

Little Sand Lake Area Association (LSLAA)

Meeting Date: 8-10-22

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

- Christine Hobrough, President
- MaJeana Hallstrom- Past President
- Karen Netland, Vice President
- Jane Amble, Treasurer
- Cindy Nollette, Secretary
- Glenn Gapp, Director at Large
- Glen Dravis, Director at Large
- Jerry Kaluzny, Director at Large
- Steve Trutna, Director at Large
- Jacob Nollette, Web site and Tech, non- voting member

Start of Meeting: 6:11 PM

Agenda

Welcome and Call to Order: Christine Hobrough, President

Guest — Wade Masure, Fisheries Biologist

Wade spoke to the board on a number of topics relative to the health of our lake. While the lakes in the Park Rapids area are generally quite healthy, we have to be watchful about the potential for AIS. Wade reported that one of the most important things we can do is to educate about AIS, "keeping the public informed".

Wade reported that Little Sand has a "decent" walleye population. Our Northern Pike is higher (14-15). We like it to be closer to 5-6. We also have higher numbers of yellow perch. As the Northern Pike population goes up, the walleye numbers go down.

Wade reiterated educating our members about AIS, and other relevant water quality issues. He said the Fisheries Website, the DNR and our Lake Association websites will have educational information for our lake residents.

Wade reported that there has been netting on parts of the lake. They have been sampling to see what fish are in our lake.

The plan is to stock the lake with Fingerlings. Fry will be stocked on even years (biannual basis). The last time the lake was stocked was in 2018. There were no stocking operations over the last few years due to Covid.

MaJeana reported on the Chinese Mystery Snails and spoke to Wade about it prior to providing educational material to our lake residents. Christine will send additional information out about the Chinese Mystery Snails since they have been spotted this summer on Little Sand Lake.

Wade would be willing to attend our annual meeting and speak to our residents about areas of concern and answer and questions.

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.

Motion to approve: MaJeana Hallstrom

Seconded motion: Jane Amble

Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report and Membership Information: Jane Amble, Treasurer

Jane has taken over the role as Treasurer. She has not met with Punky Catlin (our previous Treasurer) to complete all transition duties. The meeting notes from the Annual Meeting will reflect the change in Treasurer and those will be accepted by the bank as proof of transfer of duties.

Jane will coordinate with Jacob Nollette about the use of Stripe for our credit card processing. Mark Doda will no longer be coordinating with Stripe. Jane is getting reports from Mark and will work to transition those duties.

Punky sent the Treasurer's report prior to the meeting. Punky reconciled through the last statement. Punky will work on transitioning all the Treasurer's information to Jane Amble.

Unfinished Business

Hubbard County COLA - MaJeana Hallstrom:

MaJeana reported on an update on an AIS Starry Stonewart. This is a significant AIS that looks quite “gross” and leaves the lake slimy. Lake Koronis was the first lake identified with it and they have spent \$170,000 to address it. Our lake association is not prepared to have funds to take care of any large scale AIS. Big Sand Lake Association is trying to save up to \$100,000 in an AIS reserve fund.

Every year COLA sponsors a Starry Trek around the area lakes to look for Starry Stonewart. This year the group will meet on 8-20-22 if anyone is interested.

Jake Shaughnessy is doing a workshop at Big Mantrap Campground to look at shoreline preservation and restoration issues.

We discussed that we have an obligation to keep informing and educating our residents about AIS and what is noted in our lake (Chinese Mystery Snails). We do not need to post about the Chinese Mystery Snails at this time. The DNR posts on each lake if there are known AIS of concern. It is critical that boats are decontaminated if they have been in an infected lake. AIS can be spread by things such as kayaks, paddleboards, life jackets, shoes etc as well.

Another resource for shoreline monitoring is Andrea Dutcher from Lake Belle Taine. She said she would be willing to come talk to us about shoreline related issues. We could have her come speak at one of our winter meetings. MaJeana indicated that having her speak and getting more input about these types of issues aligns with what we need to do for the grant we received. We need to put together a vegetation plan as we gather more information.

Another issue that came up at COLA was “Hip Camp”. Hip Camp is basically AirBNB for renters. We do not have any lots available on Little Sand to be used for this type of thing but it could be seen in our area more.

Directory: Karen Netland

MaJeana Hallstrom and Karen worked together on the directory. Karen will send Jacob an updated file for the website.

Volunteers: we are always recruiting for volunteers.

Website: Jacob Nollette

Jacob provided an update on our website. We looked at a period from 5-1-22 to 8-9-22. We generally see a burst of activity most weekends. We had 379 Google hits. We had 276 direct users and 41 were from social media. We have had 701 new users. We have had an increase in users looking for the Calendar of Events since it has been posted. Vicki Johnson is going to keep it updated.

Email Coordinator: Christine Hobrough

Christine has started using Mail Chimp for the email system. She has been sending emails through our email system and through Mail Chimp. She will send an email to our members notifying them of the switch to Mail Chimp and to watch for our emails. She will stop sending information via emails after we fully switch to Mail Chimp. Jacob will work with Christine to assure increased deliverability on Mail Chimp. Jacob and Christine worked on getting a grant from Microsoft to help support our website costs.

Cindy raised the issue of taking a closer look at our website and making sure it accomplishes what we want it to accomplish. We are getting more traffic and want to attract more users. MaJeana would like to take a look at our site map. Christine would like to see a small group look at the website. Jacob, Christine and MaJeana will look at the website. MaJeana brought up the website that Big Sand has and likes how that one functions.

Lake Mapping Update: MaJeana Hallstrom

There is nothing new to report as we do not have the full report on this. We do have to have a project to accompany the grant. We could use some contact in the future with Andrea Dutcher to help fulfill this requirement.

Wake Boat Fliers: Christine Hobrough

We want to add fliers to the boat launch and point out key points about the wake boats. We are getting a lot of information on these topics of interest and we need to discuss this and where do we want to post and file the information.

New Business

Northwest Minnesota Foundation- MaJeana Hallstrom

Several lakes and COLA have endowments in the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. We have some money in CD's and we are making little interest on it. The Northwest Foundation is turning around a 5% return. We can spend some money from the earnings off the endowment. We are interested in this to grow our savings account. Punky was in favor of it.

We need to assess how it will look with the market changing. COLA reported they got over 10% last year. We want to potentially raise more money as money can be raised and dropped into our Endowment.

We would need to put in a minimum of \$10,000. There is a fee of 1%. We would have to pull some money out of another account to reach \$10,000. Steve reported that there is no guarantee that we would make 5%.

Steve moved that we move funds to the Northwest Foundation.

Christine reported that one of the big wins is that we can advertise that people can move money into the endowment from their will etc. Karen summarized many other opportunities as well as recognized that we could lose money if the market changes and moves downward. We want to grow our funds as much as we can.

We discussed the pros/cons of the investment. The downside is that we may not get the 5% and we have a fee of 1%. The return is currently identified as 5% after the 1% fee.

There may be a penalty on our CD. The penalty would likely be less than what we will potentially earn.

The Northwest Foundation requests that we leave the funds for 3 years. There is an avenue to get money back because we are a 501 3C, if we would need the money for an emergency.

Jane will find out the current status of our CD's.

Steve indicated that we should forward information to the new Board members about the Northwest Foundation and this financial opportunity. Christine will send information to new members.

MaJeana moves to engage with the Northwest Foundation for the purposes of our charitable fund which entails moving sufficient funds from our current balances to the Northwest Foundation and agreeing to their processes.

Cindy- seconded the motion.

Approved by hand vote of the current voting members.

Jerry- abstained

Punky and Jane will need to meet with the bank to move ahead.

If we need additional funds to get it up to the amount required by the Northwest Foundation we can move money from another fund, such as the General Fund.

We will be able to do a year end push to donations to add a gift of memory, in wills etc to add to these funds.

We want to create some perpetuity and the funds will help us in that regard.

Motion to adjourn by Jane and seconded by MaJeana.

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Nollette, Treasurer