

Mission Lakes Association (MLA) Board Meeting  
October 13, 2018

Attendees: Nick Bernier, Julie & Roger Mack, Cheryl Turcotte, Gary Rhode, Ron Hedlund, Barb Woese, Jack Schubert, Rebecca Timmins, Kitri Kylo, Duane Laffrenzen

Financial

Board reviewed cashflow report discussed bank accounts and expenses for this past year and anticipated expenses in the upcoming months.

Nick supplied the group with comprehensive spreadsheets that outlined the financial history surrounding the costs of treatment of Curlyleaf Pondweed (beginning in year 2000 to present) and Eurasian watermilfoil (beginning in year 2008 to present). These starkly show the significant cashflow diminution following the years during which the (MLA) received funds from pulltabs, roughly 40-50K per year. This ended in 2008 when taxes and pulltab manager fees rendered the activity too expensive. In the case of Curlyleaf Pondweed, a large DNR contribution for a study during years 2006 – 2015 ended after that time.

Nick commented that not only did the MLA have more money during previous years, but it also had much more property owner involvement. This fell off when the cashflow tightened.

Cheryl has changed the savings account type from a \$10,000 minimum to a \$1,000 minimum. We have gone below the \$10,000 minimum and have been charged \$10/mo. The bank will be refunding those charges.

Membership

Board reviewed the membership list as provided by Kathy Bernier with the latest information available. It was noted that the names and addresses in red are of those who have quit through any means including death or have moved away. All corrections should be given to Kathy and Nick Bernier.

The group moved into discussions surrounding the committee made up of Duane Laffrenzen, Kitri Kylo, Barb Woese, and Rebecca Timmins which was formed earlier this year to explore new ways to increase association membership and improve cashflow.

Kitri summarized the group's discussions and plans going forward. One idea is to hold a pancake breakfast on the morning of the annual meeting at the Center Township hall. Duane had gathered information about a company out of Iowa that does this. There was discussion on doing the breakfast with a local provider. These plans will have to be coordinated with time allowed for a presentation by Jeff Forester, executive director of MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates, who has tentatively committed to attend our annual meeting on Saturday May 25, 2019 at Center Town Hall.

Much of the membership discussion centered around how to entice more people to be members of the MLA and how to deal with negativity from past efforts.

The MLA Board consensus was that a Lake Improvement District (LID) may be necessary in the future if we continue to be unable to fund our AIS treatment costs thru donations and the diminishing grants available.

Some issues:

- Some lake property owners are now very wary of this as they see it as a tax.
- 60% of owners have to agree to this before an LID can be implemented.
- There is a belief among some owners that chemicals used to treat AIS kill fish. Fish counts available from the DNR at their Lakefinder site over the last few decades speak against this concern.

The membership/fundraising committee will work on contacting some of the people who are not MLA members, but who we think will be amenable to joining. We will not be contacting those who we think will reactive negatively. We believe a positive momentum and education will be the key to these people getting on board in the future.

This committee met directly following the board meeting.

This committee will update the fundraising letter which only went to email addresses this past summer. The updated letter will be sent to the full list including those for whom we have only mail addresses.

#### Miscellaneous lake activities

- Veliger testing was negative and no zebra mussels have been found on docks and lifts removed this fall by Mission Dock Service.
- A lakeshore property owner cleared the beaver dam to allow the creek to flow again.
- Nick will ask the DNR to spray the creek area as they have already sprayed the rearing pond to reduce the impact of the hybrid cattails that have proliferated there.
- Nick will take in the buoys with the assistance of the staff from Mission Dock Service (they are AIS certified).
- Secchi readings were as expected during a summer with a quick spring warmup causing diminished water clarity and significant algae in the Lower Lake later in the season.
- This year the county allotted a maximum of 100 hours of boat inspection for each of our 2 public accesses. It is unknown how much impact 200 total hours of inspection will have in preventing the spread of new AIS to our lakes.

#### Miscellaneous

Ron has sent website updates to the site manager. He and Jack plan to work on offloading Ron's website duties to Jack.

May 25, 2019 will be the next annual meeting.

The next board meeting will be held in April. Date TBA.