Prairie Lake Improvement Association

Meeting Minutes September 1, 2013

Fine Lakes Town Hall

The meeting was called to order at 1:35PM by President, Merritt Linzie. Attendance was about 25.

The Minutes of the May 26, 2013 meeting were read. M/S/P

Treasurer, Sandy Fontaine reported the financial status on 8/16/2013; attached. Income of $295 and expenses of $383 resulted in a balance of $3640.33 Membership to date is 76.

M/S/P. The Treasures report was accepted, attached.

A Thank you note was received from the Department of Natural Resources for the $25 donation to the Non-game Wildlife Fund to support loon monitoring programs.

M/S/P. Donate $100 to MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates organization.

Scott Moncur reported that buoys cost about $200 which includes shipping. The buoys will be removed Oct 13 about 11AM and stored on Scott’s property. Volunteers were requested to help. Scott is in the process of making additional buoys as there were requests for additional buoy locations. Suggestions were also made for lake users to report locations for additional buoys and boat damage experience. Signs, maps and web site could also be used to identify where additional buoys may be needed.

Roger Hill volunteered to contact the DNR about water level control at the outlet weir. Members suggested less fluctuation in lake levels during the year: Less high water in the spring and less low water in the late summer.

Ken Hallberg reported there were two loon eggs in his loon nest. Both were destroyed, probably by fox or otter. An adult loon was found in June, possibly damaged by fast watercraft.

Ken displayed charts of past testing results for clarity, phosphorus and chlorophyll-a.

Clarity from secchi disk observations was usually 5-6.5 feet until the flood in 2012 when it reduced to 2-2.5 feet. In 2013 it has improved to 4-4.5 feet.

Phosphorus increased after the June 2012 flood. In 2013, phosphorus has reduced over the summer from 46 (May) to 26 (Aug.). Phosphorus has usually increased over the summer.

Chlorophyll-a is about 15 and some algae is beginning to appear.

Hasty Brook inlet stream clarity was over 100 cm in May and has reduced over the summer as the stream flow reduced to 70cm in August. Prairie River outlet (7 miles downstream) had clarity levels of 70cm in May and has increased to over 100cm.

Currently, there are no future plans for water quality testing.

Recent storms have caused some damage; mostly trees down.

Kelli Rae Theiss reported the nesting of Least Bittern and Great Blue Heron.

The DNR stocked 300,000 walleye fingerlings in June. (The DNR has usually stocked 1.3 million walleye fry every other year.)

Big Sandy Area Lakes Watershed Management Project has assistance available to prevent or reduce shore land erosion with the use of native plants or other appropriate remedies. (See the web site for contact information.)

Kelli Rae Theiss is monitoring and reporting lake water levels that was previously done by Roger Hill. (Kelli later reported that the lake level dropped 17” between June 24 and August 19, 2013.)

M/S/P Adjourn, 3:10PM

Next meeting; May 25, 2014, 1:30PM, Fine Lakes Town Hall.

Merritt Linzie, Acting Secretary