

MINUTES - Lake Edward Conservation Club (LECC)

Annual Membership Meeting - August 14, 2021 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; Wayne Henquinet, Treas; Mike Chapman, David Christensen, Tom Schneck, Don Rother. Absent were Ron Czerepak and Liz Hintze.

Annual Minutes from June 13, 2020: The minute of the 6/13/20 Annual meeting were read by Secretary Nancy Fischer. Two corrections were noted. Motion was made to accept the minutes, with corrections, was seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report as of 6/30/2021 – Wayne Henquinet reported LECC assets totaled \$32,576.09. These balances include designated funds for testing and possible treatment of CLP (estimated at \$12,000). To date, LECC had income on \$2,625.00 and expenses of \$1,643.52 for a net income on \$981.48. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer Report, was seconded and passed.

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 – 106 members have paid so far in 2021. Past year's members were 158 in 2020, 124 in 2019, 115 in 2018, 121 in 2017.

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

Board Member Terms - The LECC By-Laws authorize *at least* 9 lake board positions. Candidates identified: Herb Nelson (President), Nancy Fischer (Secretary), and Tom Schneck (all incumbents). Reid LeBeau has volunteered to fill the 10th position on the Board. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made to accept the slate of candidates as presented, was seconded and carried.

Water Quality & Lake Levels –

Don Rother reported the lake level is down 12" in 2021, and reviewed the 15 year cycle of which we are near the bottom. Three water quality tests have been taken this year, and we are awaiting the results from the lab. Two chloride tests have been taken, and there will be one more in the fall. Crow Wing County is monitoring the chloride levels, with concerns caused by road salting.

Rother watches the Loons are on the lake, nesting in the reeds, and asked people to not get too close.

The issue for chloride levels led to a discussion on replacing outdated water softeners. The LECC Board offered a \$50 rebate in 2020, for which no one has applied. A motion was made to extend the \$50 rebates for the replacement of water softeners for 2 years to 8/1/2023. Discussion followed. The motion was amended for the rebate amount of \$100 on water softener replacements, up to \$2,000 total expended, to be available to 8/1/2023. The amended motion was seconded and carried.

Water Levels and Ditch 13 Presentation – A power point presentation was made by Herb Nelson and Lynn Hansch explaining the history of Ditch 13, which flows from Pelican Lake, thru Lake Edward and into Long Lake. Nelson showed historical lake levels and the effect of rainfalls, evaporation and plants on water levels. The weir level, which runs under County Road 4 on the south end of the lake, was set by the MN Legislator in 1984. Its purpose was to conserve water and designed to keep the lake at about “average” levels. Lake Edward is currently below the weir setting, showing that the low lake level is driven by evaporation, not run off, and the lack of rain.

Lynn Hansch reported that water has not gone over the weir since June of 2021. Crow Wing County (CWC) maintains the weir, cleaning up debris and beaver dams as needed, not LECC volunteers. CWC would say the State of MN is the only one who could adjust the weir level. The height of the ditch was set based on Ordinary High Water levels. This ditch maintenance is funded by property taxes from lake and land owners along the ditch. Discussion followed.

A motion was made and seconded, for the Board to reach out to the management of Ditch 13 for the opportunity to manage lake levels up as well as down. Motion failed.

A motion was made, and seconded, for the Board to form sub-committee of neighbors to review the impact of Ditch 13 on lake levels and what we can do to impact the lake levels, with Scott Mitchell as Chair. Motion Carried.

Newsletter – Ron Czerepak was unable to attend today. 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.

Fisheries –Mike Chapman thanked David Christensen for the Lake Survey report from 2020. Walleye fry were not added in 2020; however 2 million were added in 2021. In 2020, the mean walleye was 14.8”, with 67% being 12 inches or larger. For Pike, the goal mean 20.6” was met, with 41% between 22-26” and 9% over 26”.

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, with an additional 54 hours over the 4th of July bus season.
Curly Leaf Pondweed was surveyed on Lake Edward by Ron Duy, our contractor. Ron found CLP sparse in Cozy Bay, growing very dense on the north side of the lake. Ron could see to the bottom at 13’ feet. CLP is growing in 15-18’ of water and was about 3’ long. The DNR concluded that conditions were not right for treatment and did not approve treatment.
Zebra Mussels spread seems to be hindered by the limited amounts of hard surface in the lake.
Spiny Water-flea LECC collected water samples and no SWF were detected in 2020. Samples were again taken in 2021 and we are waiting for 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 – Was held July 4th, starting at 11am, which conflicted with church for some. In 2022 it will be on Monday and should not be an issue.

Next Annual Meeting will hopefully be at Lake Edward Town Hall in June 2022.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.