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## West Battle Lake Lakeshore Association 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

### 6/29/2024

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#### Call to order

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the West Battle Lake Lakeshore Association (WBLLA) was held at the Battle Lake High School Auditorium on 6/29/2024 at 9:00 am. Directors present: Michael Smith, John Hofflander, Jody Coleman, Tracy Rendz-Eldridge, Sean Belmont, Dan Kolpin, Mike Anderson, Kyle Johnson, Steve Slatten. Directors absent: Matt Falck.

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

#### Attendance

54 (property owners and board directors) attended the meeting.

#### Presentations:

- Tracy welcomed everyone and introduced the board members also in attendance.
- Sean Belmont gave the Treasurers report. Current membership stands at ~300 properties. The General Fund balance is \$74,393.75. Walleyes stocking fund is at \$4,801. Approximately 1/3 of dues paying members also contribute to the walleye stocking fund.
- John Hofflander gave a fisheries update. Key points were:
  - DNR will perform a comprehensive gill net fish population survey the week of July 8<sup>th</sup>. This does not include Muskies. They will be surveyed spring of 2025 using trap nets. The gill net survey results may have an impact on future DNR WBL management plans which will be reviewed over the winter.
  - DNR plans to stock 1,250 lbs. of Walleye fingerlings this fall. This is ~15-20,000 fish.
  - DNR plans to stock 2,500 Muskie fingerlings this fall.
  - DNR is proposing a reduction in the crappie limit on WBL from 10 to 5. The WBLLA supports this proposal. If approved by DNR officials, will take effect 3/1/2025.
  - Discussion of support for the WBLLA formally request the Walleye limit on WBLLA be reduced. Unanimous approval was given for the request. A slight majority of the
  - members favored a 4 fish limit over a 3 fish limit from the current 6 fish limit.
- Steve Slatten gave a water quality update. Steve performs monthly testing of water samples at two locations on the lake. Water quality remains excellent on WBL.
- Michael Smith 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 owners wanting to keep current with WBLLA activities and the lake in general.

#### Open Forum/Discussions:

- Decision for 2024 to use the entirety of the amount that exists in the Walleye Fund for fingerling stocking this fall. In addition, agreement to supplement funds from the general account to get the total funding for 2024 walleye fingerlings from WBLLA to \$25,000 (1,250 lbs. fingerlings). As in the past two years, this is in addition to the 1,250 lbs. of fingerlings supplied by the DNR.
- Sean discussed his meeting with the area DNR hydrologist to look at the possibility of building 2 parallel rock walls out from the west access to prevent sand from accumulating on the concrete

pads. For various reasons the hydrologist indicated it would be virtually impossible to secure the permits necessary to do this. Current DNR rules allow the accesses to be excavated without requiring a permit with the following restrictions:

1. Excavation cannot exceed more than 30' from the shoreline.
2. Excavation cannot occur in water deeper than 4'
3. Total excavation volume cannot exceed 200 cubic yards of sand/silt.

Assuming costs are reasonable, there was agreement from members that the WBLLA fund excavation for the west access and possibly the east access when conditions arise that make launching boats very difficult. Criteria outlining when excavation is necessary and how frequently to perform it as well as a budget remain to be developed.

- Swimmers itch discussion.
- Publishing a Lake Directory was discussed. The Battle Lake Review will produce the directory at no cost (offset by advertising dollars). They would use publicly available OTC landowner data. If phone #'s and/or emails are desired, they would need to be obtained by other means. Otter Tail County Coalition of Lakes Association (COLA) has published this data (minus phone/email) on their website.
- Strategies for increasing membership included a second mailing/email to unpaid property owners as well as signage pointing out WBLLA-funded projects.
- Mike Anderson reported our application for up to a \$1,500 grant from the DNR to assist with our AIS efforts was unsuccessful in a random drawing of applications. We will continue to look for available grants to help us fund our initiatives.
- The Board is working with OTC Sherriff's Water Patrol to discuss placing warning buoys at Stoney Point.

## Adjournment

There being no more discussion or business items, a drawing for 8 \$25 gift certificates to local businesses was held for 8 lucky attendees. The board greatly appreciates their attendance and input on all things related to West Battle Lake. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

John Hofflander  
Secretary

7/17/24  
Approved

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