Big Pine Lake-POA

Summer Membership Meeting

Saturday, July 20th, 1:30PM

Big Pine Chapel

Board Members Present: Sharon Esnough, Mary Lin Gmach, Tom Hubbard, Jerry Low, Mike Moore, Stacey Robin, Wes Thomas, Marie Segar, Dick Weber, Steve Wickham, Sharrell Wright

Members Present: Darwin Beck, David Fisher, Mary & Mark Pietruszewski, Sally & Barry Sunstrom, Bill Esnough, Vern Watters, Ron Frehner, Bill Smith, Lori Hutchings, Laurie Ardner, Mark & Karen Aho, Julie Wickham, Abe & Lori LaLande, Rich Segar, Sue Low

The meeting started at 1:33PM.

Mike Moore Provided introductions and announced Mary Lin Gmach is stepping down from the Board. A brief description of board responsibilities was described.

Sharon Esnough provided the treasurers report:

* We have $3678 in checking
* We have $36010.98 in CD
* As of today we have 100 paying members (out of approximately 175)
* Expenses for 2024:
  + Minnesota lakes and Rivers Membership $1010.00
  + Liability Insurance $377
  + ACLARA membership $25
  + Carp Fence $320
  + Garrison Fire donation $100
  + Chapel rent $150
  + Fishing Contest $400
  + Boat Parade $175

Mike Moore explained the electric fence

* It is located off Cty Rd 10 toward Garrison in a grey shed
* It stops carp between Borden and Round Lake
* Was originally installed to protect the rice paddys
* They try to time when it is turned on to prevent carp from getting through, but also allowing other fish to spawn
* It was installed in the early 1990’s

Dick Weber Discussed our relationship with Minnesota Lakes and Rivers, as well as the Lake Steward program.

* If we have your correct email, you should also be receiving the MLR newsletters. (check your junk mail if you have not seen them)
* Dick purchased 10 Lake steward Shoreline restoration guides. You are welcome to have one if you plan to follow the lake steward guidelines to restore your shoreline
* Tom Hubbard has trained and been approved to become an evaluator for the Shoreline Lake Steward Program. Contact Tom if you would like him to look at your shoreline and let you know what would need to be done to become a Lake Steward.
* You can learn more through MLR: <https://mnlakesandrivers.org/lake-associations/lake-association-programs/lake-steward/>

Tom Hubbard presented on the status of the Dam:

* The Dam is on Toms property at the tip of the south bay
* The Dam was originally installed in the 1920’s and has been altered throughout the years
* The Damn behaves like a spillway whe the water is high, but water leaks around the edges and through in some areas when the water is low
* Tom Hubbard and Mike Moore met with the DNR
* The DNR is recommending a small rock arch rapids installation at the site of the damn. The project proposal is attached. Key points:
  + The DNR and Aitkin County Soil & Water would assist in applying for a grant that would cover 90% of the project. Tom would request the lake association pay the required 10% match
  + The current engineering costs are up to $39000 and a permit would be $1200
  + This option would allow for fish passage
  + This option is estimated to last ‘a lifetime’
* Other options mentioned:
  + Tom to repair the dam structure on his own. His rough estimate was $1500 for concrete and $1200 for a permit
  + Shore up the dam as it is with rocks strategically placed in front of the current dam
* Much discussion took place.
* Ron Frehner made a motion for the membership to approve up to $7000 for the board to choose how to spend toward the repair of the dam. Mike Moore seconded. The motion passed with no objections.
* Tom Hubbard asked for a show of hands of who present preferred the MN DNR design option. Many hands went up.
* Tom Hubbard asked for a show of hands of who present preferred him to fix it on his own. Dick Weber and Tom Hubbard raised their hands
* It was noted the dam is on Tom Hubbard’s property and the decision on how to maintain or repair it is ultimately up to him.

David Fisher asked to speak regarding his concerns of boating and PWC activity on the lake and the danger and shoreline erosion resulting from them.

* David has observed wake boats and PWFs exiting the narrow bay into the main lake too close to the shore at a blind intersection
* Frequent dangerous encounters of near misses have been observed.
* speeds exceeding the no wake within 150 ft has been observed regularly
* Other members also expressed their concerns
* David said he has spoken to the parents when it is kids involved, and the parents have always been responsive, but the behaviors seem to return in short time
* David is asking the association to assist. He would rather work with the families and the lake association to provide education and clarify the laws then involve the Sherriff
* discussion pursued
* Solutions mentioned:
  + Setting out buoy markers 150’ from shore
  + Emailing education links
  + Adding information to newsletter
* The Board said they would continue to explore avenues to provide education to lake property owners
* David Fisher volunteered to join the board and assist with this endeavor
* Mike Moore said he would explore getting permission for buoys

The Meeting adjourned at 2:47PM

Respectfully submitted by Marie Segar