

ELK-SKEGEMOG LAKES ASSOCIATION ("ESLA") BOARD MEETING

March 17, 2022

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ruth Bay, Bob Campbell, Dale Claudepierre, Steve Francis, Jan Garvey, Dean Ginther, Mary Beth Kazanski, Ken Krentz, Bob Kingon, Brenda Miller, Pat Pierce, Nancy Schreiber, Deanna Seifried, George Seifried, Phil Spangenberg.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Don Bonato, Andrew Hogarth, Kate Lett, Linda Slopsema

Bob Campbell, Elk-Skegemog Lake Association (ESLA) Board President, called the meeting, run virtually through Zoom, to order at 10:04 am.

General Meeting

Bob Campbell began the meeting by stating that our independent contractor, Sam Ogle, would be putting in more hours during the summer due to her "regular employment" reduction in hours. Bob also indicated that volunteers at ESLA events would be covered by additional insurance. There were no objections or further discussion.

Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report:

Phil Spangenberg gave the treasurer's report. He happily noted that the latest March receipts for members' dues had increased measurably, some \$17,050 so far for March, over the previous month's total of only \$6,800. See attached "Financial Statements" including the 2022 Annual Budget.

Phil also noted that he is unable to access the Vanguard Investment Accounts electronically. Vanguard requires that the minutes reflect that Phil and Nancy were given permission by the board. Steve Francis made the following motion.

Motion Regarding Execution of Vanguard Organization Resolution for the ESLA investment account

1. Gary Chenowith shall be removed as an authorized signatory
2. ESLA Treasurer Phil Spangenberg shall continue as an authorized signatory.
3. ESLA Finance Committee Chair Nancy Covington Schreiber shall be added as an authorized signatory.
4. Only one of the above signatories is required for the following actions:
 - a. Investment of assets.
 - b. Giving instructions to Vanguard for the purchase, sale, transfer between ESLA accounts, or exchange of securities held by Vanguard in an ESLA account.
 - c. Transfer funds between Vanguard and ESLA accounts held at Huntington and / or 5/3 Bank.
5. The above signatories are to act as "Persons of Limited Authority" as defined on the Vanguard "Organization Resolution" with the express exception they may not engage in options or margin trading.
6. Such instructions as described above may be in writing, verbal, or via email.

7. ESLA President Bob Campbell is authorized to execute the “Vanguard Organization Resolution” on behalf of ESLA in accordance with the above.

This motion was seconded by George Seifried and passed unanimously by the board. Steve noted that this process must be reviewed on an annual basis.

Website and Facebook:

Bob Campbell reported that Kate Lett, Chair of the Website Committee, has to reduce her level of volunteer work on ESLA’s website projects due to demands of her business enterprise. He would keep the Board apprised of efforts to improve the ESLA website and the formatting required for the planned monthly email blasts from the board to the membership.

Membership:

Brenda Miller and Sam provided an update on the Bloomerang new membership services software, indicating that the conversion is proceeding apace and should be finalized within the next week. They noted our membership data will be cleaner, more accurate, less burdensome to work with, and available for board members’ access. The data will be forward looking, dating back to 2018. The older data will be archived and available for only specific purposes in the hopefully rare event a board member needs data from prior years.

Deanna, the membership chair, noted that she will be relying on Zone Captains to get more involved in reaching out to non-member Riparians to join ESLA. Deanna advanced three proposals, mostly utilizing our website to generate new members and also improve our opportunities to collect email addresses. Specifically, they are to:

Include an invitation on our website to request a hard copy of the ESLA newsletter;

Include an invitation to volunteer in specific activities – a “Volunteer Checklist”; and

Invite members to RSVP for the Annual Meeting and *It’s A Shore Thing* events.

All of these proposals reflect the effort to become less paper intensive and more digitally oriented. This is part of the effort to rely on email blasts to the membership and a reduction in the hardcopy of the newsletter.

Ruth Bay reported that the *It’s A Shore Thing* committee has identified the speakers for the coming year as follows:

April 22	Fishing Guides, Fred Fields and Jim Chamberlain
May 27	National Weather Services (speaker unknown at this time)
June 23	Annual Meeting – Harbor Pavilion – Behind the Scenes

July 22 Drone Survey Analytics – Jan Garvey
August 26 Great Lakes Water Studies Institute – Hans Van Sumeren
September 23 Hydrology Study – Mark Stone

Ruth also mentioned that the committee is gearing up to announce Hikes in and around the area that the membership will be invited to participate in via the Monthly Email blast. First one will probably be in May.

Communications:

Bob Kingon, Chair of the Committee, shared a document that was discussed at the recent Committee meeting. It lists 15 potential topical areas to be covered in ESLA communications over the next four years (please see the attachment). The Committee identified articles that could be covered in the next 2-3 issues of the ESLA newsletter and posted on the ESLA Website. The list provides a format for communication planning.

Bob Kingon presented to WPIT attendees a proposal to revise the ESLA Riparian Handbook for the use of all ERCOL lake associations. The handbook would be re-written in collaboration with the other lake associations to develop consistent messages. Each lake association could develop the first chapter providing specifics about their organization. Bob reported a favorable response from the other lake associations present and that Beth Dole of the Dole Foundation, indicated that such a project would be one that the Foundation would be likely to support. Much of the material in the ESLA handbook is under copyright to Mark Stone, who says he will relinquish the privilege.

Safety and Recreation Committee:

Pat Pierce announced that the Elk River dam is at the proper level. He ordered and received three new buoys and that will make 16 buoys to mark the Torch River mouth into Lake Skegemog. The signage is also ready to be installed at its old location. He needs to purchase more cabling to anchor the buoys and signs. The plan is to install the markers two weeks after the ice is out. Pat recognized the welding work done on the sign by Ken Krentz.

Pat also stated that he will be resigning from the board and moving to the Big Island in Hawaii. Sad regrets rang throughout everyone on the board. Pat could always be counted on by everyone within ESLA to jump into action and help out anyone in need of an extra hand. He will be sorely missed.

We will need to find someone to replace Pat. He is planning to work with that person this spring/early summer to make a smooth transition. Bob Campbell mentioned several individuals he was going to ask to see if they would be interested.

Environmental Committee:

Jan Garvey, Chair, referred to the recent email blast about the E-coli sampling previously found in Spencer's Creek nearby Burnette Foods processing plant and EGLE's Notice of Violation to Burnette Foods. A sub-group met yesterday with The Watershed Center of Grand Traverse Bay. Information was exchanged and we plan to get the two groups together again to formulate a longer term strategy. The board recommended sampling for E-coli in the area year round. Discussions were held regarding surface water permits/ground water permits and who/how/what regulations needs to be enforced to achieve cleaner water. Frustrations voiced over the multiple regulatory agencies involved and difficulty in connecting the dots to responsible parties. George Seifried noted that efforts to utilize Elk Rapids sewage treatment process is unlikely and that any attempt at litigation could take years to resolve.

George Seifried mentioned that World Water Day is March 22. Both he and Deanna have written Letters to the Editor of the Elk Rapid News on the topic of protecting our waters and we should see it in this week's edition.

Jan and Sam are documenting several environmental related projects that are planned activities for this summer. These project proposals are located on ESLA's Google Drive and outline the basic activities we would like to do. They include:

- Boat Washing Stations;

- Drone Survey Follow-up;

- Healthy Shoreline;

- Deepwater Mapping; and

- Invasive Species.

In addition, we are documenting inquiries from members, particularly those that collect pictures of questionable water problems.

With respect to the drone analysis, Jan reports that the analysis needs to have greater specificity to identify positive aspects about the lake shoreline. We have noted that it is difficult to compare our results with the drone surveys on much smaller lakes – there are different issues to deal with, for example wind and weather impacts. The drone results have already been very helpful in identifying areas of invasive species. We are still working on a high level broad communication on the survey results, as well as a specific gameplan to utilize the drone survey this summer.

Bob Kingon requested that the area in Maple Harbor be re-sampled to provide "before and after" comparisons since the sewer project for 40 homes was completed two years ago. Bob and Andy sampled that area in 2017 and found high levels of E-coli and Cladophora, and the data was used to initiate the expansion of the Elk Rapid's Village sewer system.

Government Committee:

Steve Francis reports that there is nothing to report at this time.

ERCOL and TOM Committee:

Mary Beth Kazanski, Chair, noted frustrations with lack of unified septic code in Michigan. A new program has been prepared by TOM to be used to engage small governments and educate them regarding these environmental issues.

Mary Beth is very impressed with the new Tip of the Mitt Executive Director, Katy Wolf, previously with Friend of Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary in Alpena. She will invite Katy to an ESLA meeting to make introductions. Noah Jansen is the new TOM Restoration Coordinator.

Old Business

Nancy Schreiber stated that the solicitation of Business Supporters will be mailed during the first week of April. She requested assistance from the board to review the list of potential business supporters and add businesses and or addresses/business owner name/phone numbers/web site connection etc. the committee may have missed in aggregating the data.

Ken Krentz stated that Hans Van Sumeren of the Great Lakes Water Institute at NMC is gearing up their plans to learn more about the deeper water of Elk Lake utilizing specialized sonar equipment and an ROV. This will enable us to look at the bottom of Elk Lake for potential lake trout spawning areas and get a better understanding of the benthic community. Ken will meet with the students ahead of the actual field study.

Ken requested the help of board members to identify local fisherman on the lakes that fish for brown trout, either successfully or unsuccessfully, and where they caught them, or not. Any information provided will be kept confidential.

New Business

Bob requested that the board actively seek out pictures and videos to display on our website.

Due to the imminent departure of Pat, who had been slated to be the next president, the nomination committee, chaired by the previous president, Mary Beth, needs to reconvene to cogitate over our next incoming 2023 president. Mary Beth will follow up.

Adjournment – 12:04 pm

Submitted by Correspondence Secretary, Nancy Schreiber