



Annual Meeting Minutes
-Zoom Webinar-
August 22, 2020

Treasurer Dave Christian greeted the panelists and online attendees to open the meeting at 10:05 AM. President Steve Young welcomed the viewers, and reported the current Association membership to be 185.

Dave Christian then reviewed Zoom procedures, and conducted a brief test to ensure that all attendees were connected and able to vote. A quorum attendance was verified. The minutes of the 2019 meeting, as well as the agenda for the current meeting were approved.

Dave then gave the treasurer's report: The treasury balance was reported as \$25,447.56, which includes \$6721.56 in the Swimmers Itch Fund.

Keith Shahan, membership committee chair, explained that the committee continues to reach out to those members whose ILA memberships are approaching expiration; although at an all-time high, the membership represents only about 1/3 of lakefront property owners, and recruitment opportunities were limited this season by cancellation of several public events due to Covid. Keith asks all members to promote the association whenever possible.

Voting for directors was opened with a request for names from the floor. None were forthcoming, so a vote was conducted to retain those who were due for reelection. Jim Gilleylen, Ken Freeman, Ron Turner and Steve Young each received 21 'yes' votes, including 6 absentee votes for each. No 'no' votes were cast.

Changes to the bylaws were approved, to provide clarity, to delineate the separation of Special Projects Funds from the general fund, and to provide for the creation of future SPF's. Steve proposed the creation of new bylaws to: clarify the disposition of unused SPF monies in the future, allow electronic voting, clarify details of absentee voting, and to require 10 days' notice for ballot items submitted for voting, as defined in Michigan Public Act 9. All provisions were passed.

Jim Gilleylen and Steve Young then discussed changes in the proposed implementation of the Swimmers Itch SPF pending the emergence of new techniques and methods available from Freshwater Solutions. It has been discovered that the swimmers itch cycle, formerly thought to depend solely on Mergansers as a link, can also use mallards and Canada geese -- thus rendering useless the tactic of relocating Mergansers to control or eliminate the problem. The newest techniques use a physical mesh barrier, or baffle, to exclude the parasites from a specific area; a wealth of information on this new system, known as "Vision 2020" is available on the ILA website. The baffles can be built by ILA volunteers, and have been offered to any lakefront owner willing to try them and report the results; so far no one has responded to this offer. A test of the system at Thurston Park is being planned, pending approval by the village council.



Everyone is encouraged to report swimmers itch incidents to the University of Alberta database, using the link found on the ILA website or by scanning the QR code found on publicly distributed rack cards. Jim encourages all to search the data available on the ILA website.

Steve discussed briefly the sightings of blue-green algae on the chain of lakes, and referred all to the ILA website as a good place to learn more. He then invited suggestions for the site of next year's annual meeting; of course, the evolving Covid situation will figure in the choice of a location and protocol of such a meeting.

Keith reported that the annual mass mailing to all lake property owners who are not currently members of the association has taken place. He then listed the commercial sponsors and encouraged us to patronize them.

Ken Freeman then described the inspection this summer of 4 of the 10 fish shelters that were placed between 2013 and 2015. They were found to be in good condition, and were photographed in place by volunteer divers Chuck and Clark Miller. The photos, and the GPS coordinates of all the shelters can be found on the ILA website. Ken plans to begin collecting shelter-related data from members and fisherfolk, to be presented on the website.

Dave Christian reviewed the status of the lake level program. Data are being gathered by the Army Corps of Engineers and by many volunteers all over the ERCOL watershed; this phase of the operation will require more time to complete. Higher rainfall amounts, and changing patterns of rainfall, along with sediment in the system's rivers, cause challenges in the maintenance and regulation of the water levels. The association enjoys a good relationship with Mark Stone, the operator of the dams in Bellaire and Elk Rapids; this asset has led to a revision of dam procedures in 2019, the results of which will be reviewed this Fall.

Ron Turner discussed the importance of enforcement of existing laws meant to limit shoreline damage and erosion, especially the "100 foot rule" which, though more important than ever as boats and wakes get bigger, is commonly ignored.

Steve then described work being done near the south end of the lake involving a barge and a crane: A fiber optic cable is being run across the lake bottom. Steve mentioned that a demonstration of boat washing machinery, meant to prevent the inadvertent transmission of invasive aquatic plants and animal species from one lake to another, is scheduled for September 19 at the Thurston Park boat ramp.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Webb