

Muskellunge Lake Association
Board of Directors
Eagle River Airport
Meeting Minutes-October 22, 2016



Call to Order and Welcome: President, Mike Newmeister

Present ✓

President Mike Newmeister	✓	Director John Kurhajec	✓
Vice President Bill Raboin	✓	Director Mark Fouts	✓
Treasurer Roger Johnston	✓	Director Tony Mattson	✓
Secretary Kathleen Pallardy	✓	Director Bob (Huddy) Hodkiewicz	✓
Web Master Jeff Rappold	✓	Director Tom Cerull	✓

Also present was Cathy Higley, Vilas County Invasive Species Coordinator.

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the August, 2016 meeting approved as written.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report (Roger Johnston): Balances are as follows: Membership is at 92 households.

Operational Funds

Lake Improvement Fund	(\$5.61)
Operational Fund	\$2,270.62
MLA Fundraising/Socials	\$2,635.62
Savings Accounts-Balance	\$36.58

Sub Total Operational Funds

\$4,937.21

Investment Certificates

Certificate #441	\$2,735.81
Certificate # 072	\$2,789.00
Certificate # 073	\$2,855.94
Certificate # 440	\$2,731.50

Total All Funds/Investments

\$16,049.46

Committee Reports

Webmaster Report (Jeff Rappold): We saw a big spike in web activity around the time the EVM was noticed, October 10th. Other than that activity has averaged around 190 people over three months.

Boat Landing Report (John Kurhajec): There was discussion on the topic of signage at the boat launch. A suggestion was made to go to the Vilas County Forestry on HWY 45 to make changes on the boat launch signage. We intend to make signage to bring awareness to boaters of the EVM on the lake and

Muskellunge Lake Association
Board of Directors
Eagle River Airport
Meeting Minutes-October 22, 2016



to encourage boaters to avoid those areas. John will look into any restrictions and if the VCF can provide more ample/sturdy signage.

Social Committee (Mimi Johnston):

The 2017 Winter Social will be held the evening of Saturday, January 28th at the Eagle River Inn. More information forth coming. Invitations will be sent end of December, early January. Note, there has been a change of ownership and remodeling at Eagle River Inn.

Aerator Report (Bob Hodkiewicz, Huddy) We need to schedule a date to install the aerator this season and are targeting January 7th. Huddy will watch the weather to determine if the date needs to change. Jeff will send out email notification for volunteers.

Water Quality (Jeff Rappold): The final data for the year was entered into the DNR tracking tool. Jeff collected 4 reports this year. Secchi disk reading on October 2nd was at 3 feet. The water still has summer water conditions. DNR conclusion is that our lake is a eutrophic lake. There is typically some oxygen depletion in summer with plant over growth. Pike, bass, perch flourish in this environment. There was discussion over monitoring the oxygen levels in the lake. Huddy has done some of this in the past and has the oxygen reader. Jeff noted that next summer he will monitor the oxygen levels along with the normal water clarity monitoring as the DNR provides a location to track oxygen levels as well.

Huddy noticed the DNR had people doing shock testing three times this year and that ML may be included in a Governor Walker grant associated which stocks walleye in those north woods lakes where they are not naturally reproduced. Tom noted also planting 1 musky per acre. These are pellet fed rather than minnow fed. Mike will contact Steve Gilbert to see what plans the DNR has for stocking. 272 musky fingerling were stocked into the lake this summer. In 2014 1,348 walleyes were stocked. More information can be found on the DNR website.

Old Business:

2016 CBCW Grant

There was discussion as to whether our MLA would be interested in learning more about the Wisconsin Shoreline Initiative. John Richter is involved in the initiative. Hunter, Nelson, and Plum Lake associations are also involved. The main goal of the initiative is to try to bring back local control of our lakes as what works in the southern part of the state may not work up north. Jeff indicated their mission statement may not be clear. We need to determine what the dues are. Mike will invite John Richter to our next meeting so that we can learn more the initiative.

Mike will reach out to Judie to request getting on one of the upcoming Town of Cloverland meetings.

New Business:

Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) in ML: An evasive plant species was noticed on the lake for the first time. EWM has recently been found when in early October Mark noticed an unusual weed over by the boat landing and notified Jeff. Subsequently there was also some found in the center by the rock pile.

Muskellunge Lake Association
Board of Directors
Eagle River Airport
Meeting Minutes-October 22, 2016



Samples were immediately harvested and sent to the DNR who confirmed it was EVM. A meeting with Kevin Gauthier and Cathy Higley of the DNR was scheduled for October 3rd. Mike Newmeister, Bob Hodkiewicz, Jeff Rappold, and Mark Fouts attended. A number of options were discussed including a DNR Detection and Response Grant and a point intercept study by the DNR to determine exactly where and to what extent EVM may be present on the lake. Ken stressed the importance of maintaining a healthy native plant community and the fact that our lake has a strong, healthy diversity of plant life which will help to provide competition to the EVM from spreading. Native plants are our friends! Fortunately the DNR has some financial resources to do invasive studies of lakes with EVM.

Cathy shared the results of a 10 lake study in northern Wisconsin where there have been moderate invasion including Boot Lake. The problem is starting to resolve itself in terms of taking an aggressive approach. Boot Lake used weevils (not very successfully). The studies suggest after having an initial explosion (up to 30%) it may just go down by itself since the study showed that in the longer run those lake associations who had chosen aggressive responses end up in the same place as those who had done nothing all. None of the lakes in the study, however, match our lake because of the phosphorous in our lake. The board requested that Cathy provide a list of lakes with a similar chemistry to ours.

It was proposed that next Spring/Summery the DNR will do a Point Intercept Study across the lake, create a grid and note where they find the EVM. They will do this study only once. We can anticipate over next 3 or 4 years a moderate to heavy infestation. Although most likely we will never be able to get rid of it completely, Kevin is of the opinion that since we already have such a healthy plant life it may keep the EVM in check. There is emergency grant money and long term grant money we can apply for.

Cathy shared the various grants and pools of money available including the Surface Water Grant Money funded through gas tax. There is just over \$2M available every year across the state. For lakes that have had AIS for long periods of time there is a maintenance fund as well. After 2019 there will be changes to how this money is administered but nothing will change until then.

Response and Protection Grants can be applied for at any point in time and we will have up to two years to utilize the funds once granted. The maximum available is available is \$20,000. That requires a 25% local match. All grants require match. The match can be a cash match or volunteer labor match such as AIS monitoring, CBCW, etc. These grants are year round, we can apply at any time. Lake Management Plan or Established Population grant have deadlines of February 1st.

Cathy recommended using a consultant to complete the grant form and distributed a list of consultants in the area including but not limited to:

Many Waters, Iron River, MI

Onterra, DePere, WI

White Water Associates, Inc., Amasa, MI

Muskellunge Lake Association
Board of Directors
Eagle River Airport
Meeting Minutes-October 22, 2016



There was consideration given to applying for the lake management grant by February which will help with a maintenance plan after the DNR point intercept study. Diver assisted suction harvesting in which scuba divers and a vacuum hose are used to tease out the EVM was also discussed. This can be a much quicker way of hand pulling. There are a couple of consultants in the area that provide that service. Consideration however needs to be made to the fact that EVM does auto fragmenting certain times of the year which means it breaks apart easily and could then spread. EVM tends to do more fragmenting in the fall so it best to leave the plants alone at that time.

There was discussion about using herbicides however it was also noted that application of herbicides can also negatively affect native plants and fish life. To minimize this affect application is targeted early in the season, before Memory Day, when most of the native plants are not out as much yet. There is active research being conducted on the affects of herbicides application on fisheries and invertebrate on the lakes.

Citizen Lake Monitoring can be used to determine the population of weevils on the lake. Cathy will research to see what the best time of year is to study the natural population on our lake.

Tom Cerull asked if any of the other lakes in the 10 year study have similar lake chemistries as Muskellunge. Cathy will research it. Cathy indicated that recently some of the lakes using more aggressive methods have been learning toward whole lake treatments. There is herbicide that is EVM specific, however the timing of when it is applied does have an affect. Cost estimates for maintenance treatment, average request is \$75,000 for Established Population Control.

John raised the topics of whether it makes sense to divert the boat monitoring (200 hours last summer) funds in anticipation of having to fund maintenance. However, when applying for grants the DNR tends to look favorably on those associations which already have active participation lake health. CBCW cut off is December 10th.

Suggested next steps:

DNR conduct Point Intercept Survey-Spring/Summer 2017

Go through consultant selection process to choose consultant

Apply for Response and Detection grant

Work with consultant to determine plan

The Town of Cloverland created a town wide lake management plan. Cathy suggested we may want to contact the Town of Cloverland. If will be requesting funds there is always a match and the Town of

Cloverland may be interested in funding part of the bill, especially as MLA residents pay a good portion of the taxes in Cloverland.

Muskellunge Lake Association
Board of Directors
Eagle River Airport
Meeting Minutes-October 22, 2016



Cathy noted that other lake associations such as Lake Buckataban have been very active in lake monitoring and water management including CBCW. They found EVM and conducted some diver assisted vacuum suctioning but did not use herbicides.

Cathy will send some suggested language for notifying the lake association membership. There was discussion about informing members via the newsletter but also directly them to the website for further information and links to research. Jeff will create a separate section on the MLA website dedicated to the AIS discussion.

There was discussion about an application called [Ed Map](#) where a boater, when finding EWM or any evasive species, could take a picture send it to the app which has a verifier to identify the plant and also provides the GPS coordinates of where the picture was taken. Cathy will send more information on the application.

Motion made and carried to apply for CBCW.

Kevin indicated that in the state 50% of the lakes with public boat launches have an evasive species.

The next board meeting is scheduled for January 28th at the Eagle River Airport. There may be one early December as well contingent on the DNR response to the EVM.

Meeting Adjournment