

FTLPOA BOARD MEETING

April 25, 2020

9:30 am via Conference Call

Board Members Present: Scott Schnuckle, President, Ron Nypan, Vice President, Gary Ziehmman, Treasurer, Chuck Salter, Lisa Kajer, Brian Sams, Ron Markfelder, Dennis Smith, Jon Scott Johnson, Marie Hilliard, Paul Baker and Mary Thibert-Secretary. Doug Copley was absent

Visitors: Tom Anderson and Chris Ziehmman from the LID.

Scott Schnuckle called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

- 1. Secretary's Report:** Mary Thibert submitted minutes for the Fish Trap Lake Property Owner's Association (FTLPOA) Fall Board Meeting. No edits were necessary. Lisa Kajer motioned for the minutes to be accepted. Chuck Salter seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- 2. Treasurer's Report:** Gary Ziehmman submitted the Treasurer's report. For the checking account for the period from 1/1/19-12/31/19 income received from Dues, WEB Page Ads and Interest totaled \$6,031.59. Income from Other Revenue, Endowment, Grant from Endowment, and Transfer from Endowment Saving totaled \$5,920.00. The totaled income was \$11,951.59. Total expenses from this period was \$6,508.90. Other Disbursements from Transfers to Endowment Saving, Transfer to Endowment Initiative Foundation totaled \$5,920.00. Total debits for this period was \$12,428. Period ending balance of \$13,979.66. The Endowment Fund Saving Account from the same period had the beginning balance of \$3.98. After deposits, withdrawals and interest earned period ending balance totaled \$5.59. The total balance from all accounts was \$13,985.25.

For the checking account for the period from 1/1/20-4/23/20 income received from Dues, WEB Page Ads and Interest totaled \$1,752.45. Income from Other Revenue, Endowment, Grant from Endowment, and Transfer from Endowment Saving totaled \$875.00. The totaled income was \$2,627.45. Total expenses from this period was \$1,206.00. Other Disbursements from Transfers to Endowment Saving, Transfer to Endowment Initiative Foundation totaled \$875.00. Total debits for this period was \$2,081.00. Period ending balance of \$14,526.11.

The Endowment Fund Saving Account from the same period had the beginning balance of \$5.59. After deposits, withdrawals and interest earned period ending balance totaled \$880.79. The total balance from all accounts was \$15,406.90.

Current year contributions to the Initiative Foundation Fish Trap Lake Endowment Fund (IFEF) is \$875.00. Cumulative transfers to the Endowment Fund since inception is \$33,655.00. The current value of the Endowment Fund is \$42,672.68.

Total membership for the FTLPOA for 2019 was 215. There are 329 property owners (PO). Membership for 2020 at this date is 127. 22 PO have prepaid for 2021. Gary reported there will be several expenses in the near future. \$250 to RMB Labs for water sampling, \$250 to the Newsletter Editor, Secretary and Treasurer and up to \$500 for beaver control. The Treasurer's report was accepted by the board.

- 3. Old Business**
 - A. Water levels and beaver management:** The water level was extremely high last fall. Brian Sams has been working aggressively since last August and with the DNR to keep Fish Trap Lake Creek (FTLC) open. He was able to assume Bruce Tower's cat tail removal permit for

- \$35.00/year. He and Steve Backowski, of Morrison County (MC) Public Works removed many cat tails last fall and this spring from Fish Trap Lake (FTL) and FTLC. A large beaver dam under the bridge on Azure Road was also removed. 3 beavers have been removed as well. FTL water level dropped a significant 14 inches since fall and is almost at normal levels.
- B. Railroad Update:** Paul Baker updated the board on the rail road crossing in Lincoln. Last fall Camp Ripley and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Rail Road (BNSF) entered into an agreement to upgrade the rail lines at Camp Ripley. This upgrade interferes with the proposed Veteran's Trail. Because of this new contract with Camp Ripley, Steve Backowski has proposed another offer to BNSF last week asking for an additional \$150,000 for maintenance. Paul figures it will cost the BNSR over \$500,000 to close the crossing. BNSF now has to determine if it is beneficial for them to close this crossing. Jeff Hardy informed Scott Schnuckle that Scandia Valley Township continues to support the closing of the crossing.
- C. Initiative Foundation Endowment Fund:** See the Treasurer's Report for the financial report. Scott Schnuckle and Gary Ziehmman proposed to use some of this funding for another water study by Blue Water Science. Tom Anderson reported the zebra mussels veliger's level have decreased dramatically in one year. He was supportive of another water study because the last study was done before FTL had zebra mussels. He is also concerned of the erosion to the lake shore from the high water levels and how this is effecting the lake. The last Blue Water Science analysis cost approximately \$2,200. Scott will contact Blue Water Science for an estimate. FTLPOA members will need to approve this usage of the funds and will be addressed at the Annual meeting or virtual survey.
- D. Website/Newsletter:** Chris Ziehmman reported 23 businesses have paid to advertise in the Newsletter this year. She is expecting 3 more businesses to sign contracts totaling 26. This is 2 less than the previous year. She does not expect any changes or costs in the website's format. It will be the usual upload of information which she is able to do. The Spring Board Meeting minutes will be posted after the newsletter is mailed. All items for the newsletter are due by May 15th.
- E. Lake Shamineau Project Update:** Lake Shamineau has extremely high water levels. Many houses/cabins are being destroyed. At one point by Auger's Resort there was approximately 4 feet of water on the road. A ditch was dredged south of Hwy 203 to drain water from the south end of the lake. On the NE side they are still pumping out water. They plan to build a permanent pumping station by the end of this year.
- F. Aquatic Invasive Species Updates (AIS):** Tom Anderson stated the zebra mussel's levels are low. Brian Sams stated some PO have concerns that there is an increase of Curly Leaf Pondweed in the NW corner of Four Pines Bay. Tom stated there are several other small areas of Curly Leaf Pondweed throughout the lake but in the past the DNR won't let these areas be treated. Last year 8.5 acres were treated. Lake Restoration, RMB Labs and the DNR work together to determine how much Curly Leaf Pondweed will be treated and when that treatment can be applied. Tom has not received the report at this time. The LID received a small grant from the DNR for treatment costs. There are several bogs floating on FTL. FTL has a small percentage compared to Lake Alexander. One large bog is by the thoroughfare, and it may have lodged there. There are 3 smaller bogs floating about the lake. Even though cat tails are an AIS, they are protected by the DNR. Bog removable can be difficult and costly and there are regulations concerning their disposal. In order to remove a bog an individual needs a permit. One company charges \$175/hr per boat.

Several boats are required to remove large bogs. Jeff Hardy, owner of Fish Trap Lake Campground (FTLC) told Scott Schnuckle he would cut up and remove the bog if it was brought to his landing. Jeff did not wish to apply for a permit. He prefers FTLPOA to acquire the permit from the DNR. One board member posed the question does the LID have jurisdiction over bogs because it is an AIS? No one knew for sure but it's likely and we will verify. Tom stated that changing of LID's powers is an extensive process and would need the approval of the FTLPOs. It may increase PO's taxes. Last year Lake Alexander spent approximately \$100,000 to remove a bog that was the size of city block. Chuck Salter thought FTLPOA could get a permit and use monies from the Initiative Fund to remove bogs. Several members thought the LID should be responsible for bog removal. Several board members offered to help move bogs to Hardy's landing. Chuck said he would contract Amy Kowalzek about acquiring a permit.

- G. Country Grant Status:**
- a. Boat Cleaning System:** Chuck Salter reported the FTL grant proposal for \$33,000 for the CD3 Cleaning Station was not approved by MC. He will speak to Amy Kowalski to discover why the grant was denied. He speculated MC may want FTLPOA to contribute more monies to this project. He also plans to discuss options with Amy Kowalzek and may apply for the cheaper CD3 cleaning station next year. Several board members felt there will be less grant money available next year. Gary Ziehm reported Deb Gruber has sent emails to MC businesses informing them that due to the Covid-19 MC will decrease the penalty if someone is unable to pay their taxes in May.

b. Other Grants: The QUAD Lakes Association may not exist as QUAD Lakes anymore. It has been difficult for the Association to meet and to focus on specific issues.

Each Lake Association is focusing on their concerns for their individual lakes. Shamineau's focus is high water levels and Lake Alexander's focus is zebra mussels.

- H. Board Duties and Projects:** Ron Nypan will back up Gary Ziehm, as Treasurer. The following board members terms expire in June; Lisa Kajer, Chuck Salter, Brian Sams and Mary Thibert. Lisa Kajer is not planning to renew. Both Chuck and Brian plan on renewing. Mary Thibert is undecided at this time.

4. New Business:

- A. Covid-19 impact on the upcoming Annual Meeting:** Scott Schnuckle states that the various models for this virus vary but the best estimates suggest that there will be a surge at the end of June early July. The board discussed delaying the meeting to late July or August, having a virtual meeting, have a shorter meeting, and no guest speakers. Both the LID and FTLPOA Annual meeting typically occur on the same date. At this time the MC meetings are all virtual. Virtual meetings require visual, Zoom or Skype capabilities. Zoom is limited to 40 minutes and Goggle has limits of 12 individuals for the free versions of the software. There needs to be a teleconference line for the association. Ron Nypan volunteered to look at virtual options and Chuck Salter will check Microsoft teams. No date for the Annual meeting was selected at this time. The meeting date needs to be posted at Scandia Valley Township building at least 3 days prior. There will be a boat parade on July 4th. Meet in the bay of FTLC at 12N.

Chuck Salter motioned to adjourn the board meeting. Lisa Kajer seconded the motion. The motion carried and the spring board meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary B. Thibert