

PRAIRIE LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD MAY 28, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 PM by President Merritt Linzie. Merritt started the meeting with a couple of announcements.

Wayne Thom gave a brief update on the beaver management program.

Introductions were made of the association officers and board members along with new members attending the meeting for the first time.

The minutes to the previous meeting, held September 4, 2016, were read by the secretary Bob Sanft. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. The motion passed.

Treasurer Sandy Fontaine gave the treasurer's report. As of May 25, 2017 the checking account had a balance of \$4109.83. The member share at the credit union was \$26.22 for a grand total of \$4136.05.

The total membership for 2016 was 91 member units. The 2017 membership, including those who signed up today totaled 65 member units.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. The motion passed.

Merritt talked about the elections that will be taking place at the end of the meeting. He gave an overview of the positions that are expiring. The positions of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and one board member position are up for election. All of the officers expressed the intent not to run again.

Open discussion was held.

It was mentioned that the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe netted in Prairie Lake four times and speared once during the spring.

A discussion began about the beaver management program the association has sponsored. It was hoped that Fine Lakes Township would participate in this program, but they have not responded to the association's inquiry.

The discussion changed directions to the effectiveness of the trapping program. The sense was that members in attendance didn't feel the cost was worth it and members having problems with beavers should take their own measures to protect their trees. A motion was made and seconded to take a two year break from the beaver control program (no funding for two years). The motion passed.

Ken Hallberg gave a report on loon activity on the lake. No one is certain if even one loon chick survived in 2016. At this time, there is one nesting pair with two eggs on Ken's loon nest raft. No loon activity has been spotted around the little island where there is usually a nest.

A brief discussion was held to donate \$50.00 to the Minnesota Dept of Natural Resources for the loon monitoring program (non-game wildlife fund.) The association has made a donation for many years. A motion was made and seconded to donate \$50.00. The motion passed.

The Big Sandy Watershed district has provided our association with about \$600.00 for educational purposes. So far we have spent about \$200.00 of that money on the spring letter, so we have about \$400.00 left. If anyone has any ideas on how we can spend that money on educational topics, please let a board member know.

The MN DNR has been doing a fish assessment on Prairie Lake every five years. They are now going to do the assessment every eight years instead of five. Lack of funding is the primary reason for the change.

The DNR will re-evaluate the 30 inch northern pike rule in 2019. They are also studying largemouth bass to see if a population can succeed in the lake.

The association is a member of MN Lakes & River Advocates. There was a discussion on that. A motion was made and seconded to maintain our membership by contributing \$150.00 to them. The motion passed.

The buoys out on the lake are now under a volunteer program. There is a list for volunteers that want to participate. Volunteers are always needed. Contact Scott Moncur if you would like to be added to that list.

Ken Hallberg gave a report on water quality and clarity. The clarity of both Hasty Brook and the Prairie River have both been over 100 centimeters this year. That is good.

The clarity of Prairie Lake last year was about four feet last year. This year is has been around four and a half feet.

Last year the average total phosphorous was 33.3 parts per billion.
Last year the average chlorophyll A was 16.1 parts per billion.
Prairie Lake is borderline impaired.

Elections were held. Officers are elected for one year terms.

Joe Beaupre was elected president.

Scott Moncur was re-elected vice-president.

Jonette Kreideweis was elected secretary.

No one volunteered to run for treasurer. Joe Beaupre said he would try and find someone to fill that position.

Bob Stemwedel was re-elected to the board for a three year term.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Bob Sanft, Secretary