

Deer Lake Watershed Association

Board Meeting – Monday April 11, 2022

Virtual Meeting via Facebook™ connection

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Steege at 6:00 p.m. This is a virtual meeting via computer where all members can hear each other and had visuals of members present. The meeting was opened with a reading of the DLWA Mission Statement: *“To protect, maintain and improve the natural resources of the Deer Lake Watershed for current and future generations.”*

ATTENDEES: Board members participating: Bill Cromell, Gail Blackmer, Bruce Steege, Vaughn Duitsman, Todd Reynolds, Jim Clarke, and Mark Smith.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL – Prior to this meeting, an agenda of topics to be discussed had been sent via email to board members and all DLWA members who had a listed email address on file. The agenda was approved on a **motion** by Gail, **seconded** by Bill.

TREASURER’S REPORT: DLWA Treasurer Vaughn Duitsman provided a written Treasurer’s report listing fund balances as of April 11, 2022:

DLWA General Checking Account - \$8,931.83

DLWA Continuous Flow Savings Account - \$4,000.63

DLWA Water Protection Savings Account - \$807.99

Total DLWA accounts - \$11,859.23

CCC Camp Historical Preservation Savings Account - \$566.26

Vaughn noted that since our last meeting, a total of \$500 in donations has been received from nine DLWA member households. Especially appreciated were two lifetime memberships coming in from new members Marcus and Barb Cordes and from Ray Kehren. Expenditures in this period included newsletter and office expenses of \$379.90 and dues payment of \$100 to Minnesota Lakes and Rivers. The Treasurer’s report was approved for filing on a **motion** by Jim, **seconded** by Bill.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Secretary Gail Blackmer had compiled and sent minutes from the February 14, 2022 meeting to board members for review. Vaughn **moved**, Todd **seconded**, that the minutes be approved for filing and distribution to the membership. Motion **carried**.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

A. Membership Committee – Bruce Steege, as acting Membership committee chair, reported that 20 membership renewals had been received as a result of the reminders sent out by previous committee chair Val Cromell, and 3 members have not responded. Currently there are

130 member households in our Association. Bruce will be sending thank you messages to households who have renewed, either by email or regular mail, and he remarked that Val's spreadsheet detailing membership information is of great value in tracking the dues paid by our members. Bruce will continue to send out up to two reminders when annual terms expire.

B. Events – The Flotilla will be held on Monday, July 4th with a boat parade on Deer Lake. As before, a social gathering can take place at Hideaway beach for flotilla participants and other members. This season is the 20th Anniversary of the DLWA and we will provide extra treats for the occasion. Gail will coordinate the highway clean up along MN #1, scheduled for May 7 or postponed if necessary due to the frozen conditions. Jim will be lead planner for a picnic with potluck food scheduled for July 16 at Bass Lake picnic area. Carpenter Town Hall has been secured for the annual meeting on August 6.

C. Water Sampling 2022 – Water quality testing for 5 Island Lake will be led by Bruce, Pickerel Lake will be led by Bill, with assistance offered by Todd and Vaughn. Bill reviewed the sampling process and use of the test kits.

OLD BUSINESS

A. DLWA Website update – Vaughn provided website update, noting that he added ice out contest information.

B. Watershed map –The final map of the geographical outline of the watershed is now available. Bruce has supplies and equipment to laminate an 8 ½" x 11" sheet which we would like to offer to members only as a gift.

C. Fund Raisers - 1. Cookbook - Todd reviewed progress on the cookbook project, it is at the printer now and expected to be available soon. We plan to make it available for sale at DLWA events as well as business locations in the area. 200 copies were ordered, we plan to sell for \$10 per copy. Many thanks to Todd and Dawn Reynolds for the work on this, including all of the organizing details and typing in all the recipes. Thanks also to Val Cromell for cover design. 2. Ice Out contest – Mark has sent out the calendar with all the picked dates for when Deer Lake will be free of ice. Entries were down in number this year. Bill will monitor conditions and declare the ice out day. We all remarked that winter is hanging on too long this year!

D. DLWA Apparel – Jim has appealed for lower prices on shirts from the supplier we have been using, however prices for apparel will be higher this year. We felt that it was still a good project which can produce some revenue as well as marketing for the organization. Jim will continue to work on a system to have some hats and shirts made up and promote to members for orders.

E. Round Up grant– Gail submitted a grant application to the Round Up grant program sponsored by North Itasca Electric for the spring granting cycle. We were pleased to have Bruce report that our request for funding for lab fees for the water quality sampling of Pickerel Lake was funded! A thank you note to NIECI and the committee that decides which applications to accept will be sent.

F. Mission Statement – Last meeting we began consideration of revision or addition to our mission statement. Discussion continued, with thoughts shared on further definition of the term “natural resources” as well as the role of education in our goals and objectives. No action taken at this time, however we may table this item to the June meeting where we hope to have an in-person meeting and allow additional time for brainstorming.

G. Signs – Bill, Bruce, and Todd will find a date in May to determine repairs needed to the DLWA road sign on Co. Rd. 533. Possible roof and post repair/replacement is needed. Gail reported that new banners for advertising the flotilla and the annual meeting have been requested from Creek Bank Printing in Bigfork and proofs of the banners will be sent around for approval soon.

NEW BUSINESS

A. DNR Fishing Limits/Regulations– Discussion held on the published fishing regulations for 2022 established by Minnesota DNR. Some board members feel that lower daily and possession limits for our area lakes would help preserve the quality and sustainability of this resource. An action step we could take would be to promote voluntary compliance with size and possession limits that DLWA suggests for our lakes. Mark, Bill, Todd, and Bruce will get together to plan what the recommendations should be, and how to communicate them via signs or other information at the resorts and boat access.

B. Beaver Trapping – The board recognizes that beaver control is important to the continuous flow goal of our creeks and lakes. Bruce has spoken with the local trappers who have removed beavers in previous years, and they likely will be doing this again. The amount of stipend was discussed as it is necessary to increase the amount to make it worthwhile. Bill **moved** to pay a \$30 stipend for each beaver removed. Motion **seconded** by Vaughn, **motion carried**.

C. Life Memberships – Discussion held on the possibility of how to disperse DLWA funds should the organization ever dissolve, particularly if a refund would be offered to those members who have paid an up-front “lifetime” amount. This item will be tabled until the June meeting when other bylaws changes will be considered.

D. Alternate Board Member – Former board member Jim Kush has expressed interest in participating on the board. Gail **moved**, Vaughn **seconded**, to appoint Jim as alternate board member. All in favor, **motion carried**

E. Adjourn – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45p.m. We hope to hold the June meeting in person at a designated location, therefore the date will be announced when the most members are available.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gail Blackmer, DLWA Secretary
