

**Please note: The minutes that were printed in the mailed newsletter to paid association members last week reported an erroneous statement about 40 dead northern. It was a regrettable oversight and we apologize for any problems this may have caused.**

## **FTLPOA BOARD MEETING**

**September 25, 2021**

**9:30 a.m. Campfire Bay**

**Board Members Present:** Ron Nypan, Vice President, Gary Ziehmman, Treasurer, Ron Markfelder, Mike Meis, Doug Copley and Mary Thibert, Secretary.

**Board Members by Zoom:** Scott Schnuckle, President, Paul Baker and Marie Hilliard,

**Board Members Absent:** Brian Sams, Chuck Salter, Mary Hodges and Jon Scott Johnson.

**Guests:** David Thibert

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

**1. Secretary's Report:** Mary Thibert submitted the Secretary's minutes from the July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Fish Trap Lake Property Owner's Association's (FTLPOA) Annual Meeting. There were no additions or corrections. Gary Ziehmman motioned to accept the minutes. Mike Meis seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**2. Treasurer's Report:** Gary Ziehmman submitted the Treasurer's report. The total balance from all accounts was \$18,110.57. Current year contributions to the Initiative Foundation Fish Trap Lake Endowment Fund (IFEFF) is \$2,950.00. The current value of the Endowment Fund is \$70,395.87. Total membership of the FTLPOA for 2021/216; 2020/219; 2019/216; 2018/213 and 2017/212. 80 property owners (PO) have prepaid for 2022.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

### **3. Old Business:**

**A. Railroad Crossing Update:** Paul Baker wants to thank everyone who attended the Scandia Valley Township public hearing on the railroad crossing closure. There was a large turnout supporting the closure of the crossing. Morrison County's (MC) Board voted to close the crossing at their monthly meeting. The crossing will most likely be closed by the end of the year after an agreement between MC and the railroad is reached. At this time there are no issues in this process. Gary Ziehmman pointed out Scandia Valley Township will receive \$300,000 from MC to drill a new well. Lincoln Hills Road, Lincoln Hills Circle, Lincoln Beach Road, Birch Acres Road and Timber Lane will all be repaved this fall.

**B. CD3 Boat Cleaning Station Update:** Because Chuck Salter was unable to attend the Board Meeting he submitted his update to Scott Schnuckle, who reported the CD3 station should be in place today. Scott was not sure when the software will be installed. Chuck offered to write an article on the CD3 station for the Fall Newsletter. Scott Schnuckle and Chuck Salter both thought they had Oak Wilt on their islands. After the islands were inspected by Tim Stai, the DNR Forester for our area, it was determined the trees were not infected with oak wilt. Chuck's trees were verified to be infected by the twolined

chestnut borer which also likes to prey on oak trees stressed by drought. Watering your oak trees during a drought is the most effective way to prevent them from dying in the presence of this insect.

**C. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Update:** Ron Napan attended a University of Minnesota (U of M) video workshop this fall. Many seminars were offered and Ron chose the following 3 seminars to view: Cattails, Zebra Mussels and Spiny Water Flea (SWF). Ron learned there are 3 different types of cattails. One is a native cattail which has broad leaves, a hybrid cattail and an invasive species from Europe which has narrow leaves. The hybrid cattails grow in thick mats which are so tight fish are unable to swim through. They are taller than the other 2 species. Even though these cattails are a hybrid they are protected by the DNR. The U of M is conducting research to determine if native cattails will grow if holes or paths are cut into these hybrid cattail stands. Several board members speculated whether the U of M research team or DNR could inspect the cattails on FTL and identify which cattails stands are native or invasive. The DNR isn't trying to eliminate the hybrid cattail but mitigate it. Curly leaf pondweed (CLPW) is not a native plant. Its growth depends on the light it receives during the winter and early spring. The more light it receives means more growth. With increased growth of CLPW the native weed species suffer and decrease. It appears there were increase numbers of CLPW on FTL this year. The U of M is researching the effects of low dose copper on zebra mussels. This research is being done on Pelican Lake near Brainerd and Lake Minnetonka. They have discovered that copper kills veligers but they haven't determined how it effects native plants. POs who have removed their docks and boats this year are reporting less zebra mussels on their equipment. Ron Napan stated zebra mussels don't appear to like aluminum. They prefer steel and tires. SWF like clean water. They are clear creatures with black eyes and spines on their backs. Fish will not eat them. The SWF cling to fishing lines. They do not attach to anchor ropes. They eat the small zooplankton and this negatively effects the perch, walleyes and northern fish populations. Approximately 30 to 40 lakes in MN have SWF. SWF have not been found in lakes in the southern part of the state. The most Southern Lake with SWF is Lake Mille Lacs. Some Lake Associations have donated to this research center. Ron wants the FTLPOA to be proactive with the prevention of AIS and less reactive. Scott Schnuckle plans to invite someone from this research group to FTLPOA Annual meeting or the Spring Board meeting. He questioned whether the FTLPOA could ask them for support and if they could do a survey on FTL. Some board members believe the DNA takes years before they act on any research.

**D. Lakeshore Rules Compliance Observations:** Scott reported POs are being observant of other PO's lakeshore compliance activities because several POs have reported concerns to MC. Ron Nypan stated compliance has improved but after the fact variance approval continues to occur. He also stated some RVs have been removed but unfortunately a few have returned. Some board members were concerned POs were blindsided by these new shoreline ordinances and questioned which POs receives the newsletter. Gary clarified all POs get a Spring Newsletter but the Fall Newsletter is mailed only to paid members of the FTLPOA. Mike Meis reported FTLPOA's Bylaws state all POs on FTL are members of the Association. Scott will have Chuck Salter look at the Bylaws.

**E. Lake Shamineau Project Update:** Gary Ziehmman reported there is no new information available regarding this project.

**F. Initiative Foundation Endowment Funds:**

**a. Current Standing:** Gary reported on the status of the funds in his Treasury Report. There are several Lake Shore Buffer Grants in progress.

**b. Ideas for The Use of Funds:** One board member asked if IFEFs could be used to manage weeds. Mike Meis proposed another idea. Other Lake Associations have an Outreach Program for boating safety. He proposed funds could be used to reimburse application fees to individuals who take and successfully complete the on line course on boating safety. The fee for the on line course is \$25. According to MN law, an individual has to be 17 years old to operate a personal water craft (PWC). If individuals under 17 years wish to operate a PWC by law they need to complete and pass the boating safety course. This program could be an incentive for individuals under 17 to obtain this certificate. The reimbursement would be limited to only PO's immediate family. Gary stated this grant could be covered using FTLPOA's funds. Mike Meis motioned upon successful completion of the Personal Water Craft and Boating Safety course an individual, who is an immediate family member of a FTL PO will be reimbursed the \$25 application fee. Gary Ziehm seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**G. Water Levels and Beaver Management:** Some POs have expressed concerns on FTL's water level. The water level is affected by the dam. Brian Sams is not adjusting the dam. A question from a PO was posed to Ron Nypan "Why does Brian get to decide about cattail and beaver removal?" Scott Schnuckle stated Brian has a permit from the DNR to manage the cattails. David Thibert mentioned MC removed blockage caused by beavers from under the bridge on Azure road 3 times this summer.

#### **4. New Business**

**A. Floating Weed Management.** Scott Schnuckle discussed his concerns regarding floating celery weed (CW). CW is a native plant and is considered valuable to the lake and fishery. Scott believes there is a connection with low water levels and the high amount of floating CW. He hypothesized low water level and high winds causes the CW to be uprooted. It then floats on the top of the water and collides with growing vegetation and clogs the water way. Some bays on FTL have so much floating weed it is making it difficult to launch boats. Two POs in Scott's bay, Mark Ruffino and Ron Mash, both have approached Scott and asked if anything can be done. There are machines which can cultivate the celery weed and remove it, but they cost approximately \$85,000. Harvested CW makes fantastic compost. Floating CW levels varies year to year. In the past 16 years Scott recalls only 4 times when it was a major issue like this year. He wondered if IFEF could be used to clear out clogged areas. The issue will be explored further and no action was taken.

**B. Warning Buoys:** Several POs have hit large rocks while boating. Several POs and board members are aware of several rocks which aren't mark by a buoy. In the past, requests were made, but not acted upon. Paul Baker volunteered to inform the Sheriff's water patrol deputy Karl Kleman and request that they are marked next year. A permit needed to place a buoy.

**C. DNR Fisheries Study:** Scott Schnuckle reported the DNR is using data from FTL to research the impact zebra mussels have on the walleye population. Earlier this year the DNR conducted a fish survey using the gill net method and this fall will conduct another via electro stunning. A gill net is used when they wish to survey deeper water because the electro method isn't as effective. The Board discussed it does not like the use of the gill net because it kills the fish. After netting the fish, the DNR takes their samples from the caught fish, slit their bellies and dump the remains in the middle of the lake. Paul reported he has seen many beautiful fish killed. He is pushing hard for the DNR not to use this method. Mike Flanagan, a PO, has been working with Eric Altena, who is from the DNR. Mike is looking for a board member to volunteer to work with Mike and Eric. Paul Baker volunteered. It has been determined the walleye and perch populations have decreased on FTL.

**D. Other Business:** Mary Thibert reported while walking on Fish Trap Lake Drive another PO informed her he had just seen 3 wolves on Hoyer Bay Road. Board Members stated wolves have been at Camp Ripley for 8-10 years. There are 2 packs and it is not uncommon for them to travel to this area. A board member suggested an article should be written for the Newsletter to alert POs. Marie Hilliard volunteered to write the article.

**5. Date for the Spring Board Meeting:** April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a. m. at Campfire Bay Resort.

**6. Adjournment:** Mike Meis motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ron Nypan seconded the motion and the motion carried. The Fall FTLPOA Board meeting adjourned at 10.45 a. m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary B. Thibert