

FTLPOA FALL BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

SCANDIA VALLEY TOWNSHIP HALL 9:30 am

Board Members Present: Scott Schnuckle, President, Mike Flanagan, Vice President, Gary Ziehmann, Treasurer, Ron Mash, Jon-Scott Johnson, Paul Baker, Dennis Smith, Brian Sams, Ron Markfelder, Lisa Kajer and Mary Thibert, Secretary.

Board members not in attendance: Chuck Salter.

VISITORS: Chris Ziehmann, Peg Hartung and David Thibert.

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

FTLPO ISSUES FOR THE BOARD: Scott Schnuckle reviewed the situation of David Christenson's and Wendt's dock dispute. There was a court hearing and the Judge asked the Wendt's to do the right thing and move their dock. They moved their dock 22 feet. But Christenson was not satisfied. This spring before the ice went out Christenson placed his dock on the ice across his property line onto Wendt's property. The Wendt's were forced to get a court order and he had to move it. Because Christianson was still concern about Wendt's dock placement, Dennis Smith, Mike Flanagan and Scott Schnuckle looked at the docks from the lake side. They saw that both docks had been placed at an angle. Christianson continued to call and email Scott throughout the summer asking for the Board's help with this dispute. Scott asked the Wendt's if they would consider meeting again. They agreed only if Christianson was willing to compromise. Christianson refuses to compromise believing that all docks should be placed in the middle of the property owner's (PO) lot. Scott responded to Christianson in writing informing him that the board will not become involved because the FTLPOA voted last summer that they did not want to be told where PO's have to place their dock and the board has no jurisdiction on this matter.

Secretary's Report: Mary Thibert submitted the minutes from the meeting of the Annual Fish Trap Lake Property Owner's Association (FTLPOA) in June. Paul Baker motioned to accept the minutes. Mike Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Gary Ziehmann submitted the Treasurer's report. For the period from 1/1/18-9/14/18 the beginning balance in the checking account was \$12,055.54. Income from dues, WEB Page ads and interest totaled \$4,879.55. Other revenues from Endowment contributions, Lake Grants and transfers from the Endowment Savings totaled \$8,051.33. Total credits to the account were \$12,930.89. Total expenses from this period was \$5,194.23. Other disbursements from transfer to the Endowment saving, transfers to the Initiative Foundation Endowment Fund (IFEFF) and to the LID totaled \$5,875.00. Total debits to the account were \$11,069.23. The ending balance in checking for this period was \$13,917.20. In the saving account for this same period the beginning balance was \$2.61. Total deposits were \$3,085.00, withdrawals were \$2,790.00 and interest earned was \$0.70 for an ending balance in savings of \$298.31. The total balance in all accounts was \$14,215.51.

Gary reported he is expecting expenses from the fall newsletter, beaver control cost, water quality testing and food costs from the annual meeting.

The current calendar year contribution to the IFEF is \$3,085.00. Cumulative transfers to IFEF since inception is \$29,255.00. The current value of the IFEF is \$44,169.94.

The total membership for the FTLPOA for 2018 was 206. There were 212 members in 2017. 43 PO have prepaid for 2019. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Aquatic Invasive Species Updates and Plans. The QUAD Lake Association received a grant this year to be used for the prevention of AIS. They used some of the funding for research to cover the expenses of monitoring veliger levels on FTL. They wanted to monitor the life span of zebra mussels. The QUAD Lake Association also wanted to monitor for Spiny Water Fleas (SWF). RMB Labs performed the testing this summer on FTL and on surrounding lakes. They found no concerns. Several board members felt that zebra mussels appear to be down 50% in relation to last year. Mike Flanagan reported he had only 2 zebra mussels on his Jet Ski lift when he removed it this fall. According to last year's report from Steve McComas from Blue Water Science, zebra mussel's numbers cycle from year to year. Hopefully last year was a peak year. Paul Baker believed the weeds were worst this year. And the weeds were covered with zebra mussels. FTL had more weeds because of the warm temperatures.
- B. Railroad Update: Paul Baker reported that the closing of the Lincoln crossing is still at an impasse. Morrison County (MC) has not accepted any proposals from the Railroad because they want a Veteran's Trail for ATV, Hiking and snowmobiling on the east side of Little Falls. They want it to reach Camp Ripley. MC needs to procure land. The Railroad is concerned about liability. The railroad's proposal has been at MC since May. MC Commissioner, Mike LeMieur told Paul he will put this issue on the MC's agenda so the entire board will become aware of this situation.
- C. Initiative Foundation Endowment (IFEF): The current IFEF balance is \$44,169.94. This year it received \$2,790 in contributions. The funds are managed by Bremer. Gary Ziehm reported the 2018 market so far has been flatter than 2017. FTLPOA won't know how much the fund has earned until the end of the year in December. Scott wanted more visibility of the fund's yearly growth but Gary stated he doesn't have that information at this time. Ideas for future projects were discussed. Gary Ziehm prosed FTLPOA could purchase a drone with a camera. This drone could be used by Brian Sams who would fly it over Fish Trap Lake Creek to assist him with beaver control. A drone cost around \$1000. Brian will research drones models over the winter and present to the board at the spring board meeting. It was also discussed Camp Ripley, for a fee, may be able to monitor the area using their drones. Or there may be an individual who would be interested to contract out his services. Chuck Salter had an idea for use of the funds. He proposed a power washer could be installed at the boat landing. Chuck informed the board via Scott Schnuckle there is funding available for a project like this. It the Sam's LaSard Grant which has designed funds to be used every year to protect lakes from AIS. There is over 2 billion dollars available. The grant application will need to be made by the 1st of the year. Mike reported there is a lake in Wisconsin who has a power washer which is used on a volunteer basis. They work with the fire department. The fire department kept the water tank full. They received a grant for it. The cost of a power washer is around \$10,000. There would be additional expenses for the installation. There was discussion on the washing procedure. Should it be voluntary or mandatory? Board members felt boaters should wash their boat

before entering the lake and upon exit. There was concern how to make the campgrounds and resorts on FTL to comply with boat washing. There was also concern that it may slow up the access to the lake on busy days. Mike Flanagan discussed the project in Wright County involving 7 lakes. There are power washer stations at all 7 lakes and it is mandatory to wash before the boat is launched. The set up cost was \$85,000. Some counties have one power wash station and boaters receive a ticket to place on their car indicating their boat has been washed. The counties work with the sheriff department. Scott Schnuckle thought a joint grant with the QUAD Lake Association might be beneficial. One centrally located power wash station for all the area lakes to use. MC has a grant for \$90,000 to be use to prevent the spread of AIS and there are not very many lakes in MC. QUAD Lake Association received \$32,000 from MC. The question was raised where the power wash station should be placed. Mike Flanagan, is the representative for FTL on the Quad Lake Association. He stated he will bring it before the QUAD Association when they meet in February. However, this meeting needs to happen before February because the grant application for Sam's LaSard grant needs to be completed before then. Mike will speak with Tom Anderson who is also on the QUAD Lake Association to try to arrange an earlier meeting date. Paul Baker suggested maybe we could work with the railroad on a power wash station. Gary informed the board if FTL joins with the QUAD Lake Association for a power wash station to be used on all County lakes we would not be able to use the IFEF. If this project is solely for FTL then this funding would be available. There was concern Mille Lacs Lake has many AIS and it is in close proximity to FTL. There was a general feeling that the DNR does not want to protect FTL from other species but is more concern with protecting neighboring lakes from FTL's zebra mussels.

- D. Website: Chris Ziehmman stated there were 1696 hits on the website from January to September 12th, 2018 which is about the same as last year. The months of July and August saw the biggest usage. The site was used by mobile phones, desk tops and tablets. There were even hits from Russia. No new pictures have not been posted recently because the web page designer does this and Chris wants to wait until there is an hour worth of work that needs to be performed. The board discussed having a photo contest. The top 15 photos could be placed on the website. There may even have a featured photo. The photographs would rotate on a carrousel. The following questions arose. Who would organize it? Who would judge the pictures? Would the winner get a prize or just name recognition? Do we want to do this as the board or at the annual meeting? It was decided to discuss this idea at the annual meeting in June to determine if POs would like a photo competition. Photos can also be placed on FTL's Facebook page. Mike Flanagan checks the website's email every week. All article for the newsletter need to be to Chris by the beginning of November.
- E. Lake Shamineau Project Update: This summer MC sent a survey to the PO on Lake Shamineau. 80% of the PO responded and of these 80%, 60 % were in favor of the project. They were also willing to finance it. The cost of the proposed project will be over 3 million dollars. There was concern that the survey was only sent to 80% of the parcels. So PO who own large parcels such as Auger's and Lake Shamineau Camp only got 1 vote. Lake Shamineau's LID ask Crookneck for a letter of support but Crookneck will not issue one because they are concerned that they may be held financially responsible later on. The LID is waiting to present their budget to MC around 10/1/18. MC is reluctant to approve this project because of the expense. There is a group of POs 2 blocks east of the public landing on the northeast side of the lake who are pumping water out of the lake into a pond. They are using a 3 inch hose and they are pumping approximately

75 gallons/min. Both the DNR and MC are aware of this pumping. And according to the DNR it is working. Another idea has been proposed to pump the water into a gravel pit. It is a shorter route and it only involves MC lands. It does not involve Todd County as the other plan does. Shamineau's LID is not receptive to either of these proposed plans. FTLPOA conditional letter of support did not address these other options. Shamineau's water level has dropped 18 inches since summer. FTL's water level has dropped 10 inches. MC project of photographing all lakeshore in MC has been completed. 15 lakes were photographed. The board wanted access to the photos but were denied because Amy Kowalwski said it was too large. MC is sharing the photos with the DNR and Soil and Conservation. (Helen M is retiring from Soil and Conservation this year). They identified 43 properties that need shoreline improvement. It was asked if MC can serve notice to these POs so that they can be brought into compliance. MC can't do this because the laws currently in place are unenforceable. Scott is planning to call Amy Kowalzek to discuss plans for the photos. He also wants to be involved in the rewriting of the laws. He wants to make them enforceable. FTL's water quality continues to improve. There are lower levels of nutrients entering into the lake depicted by lower levels of chlorophyll and phosphate.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. DNA Fish Survey: Mike Flanagan reported the last fish survey was completed in 2014. Eric Altena is the DNR's fish expert. The survey was completed the 2nd weekend in August. They used 3 nets, placed in 3 different locations on FTL for 24 hrs. Every fish caught in the net was measured, sex determined and some scales were removed. They returned all the fish into the lake. A lot of fish were killed during this survey. Walleyes, perch, cisco and northern were found in every net. It was determined there is a health walleye population. There are a lot of walleyes over 20 inches. There are a lot of perch, a few muskies and the crappies level was low. Eric Altena felt FTL has a problem with the number of northern. There are too many. In 2019 FTL will be an experimental lake for northern. A fisherperson will only be allowed to keep 3 northern. All northern between 24-36 inches have to be released. Mike will write an article for the newsletter about this survey. The DNR stocked FTL with 1.2 million fry last year. They plan on stocking it again in 2019. Two eaglets were fledged this year on Buzzard's Roost. They were named Lars and Lena.

B. Water Quality: Brian reported the 1st Secchi Disc on FTL this year was 21-22 ft. The last one was 7 ft. The water was murky this year due to the hot weather. The highest water temperature reported by Mike Flanagan was 81 degrees. The water is green now. This is not usual for the water to look like pea soup in August.

C. Concern: Mike Flanagan expressed a concern from a complaint that he received from a FTLPO member who was upset the annual meeting minutes had not been posted on the website in a timely manner. Mike was unsure if the minutes could be posted on the website before they had been officially approved by the board. Chuck Salters said the minutes could be posted before board approval.

D. Nomination of a New Board Member: The board is looking for nominations for a new board member to replace Peg Hartung who resigned this spring. Scott Schnuckle is trying to recruit Dan Hillard to join the board. Mike Flanagan is planning to resign from the board next year. It was discussed to divide some duties so people don't become overwhelmed. Mike was encouraged not to resign.

E. Discussion on Amending Article IV to include teleconferencing: Chuck Salter proposed to amend the Bylaws to include teleconferencing and special board meetings. Chuck will rewrite the changes and put

them on the website. Scott Schnuckle motioned to amend the bylaws. Gary Ziehmman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Spring board meeting is April 13, 2019 at 9:30 Scandia Valley Township.

The FTLPOA board meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary B Thibert