Little Sand Lake Area Association

(LSLAA)

# Meeting Date: July 5, 2021

# Start of meeting: 8:30 am

# Board Members Present: (If x’d, the member was present)

\_X\_ Christine Hobrough, President

\_X\_ MaJeana Hallstrom- Past President

\_X\_ Steve Trutna, Director at Large

\_\_\_ Punky Catlin, Treasurer

\_X\_ Cindy Nollette, Secretary

\_\_\_ Glenn Gapp, Director at Large

\_X\_ Jane Amble, Director at Large

\_X\_ Larry Odegard, Director at Large

\_X\_ Karen Netland, Director at Large

Guest: Jacob Nollette

## Start of Meeting: 8:35 am

# Agenda:

## **Welcome and Call to Order: Christine Hobrough, President**

## **Secretary’s Report: Cindy Nollette, Secretary**

*The Secretary’s report was previously sent to Christine Hobrough for review. Christine sent the report to all Board members prior to the meeting.*

Cindy Nollette will need to make the change to Christine’s name from the June 2020 meeting.

MaJeana will send current notes to Jacob Nollette, so that they can be posted on the Little Sand website.

We need to post minute notes from the April, 2021 meeting on our website as well. A section for this will be added to the website. There are no minutes to approve for the annual meeting as we will do that in 2022 at our annual meeting.

## **Treasurer’s Report and Membership Information: Charlotta (Punky) Catlin, Treasurer**

There was no updated treasurer report information since our meeting in June, 2021.

## **Lake Monitoring and Tasks: MaJeana Hallstrom**

MaJeana put a table together of all the necessary lake monitoring tasks. Wayne Swanson and Dan Kittleson reviewed and added information. It is important that we document all tasks and assign responsibilities. We also want to inform our lake residents of the tasks that go into the process of lake monitoring.

Larry Odegard reported he tests from May-September, once per month, using the dissolved oxygen tests; (19-22 feet is the thermocline level). We share the instrument with Big Sand Lake. This year we are using the same batteries and lens and are not replacing them annually as we have done in the past.

Larry also shared Secchi disc readings are also done once per month. Mark Doda did the testing and had about 33 feet of clarity. Dan suggested the testing be done weekly, going to the deepest spot on the lake. Larry suggested that we do the testing every two weeks.

Lake chemicals test: This test is at the deep part of the lake, testing for phosphorus, sulfur etc.

Vellager sampling: zebra mussel etc.

Glenn Gapp and Ray Carlson are doing vegetation testing.

MaJeana and Rob Hallstrom will take over some of the tasks from Janet Howe.

Eyes on the Water: the testing cylinders are to assess for further invasive species. Action - MaJeana will check with Glenn Gapp.

Jacob will add a section of Lake Monitoring on our website. We can add other pages to go under that. We can add more learning material under these sections to better educate and inform our lake residents of the tasks, concerns, data etc.

**Other topics discussed:**

*Ice in and ice out: We need 2020 information to post to the website. MaJeana will ask for information on our Facebook page and see if any of the lake residents have the information. We need to find someone to monitor and figure out how to report it (DNR?).*

Loon monitoring: COLA would like us to monitor the loon count. Steve will follow up and inform us as to who does it.

DNR will not be restocking the lake with walleyes due to an overpopulation of pike etc. Refer to email MaJeana sent with the article “Where are the Walleyes”?)

*Lake stewards: are volunteers that help support the lake, maintain the kiosk, etc. We want to acknowledge the volunteers. Our lake is very dependent on the volunteers and lake stewards for maintenance of the health and well being of our lake.*

The topic of establishing an “emergency fund” was discussed. A number of the big lakes have raised considerable money to help with AIS. The Little Sand Lake Association “emergency money” is currently held in our CD’s. Big Sand uses a Charitable Lake Fund that includes two separate funds. One fund is allocated as an endowment fund and the other is a general spendable fund. Potato Lake has a trust fund at the NW foundation. Big Mantrap Lake also has a large fund. As indicated, Big Sand is committed to growing the size of their fund.

If we find an AIS we do have an identified Rapid Response plan, which is mainly information provided to our residents and other concerned parties.

*The Board will meet quarterly.*

**Memberships & member directory:**

*Growing Memberships: MaJeana Hallstrom. We now have 117 memberships which is the highest number we have seen. Per Punky, we should probably push for 2022 memberships from this point forward as our membership year is September to August. Christine will follow up with Punky to gather information about our fiscal year. We want to keep educating lake members on the importance of lake association membership etc. We will add more information to the Facebook page.*

We would like to set something up so people can be aware if they have paid their dues. People do not have accounts on the website, so they cannot look up their membership status. Jacob will try to add a member portal. If a member pays by check they will still need to be added to the portal.

We would potentially have the ability to add a subscription function to the membership. We would want to add a note that they could add an amount of donations every year.

We want to improve the security of the directory. Adding a member portal will also enhance security for our association members.

**2021/2022 Budget: Punky Catlin and MaJeana Hallstrom**

MaJeana: Review of budget - some of the line items will be moved to the AIS category

COLA amount will be changed to $500 (from $450)

**Web development: Christine and Jacob**

We will need to incur fees to keep it up on the website. Jacob and Christine met prior to this board meeting to review our web site and other technical issues. One of the issues they discussed was how to better manage the operations and security of the member directory. Jacob researched an option called Gravity View. The cost is approximately $1,000 for a lifetime license. Christine proposed that we look at purchasing a lifetime license and split the cost with Jacob. Jacob reported on other operational costs that include $8.03 per year to maintain the cost of the domain name, plus the cost of Office 365. We would also be able to convert to the use of the free mail chimp service to assist with our emails. Karen Netland has been manually adding updates to the directory which is very time consuming. Again, if members would have their own portal we could ask them to maintain an updated address. For those unable to add through the portal we would assist.

*We are also going to ask our members to make sure they report on any property and ownership changes near them so that we can keep our property and directory up to date.*

Proposal: The board pay $501 to split the lifetime cost of Gravity View with Jacob Nollette. The board will also pay the $8.03 per year for our domain name (the amount could change over time).

Jacob paid for the hosting for 3 years. He suggested that we apply for a grant from Microsoft AZURE. This grant is specific for NPOs to offset the cost of website services. If approved this grant would allow up to $3500 per year for website hosting and datacenter services. Christine will follow through on that potential resource.

*Jacob reported that our traffic to our website has increased notably over the last year. We want to make sure we keep the website up to date and informative for our members.*

Jacob will review the website and add up to date information. Christine will assist with a volunteer contact page.

Changes to our budget: Website amount on our budget will increase to $508.

Office 365 will be about $5/mo.

**Vote: budget amounts were approved**

**Christine thanked Jacob for his work on behalf of the organization and noted his expertise is truly appreciated by the Board.**

**Social/activity ideas:**

*We discussed adding a boat contest and a beach contest next year to add to the 4th of July festivities.*

Cindy Nollette raised a point for discussion about exploring any other interests that families have for family activities or activities for children. We want to remind our members that many of the activities such as the pontoon floats, the boat parade and the annual picnic are family friendly events and all are welcome. It was suggested that we reach out to our members via Facebook and a follow-up email to see if there are other activities they would like to see the association support to promote increased community and lake engagement.

Some of the ideas we discussed included: entry “float” in the Park Rapids 4th of July parade, boat contest, beach contest, sell koozies, little sand t-shirts, etc.

**Stewardship award:**

**This award is for people that have volunteered a significant amount each year. We have purchased a decorated paddle for the award winner. Karen Netland indicated that she could paint a scene on a paddle in the coming years.**

### Next meeting: Our next meeting will be in October and will likely meet via Zoom.

## Meeting adjourned: 10:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Nollette, Secretary