

EMILY LAKES AND RIVER ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 12, 2023, 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Board President, Russ Boverhuis at 7:05 pm. This was a teleconference meeting via freeconferencecall.com.

Board members present – Russ Boverhuis, Jason Herfel, Randy Manlick, Steve Smith, Jean McLeod, and Mark Seifert

Board members absent – Randy Holz

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The meeting agenda was sent via email prior to the meeting. Jason made a motion to approve the agenda. Randy seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

NEW SECRETARY POSITION

Joan McLeod wished to step down from the Secretary position. Mark Seifert volunteered for the position and was voted to replace her.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Secretary's Report from the September 23, 2022 board meeting was distributed via email. No changes were made to the report. Jason made a motion to approve the report. Steve seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Randy distributed and presented the Accounts Activity and Balance Reports. The savings account increased by \$12,000 after a previously approved transfer from checking. There was some discussion regarding the internet account (website hosting and email) and payment arrangements. Russ will follow up with Mark Drewitz to clarify the history of this account and make recommendations.

Randy distributed and presented the Final 2022 Budget vs. Actual Report and the approved 2023 Budget vs. Actual Report. ELRA had 95 members submit payment in 2022. Income and expenses for 2023 will likely be similar to that in 2022. In the past year, we have spent less than our income with grants having covered many expenses.

Jason made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Steve seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

Russ opened a discussion of dates for this year's Board meetings. After some discussion, it was felt that the third Thursday of most months would be most optimal to meet. Monthly meeting dates will be: April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, and September 21. The August meeting will be the ELRA Annual Meeting to be held August 12th. The ELRA Boat Parade was set for Saturday, July 1st.

Russ will kick off the ELRA newsletter schedule in 3-4 weeks that will include a membership renewal segment.

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2023 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Russ prepared for Board review an updated (2023) version of the membership form. Some refinements were suggested for clarity, as well as, discussion of potential places where these can be posted for public viewing (e.g., the City of Emily community board across from the meat market) and novel use of colored (blue) mailing envelopes to attract the attention of potential new members. Membership notices (for new and renewals) will be mailed out around February 10th.

AIS ACTIVITIES

- A. *2023 DNR Grants*. Russ reported on several recent changes relating to AIS activities. The DNR moved up the date for submission of DNR water treatment grants to the end of 2022. Fortunately, Russ was able to mobilize and complete submission of the grant, which was accepted. As of today, he has not heard about the status of grant funding.
- B. *Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District funding*. In the past, ELRA has received county funding for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) monitoring. However, this year we will be limited to \$500, ostensibly because we have not reported any EWM for the past two years in Mary and Emily lakes. There was discussion regarding the rationale for this reduction as (1) just because no EWM has been reported doesn't mean it is not present, (2) we have experienced different water years these past two years, and (3) no one was monitoring onsite boat traffic at the Emily Lake public access this past summer. Efforts will be made to see if there is any recourse to this reduction. Additional funding may be sought through the City of Emily Waters Committee.
- C. *2023 PLM Contracts*. Russ distributed for review PLM contracts for both Emily and Mary lakes for treatment against EWM and other noxious weeds. A question was raised regarding Section IX and being named as an additional insured party. Russ will follow up with PLM for more information on this option. There was also a notice in the contract concerning potential littering violations if signs previously posted by PLM personnel regarding treatment details aren't removed from property in a timely manner. In a future newsletter, we will remind property owners to remove such signs and dispose of them. A motion was made by Steve to approve the PLM contracts and was seconded by Jean. Motion was carried.
- D. *Update on Crow Wing County AIS activities*. Russ summarized parts of a meeting he attended on Crow Wing County AIS activities. This past year, watercraft inspections at public accesses were way down due largely to lack of people to work these positions. There are new reports of zebra mussels being found in Rabbit and Bass lakes. While mobile decontamination units have shown effectiveness in preventing spread of these mussels they will probably never be deployed at the Emily lake landing because it doesn't have enough boat traffic to warrant it. Russ will attend the Crow Wing County meeting January 25th to discuss their 2023 AIS plans.

BOARD ELECTIONS

Russ provided a sample ballot for this year's voting at the Annual Meeting. Both he and Steve have expressed interest in running for their respective positions.

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WATER IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Jason provided an update on the status of a water quality improvement plan for our watershed. He hopes to convene a group by March 1st that includes relevant City and County partners to focus on answers regarding repair of the dam (hole under the dam with water flowing out). Property owners have observed that water quality and its recreational use is improved when water levels are sufficient but decrease when water levels decline. Low levels promote algae blooms and excessive vegetation growth along shorelines. Property owners on Little Pine River have been noticing increasing wild rice/vegetative encroachment within the channel that makes navigation, especially oncoming, a challenge. One action item they wish to pursue is reaching out to the group, One Watershed, to learn where to take this conversation. Jason will update the Board on their progress.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Mark made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jean seconded the motion. Motion was carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Seifert