

EMILY LAKES AND RIVER ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 20, 2023, 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Board President, Russ Boverhuis at 7:04 pm. This meeting was hosted by Russ at his cabin with call in options for those unable to attend in person.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT

3.1 January 2023 Board Meeting

The Secretary's Report from the January 12th board meeting was distributed via email. Mark noted that he misspelled Jean's name in one location, otherwise there were no changes made to the report. Randy M. made a motion to approve the report. Steve seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

4.1 Treasurer Reports

Randy M. distributed and presented the Accounts Activity and Balance Reports. After sending a check to Mark Drewitz for \$168 (Constant Contact internet service), payments for mailings, membership due payments to LARA and WAPOA, and depositing late-arriving membership dues payments our checking account balance is \$5,854.17. We earned \$4.51 in interest for the first quarter giving us a balance of \$18,309.51 in the savings account.

4.2 Budget vs Actual Report

Eighty members have so far paid membership dues to ELRA. Under Accrued Accounts, we received \$300 in donations for the EWM Fund and \$225 in donations to the Fish Stocking Fund

4.3 Debit Card Status

ELRA now has a debit card for use for Association transactions.

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

2023 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Randy M. has been monitoring and collecting returned membership drive forms and entering this information into an Excel spreadsheet. Forms have been coming in really well this year; perhaps our use of blue envelopes prompted property owner attention to the forms? There are a few new members, but the majority have been renewing their membership. Randy will send out a second mailing near the end of April targeting new lake/river property owners. Russ's May newsletter will include a reminder for people to pay their membership dues.

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2023 Annual Meeting

6.1 Confirm date, location, and topic

The ELRA Annual Meeting is to be held in the Emily City Hall on August 12th. Russ will reserve a room for this meeting. A question was raised about the merits of having a guest speaker who could provide an expert's voice on the topic of water quality and shoreline management. Jason recently met with a new county-appointed DNR hydrologist and felt he would be a knowledgeable and effective speaker. Board members expressed enthusiasm for having someone with such expertise give a presentation to membership. Jason will inquire of his willingness to speak at this meeting and will work to structure the topics for his presentation. The next Board meeting will include setting the agenda for the Annual Meeting.

AIS Activities

7.1 DNR Grant Status

Russ reported that Lake Emily got denied funding for lake surveys, but that \$1,500 was awarded for Lake Mary, which must be used up by March 2024. Survey costs on Lake Emily could draw upon the \$500 award received from Crow Wing County and the recent award from the City of Emily Waters Committee.

7.2 Crow Wing County Grant Status

ELRA has received \$500 from the county for funding Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) monitoring.

7.3 City of Emily Grant Status

Russ received word from the City of Emily that we were awarded \$4,833 from the Waters Committee.

7.4 Crow Wing County Inspectors

Russ reports that CW is hiring watercraft inspectors and we are hoping that there will be coverage at the Lake Emily public access.

7.5 Freshwater Scientific Contract Approval

PLM does the treatment of lake water, but Freshwater Scientific does the survey work. For some reason, they (Freshwater Scientific) wanted a separate contract this year. We must approve their contract. A contract has already been signed for work with PLM. In the past, payments for the surveys have gone through the City of Emily. Randy M. made a motion that we sign the contract with Freshwater Scientific, which was seconded by Randy H. Motion was carried.

7.6 PLM – Alternate Notification Procedure

Russ reported that we have been notified by PLM that we need to publish a notice in the Northland Press that we will be treating our lake waters. The timeline for this is May-early June. An alternate notification procedure would be our mailing out such an announcement to all lakeshore property owners. It was decided it would be more efficient and cost effective to have the announcement in the Northland Press. They will send us a certificate that the announcement was published, which will be sent to PLM and the DNR per their requirements. Russ will work to get this set up for publication.

WATERS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Steve provided an update on the last meeting (April 6th) of the Waters Committee. Representatives from area lake associations (Ruth, Roosevelt/Lawrence, Emily) and the City Council Member Liaison were present. There was discussion about how these lakes were monitoring watercraft for invasive species at launch sites using I-LIDS (Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor) or some other methods

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(e.g., onsite inspectors). Emily Lake is considered a low-risk lake, so it only gets weekend coverage (or no coverage if there is a shortage of inspectors). Steve was thanked by the Board for his participation and willingness to serve on that committee.

WATER IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Jason has been in discussions with Jacob Frie, a DNR hydrologist, regarding the severity of the leak from a breach in the dam. The City of Emily owns the dam and must pay for repairs to this structure, but they can't perform any engineered repairs to the dam until and unless they receive approval from the DNR. Jason will discuss this with the City to understand the severity of the leak and what, if any, repairs should be made.

DNR REQUEST FOR LAKE LEVEL GAGE READERS

Russ reported that the DNR is looking for volunteers to serve as gage readers on local lakes. The program has already started for this year, so volunteers are being sought for 2024. Russ will provide this information in his next newsletter to the membership (early May).

MEETING ADJOURNED

Jean will host next month's Board meeting (May 18) at her house. Jason made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve seconded the motion. Motion was carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Seifert