

## FTLPOA FALL BOARD MEETING

September 24, 2022

9:30 a.m. Campfire Bay Resort

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

**Board Members Absent:** Paul Baker, Marie Hillard, Chuck Salter, Mary Hodges, and Jon Scott Johnson.

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

**1. Secretary's Report:** Mike Meis suggested a clarification regarding jet skis from the Secretary's minutes from the Annual FTLPO's Association. After discussion the following edit will be made: During normal water levels a jet ski must travel at a slow-no wake speed, about 5 mph or less within 150 feet from shore. However, when the DNR designates a no wake restriction due to high water levels a jet ski must be 300 feet from shore. Brian Sams motioned to accept the minutes with this clarification, Ron Nypan seconded it and the motion carried.

**2. Treasurer's Report:** Gary Ziehmman submitted the Treasurer's report. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Total membership of the FTLPOA for 2022/212, 2021/220; 2020/219; 2019/216; 2018/213. 82 property owners (PO) have prepaid for 2023.

**3. New Business:** A. **Board Assignments:** At the summer board meeting Mary Hodges had volunteered to be responsible for coffee, food, picking up/returning the key to the town hall building and room reservations. And Brian Sams had volunteered for beaver control. According to Doug Copley, Lake Alexander has been divided into sections which enables several individuals to perform water quality testing. Brian Sams is having a difficult time with RMB Labs in Detroit Lakes. These problems include; he does not receive lab results in a timely manner, wrong labels and long wait time to receive supplies. When he did get the supplies it was too late to do the testing. This is a problem because it can interfere with the LID's grants. He would like to work with another lab. Doug offered to assist Brian.

B. **Weed Management:** Scott Schnuckle has received numerous calls from property owner's (POs) concerned about weeds. POs are reporting seeing lily pads, flowering reeds and curly leaf pondweed growing in areas of the lake where they have never been before. There is a large growth of wild celery weed on the west side of the big island. The DNR does not support chemical controls for native plants. However, wild celery may be harvested, with restrictions imposed by the DNR, which could improve the lake's appearance and water quality. Companies like Lake Restoration can treat and control some weeds on a PO's shoreline. An area no more than 50% of one's lakeshore footage up to 100 feet, or a minimum of 35 feet, and out 100 feet from the shoreline, can be treated, if permitted by the DNR. They are not allowed to kill cattails other than to provide an access channel to the lake. The DNR regulates the number of POs treating their shorelines. They will not let every PO treat. The DNR also won't let the LID treat curly-leaf pondweed by the public access. Scott would like more areas of the lake treated to help manage weed die off. When wild celery weed dies off it creates extra nutrients in the lake. Brian Sams believes treating curly leaf pondweed pushes the lake out of balance. The areas which were treated for curly-leaf pondweed are being replaced by wild celery. Wild celery, which is good for a lake, has a different lifecycle then curly leaf pondweed. Wild celery emerges later in the spring. Brian

believes wild celery is like grass, it's the first to grow but eventually will be taken over by coon tail and cabbage weeds. But it may take decades to restore these areas with other more desirable native plants. Zebra mussels are also affecting the water clarity. They clean the water allowing the sun light to penetrate deeper, increasing weed growth and water temperature. Doug stated the water temperature increased approximately 40 degrees from spring to fall. A dry season with little rain eliminates new water being added to the lake which can also effect water quality. All of this can cause an increased growth of algae, which decreases water clarity. Scott believes harvesting wild celery may decrease the amount of nutrients in the lake. Ron Nypan thought the DNR would not allow harvesting. A harvesting machine costs approximately \$85,000. Scott postulated could there be a partnership with Brian Sams and Jeff Hardy for the disposal of the harvested weeds? Could volunteers cut the wild celery weed instead of hiring professionals? The DNR may have regulations regarding who is allowed to harvest weeds. Doug Copley, Mike Meis, Brian Sam and Tom Anderson volunteered to meet with the DNR and weed management firms for further discussion.

#### **4. Old Business:**

**A. CD3 Boat Cleaning Station Update:** Chuck Salter was not present to give an update at the meeting but reported via email that there was substantial use of the equipment. As of September 6, the air was used 763 times, followed by the weed grabber at 450 uses, and the vacuum at 272 times. There was some wear and tear with the plastic plug wrench being stripped. It was suggested that it should be replaced with a metal tool. Many boaters have used the station evident by a big pile of weeds on the ground.

**B. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Update:** See Weed Management.

#### **C. Initiative Foundation Endowment Funds:**

**a. Current Standing:** Ron Nypan received an endowment payment for the completion of his shoreline buffer project. He is the first PO to receive this grant.

**b. Ideas for the use of funds:** The Board would like to consider another lake study either by Blue Water Science, Limpro or another company. FTLPOA plans to spend less than \$10,000. If more funding is required it may need to ask for assistance from the LID.

**D. Website/Newsletter:** Chris Ziehmman requested all articles for the Fall Newsletter be submitted by 10/21/22.

**E. Water levels, Beaver Management and Bogs:** Water levels were high for much of the summer resulting in the no-wake restrictions imposed on the lake, but reduced rain in late summer and fall, and the removal of a beaver dam led to a drop. Brian Sams removed a large beaver dam 2 miles downstream on Fish Trap Lake Creek. This removal caused the lake level to drop about 4 inches in 3 days. He found the beavers had used deer antlers as construction material. Brian uses the following techniques to remove dams; hand removal stick by stick, pushing the dam to one side of the creek or dynamite. A dam should be removed regardless of whether the lake level is high or low. Beaver dam removal is important because the dams decrease the flow of water in the creek, which leads to more cattails and even greater decreases in water flow. FTL used to have a dam structure which controlled the lake's water levels. Because there was so much controversy regarding water levels the DNR removed it. A cement structure is all that remains. Brian hasn't removed any beavers for a while but states he needs to. This fall Brian assisted transporting 2 huge cattail bogs to other areas of the lake. A

permit is required to remove a bog from the lake. Tom Anderson has been asked to work to proactively expand the LID's charter to include bog removal and pursue a permit to allow removal. While we have not had a giant bog break free on the lake, like Lake Alexander has, if one did, it would be very expensive to remove.

**5. Date for Spring Board Meeting:** Scott will send out proposed dates later.

**6. Adjournment:** The Fall Board Meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Mary B. Thibert