

MINUTES - Lake Edward Conservation Club (LECC)

Annual Membership Meeting - June 25, 2022 at 10 AM at Lake Edward Town Hall

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting was called to order at 10 am by President Herb Nelson. The assembly was led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Nelson introduced the Board members present: Lynn Hansch, VP; Nancy Fischer, Sec; Mike Chapman, David Christensen, Ron Czerepak, Paul McCullough, Tom Schneck, and Don Rother. Absent: Wayne Henquinet, Liz Hintze. Don Rother will be retiring this year, and a cake in his honor was served during social time before the meeting.

Annual Minutes from August 14, 2021: The minutes of the 8/14/21 Annual meeting were read by Secretary Nancy Fischer. Motion was made to accept the minutes, with corrections, seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report as of 6/30/2022 – Wayne Henquinet was unable to attend so there was no formal report. Balances reported at the May Board meeting showed LECC assets totaled \$38,990.57 as of 4/29/22. These balances include designated funds for testing and possible treatment of CLP (estimated at \$12,000) as well as fish stocking. As of 4/29/22, LECC had income of \$5,778.52 and expenses of \$101.68 for a net income on \$5,676.82.

Herb Nelson reported that donations to LECC are always appreciated. LECC is a 501(c)(3), so the donations may be tax deductible. We have received \$250 in donations as of 6/30/21, and Herb thanked all for their donations.

Dues and Membership – 76 members have paid so far in 2022. Past year's members were 106 in 2021, 158 in 2020, 124 in 2019, 115 in 2018, and 121 in 2017. Members present were invited to pay their dues at today's meeting.

2021 Directory available – An update directory has been printed and made available to all present to take. Board members had distributed this directory to their neighbors, and Herb will keep the supply at his house.

Board Member Terms - The LECC By-Laws authorize *at least* 9 lake board positions. Candidates identified: Lynn Hansch (Vice-President), Wayne Henquinet (Treasurer), Mike Chapman (Water Quality), Ron Czerepak (Newsletter) and David Christensen (Ditch 13) (all incumbents). There were no nominations from the floor.

President Herb reported that Paul McCullough was elected at the May 2022 Board meeting to serve as a board member and on the Fisheries Committee. Herb Nelson serves as the chair of the Invasive Species committee. Herb thanked Don Rother for his many years of service to the LECC.

Motion was made to accept the slate of candidates as presented, seconded and carried.

Presentation: Fish Stocking in Lake Edward

Paul McCullough, from the Fisheries Committee, presented a recap of DNR historical data. The DNR has been monitoring Lake Edward since 1938. Gill Net Surveys are done every 6 years, with the next one scheduled for 2026, using 15 gill net locations with a goal of 10 walleye per gill net survey. Electrofishing surveys occur annually in September to evaluate the walleye supply, and determine restocking for the DNR. Paul's presentation included historical results for the past 20 years for Walleye, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Large Mouth Bass and Crappies found in the gill net survey, as well the diet impact of one species on the others.

This past spring, LECC stocked 1,000 crappies at a cost of \$2,700, which was funded by donation pledged of \$3,400, as the DNR does not stock crappies in Lake Edward. LECC Board is proposing an annual stocking program for fingerlings of walleye and crappies. The board is seeking donations to fund this effort, with a goal of stocking crappie (in the spring) and walleye (in late fall). This will not impact the DNR's walleye fry stocking. The Fisheries committee will continue to monitor the DNR survey results to gauge the impact of the stocking. Donations for the restocking project can be sent directly to LECC.

Water Quality & Lake Levels –

Mike Chapman reported the lake level at the landing is taken weekly and reported to the DNR. The level this spring was at the OHW level of 1,207.3. Water samples are taken monthly from May to Sept and sent to the lab. The water clarity was 15.5' when last measured.

Rother watches the Loons are on the lake and reported there are 5 pairs of loons on the lake with 9 young. He also asked people to not get too close to the loons!

Water Levels and Ditch 13 – Lynn Hansch and Dave Christensen reported that they met with Jory Danielson from the Crow Wing County (CWC) Highway Dept. Ditch 13, which flows from Pelican Lake thru Lake Edward and into Long Lake, is controlled by the weir level, which runs under County Road 4 on the south end of the lake. The weir level was set by the MN Legislator in 1984, based on Ordinary High Water levels. Its purpose was to conserve water and designed to keep the lake at about “average” levels.

CWC maintains the weir, cleaning up debris and beaver dams as needed, using Ditch 13 funds. In 2022, CWC plans to clean debris and beaver dams near Train Bell Resort. This ditch maintenance is funded by property taxes from lake and land owners along the ditch.

Newsletter – Ron Czerepak was thanked for the great job he does on the newsletter. Please give us your email address, send to LoriNelson@brainerd.net to receive notices and information from LECC; we do not sell or distribute the email list other than to contact our lake neighbors with lake news. Ron will check with Liz to see that the newsletter is posted on our website.

Invasive Species – Herb Nelson presented a written report on the following items:

Boat ramp helpers monitor watercraft to reduce invasive species. LECC funded 520 hours for Lake Edward helpers. There is a shortage of workers, so they are unable to cover more hours.

Curly Leaf Pondweed – On 6/1/22, Ron Duy, our contractor, treated 16 acres of CLP within a 40-acre area on the north side, as identified in the 2021 survey. In 2022, the MnDNR awarded a grant of \$6,357 for the Lake Edward treatment. There is roughly \$5,500 remaining the LECC reserves for CLP treatment. Members were invited to donate funds to build up this reserve.

Zebra Mussels spread seems to be hindered by the limited amounts of hard surface in the lake.

Cormorants There is a permit to control cormorants, however, eagles have begun nesting on the island in Pelican Lake possibly reducing the cormorant nesting.

Spiny Water-flea LECC collected water will be taken again in 2022. The county pays for the lab work and we are awaiting lab results.

Fall Pot Luck & Bingo – Discussion was held regarding potential locations. It was a consensus to hold off at this time. A suggestion was made to have social only at one of the local establishments.

Boat Parade – Will be held July 4th, starting at 11am, starting from Cozy Bay. Don Rother will lead the parade!

The next Board Annual Meeting will be held on August 27th at 10 am at the Lake Edward Town Hall.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Submitted by Nancy Fischer, Secretary