

## NLA Annual Meeting

Sunday 8/19/18 Staudemeyer' Fours Seasons Resort

Call to order at 12:06 by president Jim DeRoma

Introduction of Board Members: Jim Krueger, Jim DeRoma, Greg Dehring, Linda Fischer, Denise Dupras, Karen Musser, Amanda Staudemeyer (All in attendance)

Audience introduced (Names and location on the lake) Members and guests in attendance (55).

Minutes from 2017 Annual Meeting read by Denise Dupras, motion from membership to approve and seconded. Minutes approved.

Treasury report read by Karen Musser. Balance as of 7/31/18 checking \$35,822.72, CD 12,029.57 for total assets of \$47,852.29. Liabilities \$0. Receipts \$10,015, Expenditures \$14,287.28.

Annual Program "Walleye – State of the Lake" presented by Mike D'Andrea. Chair Namakagon Walleye Project. He presented the history of the walleye density on the lake and the recent data showing that the numbers have now dropped to 2.3 walleye/acre. There is recognition from the tribes and the DNR that these numbers are too low. Scott Toschner feels this is a natural walleye lake and there is strong support to bring Lake Namakagon back to 5 walleye/acre or better density. While there has been significant concern that tribal spearing has been a major source of the drop in numbers, hook and line fishing harvests 3 times the numbers of the tribal take. Extensive communication and meetings over the past months have resulted developing a fisheries initiative with three initiatives.

1. Environmental – Focusing on improving the environment for walleye. There are grant dollars available to land owners focusing on woody structures to keep bait fish closer to shore to allow development of walleye. Anyone interested in having additional wood structures dropped into the waters near their land should contact Mike D'Andre. This is different than the fish sticks, but does require trees from more than 35 feet from shore and would not use shoreline trees.
2. Decreased harvesting – Tribes have cut their harvest by 50%. Signs will be posted asking anglers to consider catch and release or decreasing their harvest. Mr. D' Andrea estimated that in 2017, the tribes took 1300 walleye, while fisherman took 2900, which is estimated to be 57% of the walleye population.
3. Stocking – Mr. D'Andre discussed options for stocking and why we were unable to stock in 2018. Also Muskie stocking continues, but is not the reason for the drop in Walleye on the lake as the primary food source of muskie is perch. Partnerships have been developed with the tribes from Red Cliff and Bad River as well as UW Steve's Point, which has a state of the art facility for developing walleye. There is an opportunity for a fall stocking but will cost \$5000. Optimal size for stocking is 6-8 inches. Going forward there is an opportunity to stock for the next 3 years at a cost of \$20,000 year (goal is

20,000 6-8 inch walleye per year). Recent experience has 40% success rate at near by lake. There is a meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup> to further discuss the topic.

Namakagon Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan developed in December in partnership with Harmony Environmental. Full plan is available at the Town Hall and Library. The NLA is in need of an Implementation Committee and members and non-members of the NLA are encouraged to contact Jim Krueger with their interest. It was emphasized that the Committee's primary responsibility is implementation of action if problems arise.

### **Old Business**

1. Milfoil update – current status was updated and continued surveillance required. Appears to be controlled at this time.
2. Yellow iris – was again identified at the beginning of the channel from Namekagon to Jackson Lake. Jim DeRoma removed a large patch, then found another patch. A third patch was found on the Brose property. There was discussion about removal. Other discussion surrounded the Chinese Mystery Snails and the recent large numbers seen in the lake. Much is unknown about the risks these pose to the health of the lake.
3. Landing and Rapid response Grant – 2 landing grants were obtained. No grant for Funnys Bay because we did not have enough volunteer hours last year. Jim Krueger stressed we need 200 monitor hours per landing to get grant dollars. Currently we are paying \$15/hr for landing supervision and training the monitors. The Rapid Response Grant (total \$29,750) is 25:75. So far we have spent \$11,474. Part of the agreement is to have an implementation committee.

### **New Business**

1. By-laws change discussed current bylaws allow a non-member to be on the Board of Directors. This was felt to be an oversight. There was a motion to amend the bylaws to state that "All Directors *must be members of the Namakagon Lake Association*". This was seconded and approved by the membership. By-laws will be amended and updated.
2. Updated website –will be more flexible for alternative formats will be done this fall [www.nlaonline.org](http://www.nlaonline.org)
3. New NLA brochure will be developed this fall

### **Accomplishments for 2017-2018 were reviewed at the meeting**

- a) Membership Numbers – 246 voting members, an additional 60 members who were paid through 2017. Denise discussed issues with the June mailing where individuals did not get cards notifying them of dues and how the NLA has rectified this issue.
- b) Cameras and Camera viewers – Ed Hilz discussed the effort and encouraged others to contribute to this important task

- c) Boat Landing Supervision – Jackie Holm was recognized for her outstanding work to organize the individuals who are monitoring the landings.
- d) Buoy removal, repair and placement in lake
- e) Lakeshore clean up
- f) Matt Burg Lake weed identification points – multiple points throughout Jackson, Garden and Namakagon will be monitored as part of our Aquatic Management Plan.
- g) Volunteer Dinner is replaced by our lunch following this annual meeting. All members are invited to attend, but RSVP was requested to estimate numbers for our caterer.

### **Election Process**

Nominees were introduced: Denise Dupras, Linda Fischer, and Steve Musser. There were no additional nominations from the floor.

**Correspondence** - none

**Comments/concerns** from the audience: There was a motion from the audience to request \$5000 from the Town of Namakagon to fund the fall stocking of Walleye in conjunction with authorizing the NLA to contribute \$15,000, request \$5000 from the Town of Namakagon, and additional dollars from the Town of Grand View to sign a long term contract to stock walleye moving forward in collaboration with Red Cliff, Bad River, Steven's Point and the WDNR. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Election results:** There was unanimous selection of the three candidates for the Board of the NLA.

**Next board meeting** – Sept 22, 2018, 9 AM at the Namakagon Town Hall

**Adjournment** – at 1:33 AM Followed by luncheon catered by Brickhouse Café