

Silver Lake Association Fall Meeting Minutes - 5/16/16

Sept 19th 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Wenzel at the Cumberland Branch of the Dairy State Bank at 8:30 AM. There were 33 people in attendance including Bob Wenzel, Linda Goergen, Wally King, Brian Chase, Rob Fillmore, and Steve Knudson, Board members.

Meeting minutes of the Spring, 2015 meeting were read by the Secretary. A motion to approve the minutes as read was made, seconded and approved by vote of the members.

Steve Knudson, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's Report. The Association presently has \$11,757.09: \$11,039.19 in the General Fund and \$717.90 in the water quality fund. To date, we have 51 members, compared to 57 last year: 9 at Goose Level (\$30), 10 at Loon (\$50), 20 at Eagle (\$100), and 8 at Eagle+ (>\$100). Expenses include \$1,600 for the boat inspection program, with additional expenses for the balance of the year pending. This is compared to \$2,900 last year. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the treasurer's report as submitted.

The topic of dredging was then discussed beginning with Bob Wenzel who noted the USGS Study shows the water level at Silver Lake varies in time with cycles. We presently appear to have reached the point where lake levels are once again rising. Bob indicating that he estimates the lake level is presently 6" to 8" higher than last spring. This is relevant because approval of dredging projects is mainly based on impairment of access or navigation. Therefore, the present situation of rising water levels may remove that argument.

The approval process for dredging projects is complex, but can be done. The purpose must be to provide access to the main part of the lake for individual dock owners.

Wally King presented plans for going forward as he has volunteered to serve as lead in this effort and produce a written summary of the permitting process and the work he has done so far.

The matter of dredging costs was then discussed. The recent project at Dummy Lake removed 130 cubic yards of material. This required five divers from a professional firm working 4 days at a cost of \$140/cu yd. Jim O'Brian asked how long the dredging will last before it fills in. No answer was known. Bob Wenzel stated that he doesn't think that the association should be the main financial supporter for these projects since they will focus on restoring individual access. The situation at Dummy Lake is different for two reasons. One, the project involved restoring navigation between the two parts of Dummy Lake and second, they are a Lake District with lake-wide taxing authority to fund such projects. Dan Harrington has been our main contact regarding pursuit of dredging projects.

Linda Goergen presented work she and Sue Zahrbock have begun to promote the Lake Association to new residents and non-members, presenting a draft of ideas that were prompted by a chance meeting on the lake when she was asked what the Association does and why someone might join. The answers and reasons include the following:

- Managing Silver Lake for the future
- Sponsoring the inspection program work at the boat landing

- Monitoring for invasive species
- Collection of water quality data
- Education on shoreline management
- Promoting the activities of Walleyes for Tomorrow with the Fish Sticks projects and walleye hatchery
- Providing resources and forum for actions needed to protect the lake
- Association Meetings
- Annual Picnic

Others then added ideas:

- Promote “neighborliness” and thus security
- Lakeshore owners directory
- Maintaining property values through conservation of lake quality

Once complete, it was suggested that this summary be added to the directory.

The next topic was a report on the 2015 Boat Inspection Program by Kevin Jacobson

Up to Labor Day, 135 hours of staffing at the landing was logged, compared to a budget of 250 hours. With Kevin and his sons on the lake, there was the ability to be strategic in determining when to staff the landing. The inspection program is very important since many of the boats come from Beaver Dam Lake, which is infested with Eurasian Water Milfoil. Traffic is very weather dependent. One 95 degree Friday, 21 boats were launched. The process at the landing is to ask people launching boats what lake they are coming from and if they have removed their drain plugs and drained live wells (many have not). Equipment is inspected for the presence of weeds, and several were found. If any are found, folks are asked if they would permit their removal. Most folks cooperate, but three refused, and there was one incident where uncooperative behavior rose to the point where it was reported to the sheriff.

The traffic at the landing is very high. Some days there was no available parking. Due to the high boat traffic, Bob Wenzel is looking to get some more buoys for the swim area.

Bob then addressed the matter of continuing the Inspection Program in 2016. The main issue is determining who else might be utilized to staff the position. Bob asked that anyone who knows of anyone who might be interested to contact him.

Bob will submit a grant request for the 2016 project. If granted, this will provide for 75% reimbursement of the cost, with the remainder funded by the Association. Application deadline is December 10, 2015.

Rob Fillmore then reported on the Eurasian water milfoil conference he attended in June. The conference was sponsored by the Vermillion Lakes Association and included attendees from many nearby lakes, DNR officials and water quality consultants. The main points learned were as follows:

- We are doing the right thing with our inspection program and accumulation of funds. Once established, EWM requires on-going treatment with high costs. Expenditures are reimbursed, so money must be immediately available to take action. Though the amount depends on circumstances, something in the range of \$15,000 is advisable. Best practice for treatment is

chemical application of 2-4D, just like the herbicide used to control dandelions. Mechanical harvesting, once the method of choice, has been shown to be counterproductive because it spreads the weed through fragmentation. It is still used for control of Curly Leaf Pondweed, because it does not spread through vegetative fragments like EWM. The herbicide application must be done by professionals and most lakes enlist consultants to navigate the process.

- Keeping the shoreline in a natural condition is very important because a natural predator of both native Northern Water Milfoil and EWM, the milfoil weevil, overwinters in the leaves and weeds along the shoreline. Disturbance and cleaning of the shoreline destroys this critical habitat.
- Lakes with invasive species find it necessary to form a Lake District to provide adequate funding. Rob will gather more information on Lake Districts so that we can be better informed and prepared.
- There is some interest in forming a county wide group of lake organizations to increase clout with government agencies. A group from Polk County spoke of their activities, which are mainly educational. Rob will serve as a contact point for any future developments in this regard. We are cautious in not wanting to devote significant funds to other organizations that will dilute resources from our activities.

Bob Wenzel added that it is likely that introduction of EWM is a matter of when, not if. We need to continue our efforts to be prepared.

Jim O'Brian is promoting using snail mail with pre-addressed envelope to remind people of the spring meeting. The planning session Bob Wenzel had made some plans along these lines. A suggestion was made to also include picnic information in this packet.

There was no information available on Bob Wellhoeffer's water quality work this past summer. Brian Chase volunteered to contact Bob W regarding the water survey work.

Next up was a recap of the summer picnic July 25, 2015. Thanks to Thomas Braun and Felicity Britton was expressed for hosting the event at their home. A call for volunteers to host the 2016 picnic was answered by Dale and Linda Goergen with date to be determined later.

Bob Wenzel then gave an update on the activities to support the Silver Lake Fishery. The Walleyes for Tomorrow hatchery was once again in operation with good results. The operation is planned for spring 2016, about a week after ice out. Members are invited to see the operation or volunteer.

Fishsticks installations are also planned at Lepak's and Wenzel's where they will be sheltered from view and energetic waves. New anchors and sandbags over the tree tips are the keys to keeping the installation in place.

The Board terms of Bob Wenzel, Steve Knudson and Wally King have met the three year end. All three expressed willingness to serve again. Nominations for the three were received and their approval to the Board was approved by the members present.

A discussion of the schedule for our spring and fall meetings yielded the consensus that we should return to the Saturday of Memorial Day and Labor Day, with an 8:30 AM start time.

There was an update on the status of Silver Lake Directory. Brian Chase indicated that there will be an addendum to the 2015 listing this spring 2016. We have about an 8 o 10% change rate annually.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved at 9:43AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Fillmore, Silver Lake Association Secretary