owners attended the meeting.

Presentations:

- Tracy welcomed everyone and introduced the board members in attendance, welcoming new board members Dan Kolpin and Mike Anderson.
- John reported water clarity testing results for 2022 and 2023. Water clarity continues to be exceptionally high due to zebra mussels. Springtime readings hover around 30'. As summer progresses the readings decline into the high teens. Prior to the zebra mussels, spring/summer/fall readings all were typically in the 15-16' range.
- John reported on water quality testing. Steve Slatten performs several water quality sampling tests throughout the summer. The samples are sent to a laboratory in Detroit Lakes. The lab tests for 3 components: Chlorophyll (algae), Phosphorous and Water Clarity. The scores of the 3 components are combined into a single index number used to track whether water quality is increasing, decreasing or maintaining over time. WBL water quality continues to maintain excellent scores compared to other lakes in Minnesota with similar characteristics/classification. Index scores for the last ten years have ranged between 32.4 – 40.3. The 2022 score was 35.3. A score <45 is considered excellent.
- John reported on fisheries:
 - Walleye
 - Current DNR management plan/goal is to stock 1,250 lbs. (~20-25,000) walleye fingerlings annually in WBL
 - In 2021 DNR stocked 2,060 lbs. of a combination of adult and fingerling walleye.
 - In 2022 DNR stocked 1,979 lbs of fingerlings.
 - In 2022 WBLLA purchased and stocked an additional 1,089 lbs. of fingerling.
 - Expectations for fall 2023 are the DNR will stock 1,250 lbs. fingerlings and the WBLLA will purchase and stock an additional ~1,100 lbs.
 - DNR will perform a comprehensive lake fish population survey in summer 2024. This survey should give us a good indication of how successful the new fingerling stocking program is working.
 - Crappie
 - This fall, the DNR is planning to propose a reduction in the crappie limit on WBL from 10 to 5 fish. The proposal will have to go through a public comment period. WBLLA board supports this proposed regulation change. Additionally, the WBLLA board supports a minimum size limit of 10" in order to keep a crappie.
 - Muskie

- Current DNR management plan/goal is to stock 2,500 muskie fingerlings every other year in WBL. DNR stocked 2,508 fingerlings in 2022 and plans to stock 2,500 in 2024.
 - DNR plans to perform a trap net population survey of muskie in 2024.
 - Northern Pike
 - In 2023 the special 24-36” protected slot limit for pike was removed and replaced with the North Central Division suggested pike limit of 10 fish with a 22-26” protected slot and only 2 fish over 26”.
 - Gizzard Creek
 - DNR inspected the recent walleye spawning rock project WBLLA sponsored in 2021. They report conditions look favorable for walleyes to use the area for spawning in future years.
- Sean gave the Treasurers report. A copy of the report is included on the website. Sean reported a Venmo account with an associated QR Code has been created to solicit donations from property owners and non-property owners alike to help fund WBLLA’s fingerling stocking program. QR Code placards will be placed at various strategic locations in and around the Battle Lake area. The board will look into incorporating Venmo into the annual dues solicitation in the future.
- Michael gave an update on the WBLLA website and Facebook Group. Participation and activity continues to grow rapidly. Members are very appreciative of Michael’s efforts and the value it provides to property owner wanting to keep current with WBLLA activities and the lake in general.
- Tracy gave an update on the decision to raise annual dues from \$25-\$40/year. Members present were asked if they supported the increase with an informal show of hands. Unanimous or very near unanimous approval was observed.

Open Forum/Discussions:

- Several comments/support for moving from a “rainy day” general account balance that encourages stock piling funds in the event of a future major AIS/environmental issue facing the lake to a strategy that actively invests current funds in existing, identifiable, agreed upon projects that fit within the scope/budget of WBLLA.
- Desire for a more formal (written), multi-year plan for WBLLA funds and activities.
- Creation of committees to include property owners who may not be board members in carrying out specifics of the plan.
- Identifying/capitalizing on public/private grant money that may be available to WBLLA to fulfill our mission statement.
- Projects discussed include but are not limited to:
 - Improvements to the two public accesses.
 - Expansion of the gizzard creek spawning project.
 - Explore possibility of “offshore” walleye spawning habitat creation (not directly connected to either gizzard or battle creek inflows/outflows).
 - What if anything can be done about swimmer’s itch.
 - Using WBLLA funds to spray for forest tent caterpillars.
 - Creating a lake directory similar to directories created in the 90’s and early 2000’s.
 - Increasing the percentage of property owners who are members of WBLLA.
- Discussion surrounding “float parties” and their impact on property owners and the West Battle Lake ecosystem. Support for a statement from the WBLLA encouraging participants to be mindful and respectful of the lake, the environment, and those around them.

Board of Director Nominations:

- Tracy called for nominations for new Board of Directors to serve an initial 3 year term. Members nominated Jody Coleman and Matt Falck. A vote was taken with no opposing votes. Tracy welcomed Jody and Matt to the Board of Directors.

Adjournment

There being no more discussion or business items, a drawing for door prizes was held and the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

John Hofflander
Secretary

6/29/2023
Approved
