

West Battle Lake Lakeshore Association Executive Board Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2024

Call to order

A meeting of the West Battle Lake Lakeshore Association (WBLLA) Executive Board was held at the Shoreline Restaurant in Battle Lake on 5/3/2024 at 6:00 pm.

Directors present: John Hofflander, Tracy Rendz-Eldridge, Sean Belmont, Kyle Johnson, Steve Slatten, Jody Coleman, Matt Falck, Michael Smith. **Absent:** Dan Kolpin, Mike Anderson.

President Tracy Rendz-Eldridge called the meeting to order.

Quorum Requirement

More than 50% of directors were present. The quorum requirement was met.

Discussion/Business Items

- Sean gave the Treasurer's Report. A spreadsheet is included with account details. 2023 membership ended at 293 members or 52% of property owners on the lake. Approximately 1/3 of dues paying members also contributed to the Walleye stocking fund. Sean is working on the 2024 dues letter and hopes to have it out by the first week in June.
- Approval to extend current CD's at FNB Battle Lake to (3-month terms??)
- Sean and John met with the new area Hydrologist to get more information on how water levels are monitored on WBL and what the various factors are that influence them. We expect much more activity on this topic in the future. The takeaway from our initial discussion is the DNR looks to individual property owners and groups such as WBLLA to report concerns or restrictions of water levels (beaver dams, bogs, man-made diversions, etc.) to them for investigation.
- Discussion regarding the west access and ongoing issues with shallow water and boat launching. The idea of a rock/permanent pier extending out into the lake to block sand build up around the

access was discussed. Sean will bring this up with Battle Lake Economic Development Board of which he is a member.

- John gave the Fisheries Committee report. This summer the DNR will propose reducing the WBL crappie limit from 10 to 5 fish. A 90-day public comment period will begin. If no significant opposition occurs, it is estimated the new rule will go into effect 3/1/2025. The WBLLA supports this proposal. The DNR will perform a comprehensive fish survey during the second week of July. This is done using gill nets on various areas on WBL. The DNR performs these surveys approximately every 5 years to assist in updating their management goals for WBL fisheries. Based on the results, the DNR might adjust their current goal of stocking WBL with 1,250 lbs. walleye fingerlings every year. The management plans also calls for stocking 2,500 muskie fingerlings every other year. The DNR plans to stock WBL with those fish this fall.

- Decision to spend \$12,500 from the main account to purchase ~625 lbs. walleye fingerlings this fall. The walleye stocking fund has been depleted to \$1,100. Our goal is to stock 1,250 lbs. of fingerlings this fall (the maximum our permit with the DNR allows). Total cost for 1,250 fingerlings is \$25,000. To reach our goal will require us to raise an additional \$11,400 between now and this fall.

- Discussion surrounding our dues mailing list and how to keep it updated as ownership changes can be frequent and not communicated to the Association. Sean will check with Battle Lake high school to see if there's interest in having someone cross reference our list with county taxation and GIS lists to help keep ours current.

- Discussion on a proposed Invasive Species Survey for WBL. Cost estimate is \$9,955. Decision to defer for now until more information is available on whether or not the survey will assist in securing grants from the DNR and other public organization in managing invasives on WBL.

- Discussion surrounding WBLLA sponsored marker buoys in the rocky shallows around Stoney

Point. Matt Falck will get more information on costs, responsibilities and liability concerns to move this forward.

- Discussion regarding purchasing a dumpster service for the ice fishing season on the west end of the lake. Jody Coleman agreed to look into the specifics.
- Discussion of opening up the entire Board Meeting to members vs. the current “Open Discussion Forum” offered at the beginning of each Board Meeting. Decision to keep current format of an open forum followed by a private Board Meeting.
- Agreed to donate \$500 to the OTC Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force who fund the \$2,000/year expense required to operate the two I-LID cameras at both accesses.
- Set the 2024 Annual Meeting for 6/29/2024 at the high school. Tracy will reach out to Mayor Rich Bullard as a guest speaker. Tracy will also reach out to the Lions to see if they would put on a pancake breakfast prior to the meeting in the school cafeteria.

Adjournment

There being no more discussion or business items, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

John Hofflander

Secretary Approved Minutes 6-9-24