

FTLPOA BOARD MEETING

April 17, 2021

9:30 a.m. at Campfire Bay Lodge and Zoom

Call to Order: Scott Schnuckle called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Board members were present physically and by zoom.

Board Members Present: Scott Schnuckle, President, Ron Nypan, Vice President, Gary Ziehmman, Treasurer, Ron Markfelder, Mike Meis, Dennis Smith, Doug Copley, Marie Hilliard, Chuck Salter, Jon Scott Johnson, Paul Baker and Mary Thibert, Secretary.

Absent: Brian Sams.

Guests Present: Chris Ziehmman, David Thibert, Amy Kowalzek and Kathy Johnson.

Secretary's Report: Mary Thibert submitted the secretary's minutes from September 26th, 2020 Fall Fish Trap Lake Property Owner's Association's (FTLPOA) Board Meeting. There were no additions or corrections. Doug Copley motioned to accept the minutes. Ron Nypan seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Gary Ziehmman submitted the Treasurer's report. For the checking account for the period from 1/1/20-12/31/20 the beginning balance was \$13,979.66. Income received from Dues, WEB Page Ads and Interest totaled \$6757.36. Income from Other Revenue, Endowment, Grant from Endowment, and Transfer from Endowment Saving totaled \$7,380.00. The totaled income was \$14,137.36. Total expenses from this period were \$4,445.68. Other Disbursements from Transfers to Endowment Saving, Transfer to Endowment Initiative Foundation totaled \$7,380.00. Total debits for this period were \$11,825.68. Period ending balance of \$16,291.34. The Endowment Fund Saving Account from the same period had the beginning balance of \$5.59. After deposits, withdrawals and interest earned the ending balance totaled \$6.58. The total balance from all accounts was \$16,297.92.

For the checking account for the period from 1/1/21-4/16/21 the beginning balance was \$16,291.34. Income received from Dues, WEB Page Ads and Interest totaled \$1,177.82. Income from Other Revenue, Endowment, Grant from Endowment, and Transfer from Endowment Saving totaled \$500.00. The totaled income was \$1,677.82. Total expenses from this period were \$1,810.96. Other Disbursements from Transfers to Endowment Saving and Transfer to Endowment Initiative Foundation totaled \$500.00. Total debits for this period were \$2,310.96. The period ending balance was \$16,108.20. The Endowment Fund Saving Account from this same period had the beginning balance of \$6.58. After deposits, withdrawals and interest earned the ending balance totaled \$506.66. The total balance from all accounts was \$16,614.86.

Current year contributions to the Initiative Foundation Fish Trap Lake Endowment Fund (IFEFF) is \$500.00. Cumulative transfers to the Endowment Fund since inception is \$37,345.00. The current value of the Endowment Fund is \$62,232.81.

Total membership of the FTLPOA for 2021/122. 2020/219. 2018/213. 26 property owners have prepaid for 2022.

Gary asked the board to approve the following monetary payments of \$250 for the Secretary and Newsletter Editor, \$300 for the Treasurer and \$500 for Creek Monitoring/Beaver Control. Marie Hilliard motioned to approve and Mike Meis seconded the motion, the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Lake Shore Use and Management Discussion with Amy Kowalzek:

- a. Shoreline rules regarding tree removal/inclusion and buffer zones:** Amy Kowalzek reported that Morrison County (MC) in the spring of 2020 adopted a new shoreline ordinance in order to comply with DNR regulations. MC's previous shoreline ordinance was less restrictive and they now have higher standards. There was a change in the zoning districts. In the past, MC had several zoning districts, which consisted of shoreline, residential, commercial and land special protection. Each of these districts had its own specific usage allowances. MC made changes in these classification districts in order to eliminate the need to rezone areas when an individual is requesting a permit. This reclassification now provides more protection to the natural resources. Another change was in the vegetation topographical variations. MC is constantly dealing with violations. They plan to initiate an education campaign for the public to increase the public's knowledge when a permit is required. Board members were concerned that property owners (PO) were cutting down trees, adding rip rap and changing Fish Trap Lake's (FTL) shoreline. According to Amy there is a place for rip rap but the PO must provide documentation when there is an erosion problem. The PO needs to apply for a permit and approval would require the PO to include a minimum of 10 ft of buffer vegetation. Many PO's don't want to do that. MC is trying to protect shorelines by continuing to prohibit any structures within 50 ft from shore by denying impervious surfaces and retaining walls unless there is documented erosion problems which cannot be controlled any other way. Any shoreline alteration whether minor or major requires a permit. MC has a Shoreline Specialist on staff, Galen Gruber, who can provide guidance on developing a design, suggesting native plants and where to purchase these plants. This service is available to all POs by contacting Galen Gruber at MC. Unfortunately, many PO's spend a great deal of money to making changes to their shoreline using a landscaper. They assume a landscaper knows the current shoreline regulations, but many do not. MC does not have a list of landscapers who are licensed or have a permit to do landscaping. The PO is responsible for the permit and will be held accountable. MC is trying to educate offending landscaper but is unable to penalize them. All liability falls on the PO. MC will enforce these ordinances and PO's may have to restore the shoreline to its previous state, if they proceed without approving the project in advance. The Soil and Water Conservation District, led by Shannon Wettstein works very closely with the DNR and the Shoreline Specialists. Permits will be provided to POs who have submitted an application with all the necessary information. Permit requests/approvals are usually done by email. Because MC is trying to maintain the natural shoreline, all vegetation alterations or tree removal now requires a permit. They do not allow any clearing of land without a permit. A PO does not need a permit to remove dead or diseased trees, but MC would like to be notified. Some trees may need to be replaced by the PO. MC has aerial as well as shoreline pictures of FTL properties. These pictures were taken in the summer of 2018. They provide information of what existed before any alterations were

completed. Any unapproved vegetation alterations will be ordered to be repaired to its previous state.

- b. **Rules applicable to additional buildings and trailers:** There are a lot of recreation vehicles (RVs) on FTL and the rules have become more restrictive. Only a relatively few properly permitted properties will be able to maintain additional dwellings or RVs that are out of compliance with the new regulations. The regulations now state if the lot is less than 30,000 square feet, 1 dwelling or RV is allowed. If the lot is equal to or greater than 30,000 square feet, 1 cabin and 1 RV or 2 RVs are allowed. A Duplex lot is defined at 180 feet of shoreline and 50,000 sq. ft. or more of property and enable the owners to have a guest house of 700 sq. ft. or less. If the RV is being used more than 10 days a year a PO needs a permit, a septic plan and a 75 foot set back. No permit is needed for less than 10 days. These regulations are not addressing a camper stored alongside a garage. Because of Covid-19 there are an increased number of RVs on lots around the lake and FTL isn't the only lake experiencing this increase. We are encouraged to send concerns to Amy Kowalzek and she will direct it to the appropriate person. A board member asked if any RVs have been grandfathered in to date and the number permits on the lake. Amy was not certain, so Scott Schnuckle asked for a listing of properties which have legal RV permits.

B. County Grant Status:

- a. **Boat Cleaning System at the Public Landing:** Chuck Salter reported on the CD3 cleaning station. He had applied for a grant for the CD3 station. MC pulled it out of the standard grant applications because of the costs involved and the limited funding available. Amy stated MC Commissioners wanted to have a boat cleaning unit somewhere in MC. They wanted to partner with a lake association but they did not want to own it. Amy and Galen are both very excited about the potential. Pending Board approval, MC will give FTLPOA \$32,500 to purchase the unit if there is an agreement where we maintain the unit (expected to be modest costs) and FTL's LID pays for the software to track utilization and shares the recorded information with them. The plan is that the unit will be installed this summer once approved. Chris Ziehmman expressed concern about liability. Some board members thought the liability would be low because this unit is waterless. FTLPOA carries liability insurance. Gary Ziehmman will send Scott and Chuck the existing liability policy to determine what the added coverage might cost. Chuck thought it would probably be insignificant. Amy stated she won't bring this proposal to the County Board unless FTLPOA is in agreement. Chuck Salter reminded the Board that we were directed by the Association last year to do this. Amy will present this agreement to the MC board on May 4, 2021.
 - b. **Other:** Chris Ziehmman, from the LID reported the LID decided a grant was not needed this year to treat Curly Leaf Pondweed, because the LID has the funds available and only small areas have been treated the past couple of years.
- C. **Railroad Update:** Scott Schnuckle and Paul Baker have been working on negotiations with MC and BNSF regarding the closure of the Lincoln railroad crossing. MC is asking the railroad for \$500,000 to cover related costs and provide funding for a new park. If the railroad agrees, MC will then approve the closing of the crossing. The railroad has no immediate reason to close it. At this time we are patiently waiting for a decision. In the meantime there has been another

train derailment in the upper Midwest. This train was not carrying any oil. Scott or Paul will follow up prior to the fall board meeting if resolution has not been achieved prior to that time.

- D. **Lake Shamineau Project Update:** Amy Kowalzek` reported Shamineau's LID is working with Todd County on removing water from the Lake Shamineau (LS). Presently, water is being pumped out of LS into a ditch. LS's LID will be meeting with engineers next week to determine the location of the pump house. They need Todd County's approval for this project. FEMA has developed a new flood plain which now includes LS. Some PO will need to acquire flood insurance. At this time there is no funding to assist LS with the water damage. With this new mapping to include LS in a flood plain the state could declare it a disaster area and then PO would be eligible for federal funding. Per Amy, pumping water out of LS won't have any long term effect to lake levels because the amount of water pumped out is being regulated accordingly to what is happening downstream. This plan won't provide a stable water level. Fish Trap, Crookneck and Lake Alex are not in the new flood plain.
- E. **Initiative Foundation Endowment Fund:**
- a. **Current Standing:** See the Treasurer's Report.
 - b. **Ideas for use of funds:** Gary Ziehmman proposed a Shoreline Buffer Grant Program. He proposed FTLPOA award a \$500 grant to a FTLPO who wants to create a shoreline erosion barrier on their property. 5 grants up to \$500 each would be available each year. This grant money would not be for rip rap or shoreline restoration but to establish a strip of plants and grasses that would prevent erosion and filter run off into the lake. The grant money would be awarded after the completion of the project. He suggested the following steps for applying for the grant. 1. PO should call Shannon Wettstein at MC Soil and Water who can assist the PO develop a plan. She will help create a design, suggest specific native pollinator plants and where to purchase them. 2. PO would then submit a grant request with the Soil and Water plan and the estimated costs to the FTLPOA. 3. PO completes the work per the above plan. 4. PO applies for grant funds by submitting the copy of the Soil and Water District plan along with final invoices and receipts for the work completed. 5. A Board member will inspect the completed project for the final approval of grant funds. 2 or 3 Board members could oversee and coordinate this project. The total amount of funding for these grants would be \$2500/year and would be on a first come first serve basis. Jon Scott Johnson and Mary Thibert volunteered to lead this project. Scott motioned to approve this plan and volunteers. Ron Markfelder seconded the motion, the motion carried.
- F. **Website/Newsletter:** Chris Ziehmman stated at this time she has 22 paid advertisers – two of which are new. On the average there are 24-26 advertisers. Chris reported there were 1667 hits on the website. This is an increase. 3,500 pages were viewed with an average of 2 pages.
- G. **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Update:** Chris reported for the LID. An article in the Brainerd paper an experiment by the DNR on Pelican Lake, where they are using copper sulfate to kill zebra mussels. It is expensive and it only kills the adults. The LID is working with the DNR and Lake Restoration to treat Curly Pondweed. A delineation vegetation survey will be completed this year versus a point intercept study. Due to the expense a delineation vegetation survey has not been done for 4 years. The LID hopes to increase the number of locations treated this year. Treatment will begin in mid to late May depending on water temperatures.
- H. **Water Levels and Beaver Management.** Brian Sams submitted his report. Several beavers have been removed by professional trappers and compensated \$60 per beaver for their work as

authorized by the FTLPOA board last fall. Brian has removed 2 small beaver dams. Sand has accumulated in the creek. It may need to be dredged in order to keep the water flowing. The area under the bridge is clear. Water levels are normal for this time of year.

New Business:

A. Covid-19 Impact on the Upcoming 2021 Annual Meeting:

Due to Covid-19 and some slowdown of the vaccinations programs the Board opted to have the Annual Meeting in July instead of June. The meeting can be held outside weather permitting. Gary suggested the Park has a pavilion with an overhang that could be used if it is raining. The Annual Meeting of the FTLPOA was scheduled for July 17, 2021 at 9:30 am. The LID will hold their meeting prior at 9:00 am. A Board Meeting will follow the annual meeting. It will be determined if the meetings will have Zoom access. A board member suggested the Bylaws changes need to be signed, dated and put on the website.

Adjournment: The FTLPOA Board meeting adjourned at 11 am.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary B Thibert