

# Little Sand Lake Area Association (LSLAA)

Annual Meeting Date: June 10, 2023

## Board Members Present:

- \*Christine Hobrough, President
- \* MaJeana Hallstrom- Past President and COLA Representative
- \*Karen Netland- Vice President
- \*Jane Amble-Treasurer
- \*Cindy Nollette- Secretary
- \*Glenn Gapp-Director at Large
- \*Greg Dravis- Director at Large
- \*Gerry Kaluzny, Director at Large
- \* Jacob Nollette- Non- voting - tech and web

Not present:

Sandy Younger, Director at Large

Start of Meeting: 8:37am

## Agenda:

Welcome and Call to Order- Christine Hobrough, President

We are recording on YouTube- Jacob Nollette

Secretary's Report- Cindy Nollette, Secretary

The Secretary's report for our Annual Meeting 2022, was previously sent to Christine Hobrough and MaJeana Hallstrom for review. The report was also sent to all Board members and Association members prior to the meeting on June 10, 2023.

The minutes from the Annual Meeting 2022 were reviewed.

There were no additional notes added.

\*Tony Yerkes motion to approve, Rob Hallstrom, seconded the motion.

The minutes for our Annual Meeting of 2022 were approved.

## Treasurer's Report and Membership Information- Jane Amble, Treasurer

Jane reviewed the current report, including expenses and the current balance. The Treasurer's report and budget were reconciled through May 31, 2023.

Jane noted that our most significant action was that we moved some CD's into an endowment with Northwest Foundation.

May, 2023 to date- Income is similar

There was a big push at the end of the year to add money into our AIS fund. We took in almost \$6500 this year as a result of that request from our association members.

Many association members paid their dues along with the extra donations. We have 105 members this year.

We normally budget about \$2700 for inspections but this year we increased it to \$3700.

Year to date- dues collected is \$1890 ( thru end of May)

\$8746 is transferred from the general fund to the CD. ( 10k in the endowment fund)

Endowment fund is earning 7-8 % ( on average)

Our annual budget is similar to last year although we did increase the amount for inspections.

We are working on a way to password protect access to the budget numbers. We are working on a new system to get a subscription for the dues, where members get a reminder to pay their dues etc. We are hoping this system will be easier for members and will assist with collection of the dues.

We felt the endowment was the way to go as they have a good return on the investment. We have a contractual relationship with them. Anybody can go to their website and make a donation through their website or anyone can make a donation through our website. Our goal is to build our funds to help handle the costs of any eradication of AIS. If we do not have the funds to do

so if this need arises, property owners are likely to get an assessment. Our goal is to protect the lake for future generations!

## Unfinished and Ongoing Business:

### **Healthy Lake Report: MaJeana Hallstrom, COLA Representative and Past President**

MaJeana addressed the issue of AIS concerns. We are familiar with milfoil but there are others, such as Starry Stonewort. While we currently have no known AIS, we need to be mindful of any possibility. It is easy to be transferred from one lake to another.

#### **Maintaining our Healthy Lake**

- Lake Water Quality and Environmental Monitoring - we do this on the lake to ensure that the lake remains clean.
- 13 Different Activities take place multiple times over the summer by volunteers. MaJeana presented a lengthy list of all the activities that are done to do testing and monitoring of the lake.

#### **Eyes on the Water**

- Zebra Mussel Sampler/Monitoring. We have a variety of samplers that you hang off the dock about 6 inches off the bottom on a dark side. You check it periodically to look for zebra mussels. You will have to fill out a survey from COLA about what you saw.

#### **AIS Update**

- Chinese Mystery Snails have been spotted in Little Sand as of 2022. These Chinese Mystery Snails usually come from someone dumping their aquarium water in the lake. We do not know how they got into Little Sand. They are not as destructive to the environment as Zebra Mussels and Milfoil. While they are not currently recognized as a “dangerous” invasive species, they are in fact new to our lake.
- Other lakes have AIS ( milfoil in Big Mantrap is controlled and monitored by divers.. There are zebra mussels in Long Lake. Belle Taine had a scare and is being monitored closely).
- IF you go to another lake and see the orange sign notifying of AIS, do NOT put your boat in the lake without decontaminating your boat or keeping it out of water for 21 days)

- Decontamination Station is open. Call ahead at 218-252-6738. ( on Henrietta Ave in Park Rapids. There is also one at Bemidji Middle School)

### **COLA Grant Opportunities**

Up to \$2,000 is given for such things as research or studies on water quality, shoreland development and providing information to lake associations and the general public. The grant has to be used for a lake related project.

Little Sand was awarded a grant written by MaJeana Hallstrom to fund vegetation mapping in 2022. The last vegetation mapping was done by Don Kittilson and other lake members in 2005.

We contracted with RMB labs to do the update of the vegetation study. In 2022, RMB labs studied floating, emerging and submerged vegetation.

Lead and Loons- a toxic relationship. We want to ensure that tackle is not lead based.

“Get the Lead Out” is a program sponsored by the Minnesota Pollution Control ( MPCA). The goal is to replace lead tackle with lead free tackle.

#### **Aquatic Vegetation Survey: Project and Results**

Total Cost: \$ 2,333

COLA Grant: \$1,166

LSLAA Cost: \$1,166

### **Little Sand Lake Aquatic Vegetation and Mapping - ongoing project**

#### **Why Monitor Aquatic Plants?**

- Awareness of the importance of aquatic plants
- Encourage lake owners to preserve shoreline in its natural state
- Provide a benchmark for ongoing monitoring of the lake
- Detect exotic species ( AIS)
- Detect excessive plant removal

#### **Purpose of Aquatic Vegetation Mapping and Monitoring:**

- Creates an AIS baseline ( we have none except for the Chinese Mystery Snails)
- Identifies sensitive areas
- Provides a historical record
- Service to other environmental monitoring agencies such as the DNR and U of M.

#### **Property Values:**

Property values are impacted by water clarity and water quality. Having a healthy variety and quantity of vegetation improves the water quality.

A question was raised by a lake owner ( Thom Johnson) about the increase in vegetation in the lake since the late 60's. He has observed more growth going out deeper to the 30 foot depth.

History and Background ( of our vegetation mapping and monitoring of water quality)

- 2004- Little Sand Lake leaders attended a “ visioning” session of what they wanted to do and how they wanted to manage the lake.
- 2005- 2006- lake leaders created a “ Lake Management Plan” and volunteers conducted the initial aquatic plant inventory
- 2006- HC COLA created a plan to do more mapping on select lakes to study the aquatic ecosystem. Little Sand was one of the lakes selected. Bottle, Big Sand and Potato were also selected.
- 2008- Vegetation mapping was done on 180 points with plans for further mapping established.
- 2015- The “Lake Management Plan” was updated and created the “ Little Sand Lake Stewardship Action Planning Guide” which is on our website.
- 2022- As a followup to the previous studies in 2006 and 2008 mappings, LSLAA contracted with RMB labs to conduct an updated vegetation survey of 198 points ( previously 180 points)
- Ongoing- LSL volunteers monitor the lake for vegetation and AIS.

### **Aquatic Mapping Methods:**

The methods have changed considerably over the years. Initially it was done by Don Kittlson and a few others, “ circling the bulrushes and lily pads” and trying to determine what the plants were. In 2005-6 a joint partnership with HC COLA and other area lakes was formed. The teams began to use GPS/GIS and color coded maps showing emerging and floating vegetation were developed.

In 2022, RMB labs were hired and used RMBEL and DNR Standard Operating procedures. RMB used the same points as previous ( by GPS). Observations were made visually and with sonar and were classified into categories based on abundance ( absent to abundant)

We have 409 acres of lake.

Bulrushes and water lilies help dampen damage from the waves.

Results and Observations:

2005- Bulrush was the most common ( 79%) with yellow water lilies the second most common at 26% of acreage.

2022- ( included submerged vegetation)

Chara was the most common submerged species

Bulrush and yellow water lily were the most common emergent species ( matches up with previous testing)

The report detailed all of the various species that were present throughout the lake.

Littoral area is 36% of the surface area. In general the littoral area ( where plants will grow, and is 15 feet deep or less). The testing was done on June 17, 2022. The sampling was done on the littoral area but testing was also done up to 20 feet.

Going Forward:

1. Continue the vegetation mapping and AIS monitoring at the six sites. Marshall Howe and a team will monitor the sites four times in 2023.
2. Develop a shoreline monitoring plan to detect AIS as early as possible. Lake Belle Taine has started a Shoreline Monitoring Program and we could model after them to the extent it is possible for us. Cindy Nollette and MaJeana Hallstrom met with Andrea Dutcher from Lake BelleTaine last week to learn more about what Lake Belle Taine is doing. We are trying to digest the information and hope to move forward with development of a model of monitoring for Little Sand Lake.
3. Contract to have a professional vegetation study done in 2033.

Acknowledgments:

There are many involved in the ongoing monitoring of AIS and water quality. Some of those that we would like to thank and acknowledge include Don Kittleson, Jim Thomsen, Vern Thompson, Marshall Howe, HC COLA and Sharon Natzel.( HC COLA President).

**Restore the Shore:**

The goal is to have a buffer on the shoreline and keep things out of the lake, keeping the lake at a healthy state.

RTS is a partnership of HC COLA and Hubbard SWCD. The RTS program has allowed HC COLA members to purchase trees and shrubs. Glenn Gapp has been our Restore the Shore coordinator. We have purchased over \$500 trees in 2020.

Glenn Gapp will be leaving this position and we will need a new volunteer.

**Public Launch and Inspection Hours:**

The inspection hours are funded by the state and managed by Hubbard County. The county decides how much each lake gets. Emma Township provides a grant. Little Sand Lake

Association pays the rest of the inspection funds needed. The 2023 Allocation for Little Sand was reduced in 2023. We informed our members and asked them to make any donation they could that allowed us to purchase additional hours to ensure that the previous number of hours that we have had for inspections could be maintained.

LSLAA has been paying for a total of 475 hours of inspections.  
In 2022 we paid \$2620 for the inspection ( 118 hours at \$22/hour).

In 2023 we paid \$5575 for inspections. We needed to pay more due to a combination of factors. The hourly rate was increased to \$25/hour. In addition the state and county funding was reduced and the township grant was reduced.

The data was looked at and determined which lakes are the most vulnerable. We need to keep in mind that if Big Sand gets an AIS, we are at greater risk.

In 2022, we had a total budget of \$6200 for admin, and inspections. We would presume the launch inspections would increase. What does this really mean? The cost in our budget is \$83/member. Launch inspections are \$56/member. We are also trying to build up our AIS emergency and contingency fund.

We are able to meet the budget demands due to the very generous donations of our Lake Association members. Thank you for the generosity of our members!

Discussion: Should Little Sand continue to pay supplemental funding to get the 475 hours in inspection hours? What is the value for the cost of the inspections?

**Annual dues:**

We would like to raise the dues to \$50 a year. We will continue to accept the generous donations.

Motion to raise the dues from \$35 to \$50 effective January 1, 2024.

John Kisser moved to raise the dues to \$50.

Janet McMillen seconded the motion.

Motion approved. Our dues will increase to \$50/year.

Maggi Yerkes moved that we add an addendum to the motion. Maggi moved that the dues year be amended to run from January to December ( the calendar year) immediately.

Diane Johson seconded the motion.

We need to vote on the addendum first.

Motion approved.

### **Committees and Appreciation:**

We are very grateful to the many people that volunteer for the many duties and responsibilities that make Little Sand the quality lake and member association that it is.

Some special thank you's to the following people:

Luanne O'Neill	Newsletter ( officially retiring from the newsletter).
Jacob Nollette	Website
Karen Netland	Directory
Christine Hobrough	E-mail Coordinator
Randi Herda	Facebook
Larry and Renee Bexell	County Road 50 Pickup
Mark and Nancy Doda	Lake Launch Kiosk and Fishing Contest

### **Other Committee recognitions:**

Social Committee  
Phyllis Trutna, Chair  
Dar Swanson  
Karen Odegard  
Vicki Johnson

### **Healthy Lakes and Water Monitoring:**

Wayne Swanson  
Larry Odegard  
Mark Doda  
Marshall Howe  
Rob and MaJeana Hallstrom  
Chris Sorenson- new volunteer in 2023

### **Loon Liasons:**

Dick Peters and Roger Hochsprung for the platforms  
Steve and Phyllis Trutna for regular monitoring

### **Social Gatherings:**

4th of July Boat Parade:

Adam Goebel- the boat parade is a tradition every year. This year it is on July 1 at 11 am. We would like to have a competition. Adam offered to sponsor the parade through his business. He will offer cash prizes for first, second and third place.

Adam and Randi will have their pontoon over by the boat launch. They need judges.



They will put a link on the Facebook page to register for the parade. Once registered, each party will be given a number.

Theme is open but family friendly. We will go counterclockwise this year.

The winner will get a traveling trophy. Thank you to Adam and Randi and NAPA Auto parts!

2023 Annual Party:

The Annual party is August 19, 2023 at the Hallstrom's. There is a sports theme this year! .

The Fishing Contest:

The fishing contest will once again be organized by Mark and Nancy Doda and will be on August 5, 2023

There are other activities that can be found on the social calendar. Some of the activities include coffee and walks.

### **Review of Current Board members and their terms.**

Nomination and Election of Board Members

Christine completed one term and will run again.

Mary Bradley will fill in the remaining term for Sandy Younger.

Karen Netland will step in as Secretary.

Cindy Nollette will run for Vice President

Thom Johson will run for Director at Large

Ben Doda will run for Director at Large

Tony Yerkes moved to approve the slate of candidates.

Vicki Johson seconded the motion.

Motion approved.

**Other Business:**

The directory is available online on the Little Sand Lake website. The directory is password protected. The password is available from the email coordinator at [LittleSandLakeAA@outlook.com](mailto:LittleSandLakeAA@outlook.com).

We always need more volunteers to help maintain the quality and health of our lake and the lake community. If interested in any volunteer opportunity contact our email coordinator at [LittleSandLakeAA@outlook.com](mailto:LittleSandLakeAA@outlook.com)

### Motion to adjourn by Jane Amble

Mark Bradley seconded the motion

The annual meeting of 2023 adjourned at 9:34 am

Presentation by lake member Angela Albee with Adwear specialities. Angela can do apparel, mugs etc. If interested in purchasing Little Sand Lake merchandise contact Angela. Larry and Karen Odegards make custom dock signs. If interested, contact them.

Jacob Nollette was presented with a gift card from the LSLA in appreciation for his work on technology and our website.

A very special thank you to Robb Swanson and Zorbaz for opening early and allowing us to use Zorbaz for our annual meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Nollette , Secretary