



BLACK LAKE ASSOCIATION



May 13, 2019

The board meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Grant Township Hall by President Brett Trepanier. The pledge was recited and the minutes from the previous meeting were read. Minutes were accepted as read. The treasurer's report was received and filed subject to audit. The Budget was read and approved by the board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Township Reports: Nothing new to report.

Membership: The beach representatives' luncheon will be held in June, so beach reps are updated about BLA activities and can contact residents about what the association is doing and encourage them to join the association.

FISH: Erin McLean reported on walleye fishing and increased fines. The previous fine of \$200 for fishing over the limit has been increased to \$325 for the first offense, \$500 for the second offense, and \$700 for the third. For large, repeat violations, DNR can request revocation of license. In addition, a fine for possessing fish illegally taken can be added to violations, with a per-fish fine for the number over the limit. Fishing at the Rainy was much slower this year than last, and the DNR patrols did not charge anyone with violations. Roger Selvig reported that it was a good year for the Shivaree. Six fish were caught within an hour. Over 2,500 attended, generating the most money that Sturgeon for Tomorrow has ever made. Some sturgeon species may be declared endangered, triggering federal regulations about sturgeon in Black Lake to take effect. The illegal export of roe from sturgeon obtained illegally is a rapidly growing problem. Roger also reported on the Northern Inland Lakes Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee spring meeting. Enbridge was the main issue of discussion. Line 5 goes through Indian River by Howe's Marina so there is a risk of flow into the inland lake waterway where the line is. Also discussed was a plan to apply for grant money to improve fishing infrastructure on the Cheboygan River near the

paper plant by building a fishing platform to increase safety. There is a new disease in bass showing up in some NE MI lakes, but it has not appeared here yet. The quota for perch catch has been reduced from 50 to 25.

WATER LEVEL: As representatives of the BLA, Roger, Ron, and Brett are participating in a dispute resolution process related to water level maintenance of the lake, water level protocols, operating procedures for the dam, etc. They signed the confidentiality agreement for mediation with Black River Limited Partnership, FERC, Presque Isle and Cheboygan counties, Mi DEQ, Mi DNR and the Black Lake Preservation Society. At this time, the agreement prohibits participants from publicly discussing the ongoing mediation efforts. An amendment to the license for the dam has been requested. Currently, the water level is 612.76.

MARINA: Keith Chelli (DNR) notified the BLA that the DNR will inspect the marina, make an inventory, and examine the slips and launch so that they can begin planning. A DEQ permit will be required for work to be done. The slips are in bad shape, and the boat launch does not meet minimum standards for DNR launches. There is no funding to do anything yet, but the inventor is necessary before requesting funds in October. Public meeting will be held, no dates yet. Ron asked Chelli if boaters can use launch. He was given no clear answer. Safety and liability are concerns.

SWIMMERS' ITCH: Cindy Trepanier and several other members of BLS participated in two Michigan Swimmers' Itch Partnership conferences to learn more about what can be done to reduce the problem of swimmers' itch on Black Lake. A survey was included with the spring newsletter mailing to 650 members and residents. Seven responses were received. Ron Reimink of Freshwater Solutions will make a presentation at the June 10th BLA meeting about the survey and control method that he proposes. The BLPS has received a grant from Tip of the Mitt and hired someone to remove the mergansers from the lake to attempt to interrupt the parasite cycle. A cream has been developed that is being patented that you can use before entering the water.

WEED CONTROL & INVASIVE SPECIES: Ron Dulak reviewed the weed problem discussed last year. A committee was formed to look into thinning and removing weeds in some areas of the lake. He will check with the committee to see if they have made any progress. Sharon Dulak reported that Huron Pines had repeated their survey of invasive species last year. Invasive phragmites are gone but some native phragmites remain. Huron Pines will repeat the survey this year in case additional treatment is needed.

NOMINATION OF BOARD MEMBERS: Cindy Trepanier, Ron Dulak, and Dave Turzewski were nominated for board positions for the coming year. There were no additional nominations from the floor. Voting for these positions will be at our June 10th meeting.

STATE PARK PAVILION: There was a brief update on the DNR's plans for the pavilion at Onaway State Park. Ron Dulak moved to make a donation to the cause, but tabled the motion until checking with the treasurer regarding current allocation of funds. John Roby suggested that license plates are a possibility to raise funds for the pavilion. Brett offered to contact Jeremy Spell about the idea.

BUOYS: Brett plans to put the buoys in at the channel for the Lower Black River before Memorial Day.

BANQUET: The banquet is Saturday, July 13, beginning at 5:30 pm at the Black Lake Grille. The cost is \$30. Matt Winans will provide live music. Connie Nadjarian is looking for donations of items for the auction. She is also in need of volunteers.

OPEN DISCUSSION: There was a discussion regarding the use of fertilizer around the lake. If they don't contain phosphorous they are not contributing to the growth of weeds in the lake. However, agricultural runoff from the watershed could contribute to the weed growth especially where water enters the lake. Blowing leaves and yard trash into the water is illegal.

NEXT MEETING: BLA's next meeting will be Monday, June 10th at 6:30 pm at the Grant Township Hall. We will be having our annual potluck. Bring a dish to pass and your tableware. Potluck will be followed by a brief business meeting to elect board of directors and a presentation on possible swimmers' itch solutions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Smith, secretary

A special thank you to Linda Van Sickle for taking notes for the minutes.