

ELRA 2023 Annual Meeting/Activities Recap

The 2023 annual meeting was held at Emily City Hall on August 12. For those members that were unable to attend, here is a recap. The meeting presentation can be found [at](#) the ELRA web site, under ELRA Meetings. Other material discussed at the meeting can also be found there.

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

REPORTS TO MEMBERSHIP

Secretary's Report: Mark Seifert presented the [Secretary's Report](#) from the August 13, 2022 Annual Meeting. No members had questions. Minutes were approved by voice vote.

Treasurer Audit Committee Report: The Audit Committee, Jean McLeod and Steve Smith, presented the results of Treasurer audit. They found the ELRA accounts were all in order.

Treasurer's Reports: Randy Manlick presented the [Treasurer's Report](#) through July 31, 2023. There is \$18,319.94 in our savings account and \$5,837.17 in the checking account. No members had questions. The Treasurer reports were approved by voice vote.

AIS Report – Lake Survey Results: Russ Boverhuis reviewed the results of the [Eurasian watermilfoil lake surveys maps](#) conducted in July by Freshwater Scientific. A total of three plants were found - two in Lake Emily and one in Lake Mary. Those plants were removed and no additional treatment was warranted. Our plan is to continue monitoring the lakes since EWM is difficult to eradicate.

AIS Report – Zebra Mussel Survey Results: Russ Boverhuis reported on zebra mussel surveys. The DNR and ELRA conducted veliger tests this year looking for zebra mussel larvae. None was found. Good news, but you are encouraged to check your equipment when it is pulled from the lake this fall.

Fish Stocking Report: ELRA will be stocking walleye fingerlings in Lake Mary this fall. Thanks to member support we are stocking the lake with \$2,800 worth, or about 150 pounds of walleye fingerlings. The DNR also released over 600,000 walleye fry into Lake Emily this year.

ELRA learned that the DNR conducted fish surveys on Emily and Mary Lakes this summer. The last surveys were conducted in 2017 and 2012, respectively. The final reports are not available yet, however, preliminary findings showed increased numbers of crappies and northern pike in both lakes compared to the earlier surveys. Emily walleye numbers were down a bit but were higher in Mary. The final reports will be posted on the DNR website later this year.

Dam Repair Report: Jason Herfel provided a report on the progress of repairs to the dam. ELRA advocated for these repairs after hearing concerns from our members. Through our efforts, the Emily City Council approved funding for the needed repairs.

Since the Annual Meeting, the dam repairs were completed.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

2024 ELRA Budget: The 2024 ELRA budget was handed out at sign-in and presented by Randy Manlick during the meeting. Randy discussed the revenues and expenditures in 2023, which provided a framework for anticipated revenues and expenditures in 2024. There were no questions. The 2024 ELRA Budget was approved by voice vote.

Q & A SESSION: Prior to the meeting, the ELRA monthly newsletter offered members the opportunity to email a question which would be addressed at the annual meeting. Two questions were received prior to the meeting.

1) Question about Lake Levels

Lake levels are always a topic at the annual meeting. We checked with the DNR and other sources and learned the biggest impact to our lake levels has been the droughts. We are currently in the third year of drought in our area. Most of our precipitation occurs in late spring/early summer and then tapers off. Water levels in lakes, wetlands, streams, and groundwater fluctuate naturally in concert with precipitation. Levels will likely rise again naturally when precipitation patterns and precipitation levels return to normal.

Russ Boverhuis also announced that the DNR was seeking volunteers to measure lake levels for Emily and Mary. We have not had a lake level reader for several years. Tori Ell volunteered and will be reading the gauges for the DNR.

We also found some facts on the DNR website that may help put the graphs found in the presentation in perspective.

1939 - Year Emily dam was built

1248.97 ft - Sill height of the dam

1249.55 ft - Most recent lake level reading for Emily (5/24/2023)

1249.90 ft - Ordinary high-water level for Emily and Mary

1247.45 ft - Lowest water level for Emily (1939)

1248.09 ft - Lowest water level for Emily after dam (Oct 1956)

1248.20 ft - Lowest water level for Mary after dam (Oct 1956)

1251.28 ft - Highest water level for Emily (Jun 2012)

1251.78 ft - Highest water level for Mary (Jun 2012)

2) Question about Wake Boats

We listened to concerns that the large waves produced by wake boats will cause shoreline erosion and disruption of the lake bottom. It is unknown what long-term effects there might be to our lakes and shoreline. This issue will be researched by ELRA Board and they will report back to the membership in a future newsletter.

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Russ Boverhuis was reelected to a new 3-year term.

Tori Ell was nominated and elected to a new 3-year term.

A big thank you to Steve Smith for serving on the board. We greatly appreciated all he did for the lake association.