

NORTH CHAIN LAKE ASSOCIATION

Saturday, May 4, 2019

The meeting of the North Chain Lake Association was called to order by President Terry Reen at 10:01 am at the ProMedica Conference Room, Coldwater, MI.

NCLA Board Members included:

President:	Terry Reen	present
Vice-President:	Dennis Dirschell	present
Secretary:	Carolyn Morrison	present
Treasurer:	Colleen Humphrey	present
Director:	Tom Duff, Jr.	present
Director:	Mike Reen	present
Director:	Mark Zinn	present

Quorum: According to Treasurer Colleen Humphrey a quorum WAS present for conducting business in fact, it was probably the largest attendance to date.

Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes: The meeting minutes dated September 22, 2018 were distributed by Secretary, Carolyn Morrison. John Pollack made a motion, seconded by Dwight Woodman to accept the minutes. The minutes stood as presented.

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer, Colleen Humphrey.

Beginning Balance:		\$ 4,306.29	_____
Income Collected	:	\$ 1895.00	_____
Expenses:		\$ 868.34	_____
Ending Balance:		\$ 5,332.95	_____

Mike Reen made a motion, seconded by Dennis Dirschell to accept the Treasurer's report. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented. Complete report on file.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

SPECIAL REPORTS:

Eric Leutheuer, Michigan House of Representatives. Representative Leutheuer reported on the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) legislation. One million dollars has been appropriated for inland lake AIS needs. The Southern Michigan Cooperative consisting of Branch, Hillsdale and St. Joseph Counties will share \$150,00.00, October 1, 2018 thru September 1, 2019 of this funding. While there has been a holdup, the funding will not lapse. Jarrod Harmon, Branch County Conservation, is the contact person for this program. An additional five million dollars has been appropriated for the Asian Carp efforts. Both are administrated by the DNR. Representative Leutheuer was asked to keep us in the loop on legislation pending.

Nature Conservancy—Starry Stonewort, Andrew Tucker. The Nature Conservancy was given permits to lay biodegradable mats in Messenger Lake in an effort to control Starry Stonewort, an invasive species of algae. This was part of the Michigan Invasive Species grant program for inland lakes. These 40 feet by 40 feet, 18-ounce mats were originally laid in July 2017, inspected in September 2017 and again in June 2018. In the June 2018 inspection, it was noted that the mats were still intact, but some starry stonewort was encroaching on the sides. In the September 2018 inspection (1 ½ seasons), inspection revealed the starry stonewort had further encroached from the sides and was on the top of the mats. By now the mats have degraded. While the mats may not be useful for large areas of lakes, they may help control the problem in small areas if detected early. Future seed mats with native plants are being explored. Many people are working on the eradication of starry stonewort. A Starry Stonewort Collaborative has been formed for the understanding and management of starry stonewort. Fertilizers from lawns do not seem to impact starry stonewort. Starry stonewort can restrain phosphates. The real impact of starry stonewort has is killing the native plants which then hurts the fish habitat. It also makes swimming dangerous and boating difficult. More research is needed and expected.

Waterfront Alliance, Tom Humphrey and Carolyn Morrison. Tom and Carolyn attended a day seminar sponsored by the Waterfront Alliance in Lansing in March on starry stonewort. Much of the information received was very technical. It has been reported by the previous presenters. It was noted that we are fortunate to be working with Paul Hausler, Progressive Engineering on this subject.

Branch County Marine Patrol, C. J. Apel. On the North Chain of lakes, the following was reported for 2018:

Careless boating—146 warnings, 4 citations

Navigation issues—165 warnings, 5 citations

Life jacket issues—14 warnings, 3 citations

No citations for life jacket issues over the age of 6

New boating laws became effective in March this year. Boats and trailers must be free of weeds, drains removed from the boats and fish holding tanks emptied before boats leave the lake site. Tickets of \$100.00 can be issued.

Free Boater Safety Classes are being offered:

May 11—Waffle Farm and Sunset Cove

May 18, Coldwater Lake Association

June 15—Sunset Cove

June 19 Coldwater Lake Association

June 22—Coldwater Lake Association

Online classes are also offered, but there is a charge.

Boat safety dates are coming soon. But you may ask to have your boat inspected at any time. If infractions are found, you will be advised, but no tickets will be issued. Boater Appreciation Day is coming soon also.

Buoys will be in place in the next two weeks.

DNR Conversation Officer, Nick Wellman. Nick is not aware of any fish studies being done on the North Chain of Lakes. Call the DNR Fishery Office for more information. While there has been a hiring freeze on new officers, it has been lifted and an additional officer will be hired soon. If any problems, call central dispatch.

Proposed Bylaw changes:

Section 2 Article 1 Governing Board: add—*In between meetings the Governing Board can conduct business of the North Chain Lake Association.*

Motion made by Jim Cole, seconded by John Rohloff, approved.

Section 2 Article 3 Quorum: change, Ten (10) percent to five (5) percent. Change to: *Five (5) percent or more of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.*

Motion made by Jim Cole, seconded by Mike Reen, approved.

Section 1 Article 5 Membership: Annual meetings shall be on the first Saturday of May and the Fall meeting shall be on the first Saturday following Labor Day. Change to: *Annual meetings shall be in May and the Fall meeting shall be in September.*

Motion Make by Mike Reen, seconded by Dennis Dirschell, approved.

Updated Bylaws coming soon.

Elections: Vice President (Dennis Dirschell, present) John Pollack nominated Dennis Dirschell, second by Steve Olmsted, Dennis elected.

Treasurer (Colleen Humphrey, present) Mark Zinn nominated Colleen Humphrey, Jo Alexander seconded, Colleen was elected.

Board member (Mike Reen) Eric Goodwin nominated Mike Reen, Jo Alexander seconded. Mike was elected.

Board member (Mark Zinn, present) Don Paarlberg nominated Mark Zinn, Steve O'Donnell seconded. Mark was elected

Next Meeting Date: Saturday, September 7, 2019, Coldwater ProMedica Conference Center.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Morrison, NCLA Secretary

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