

Lake Lida Property Owner's Association

Annual Meeting

Friday, July 12, 2019

Dave called the meeting to order and introduced the Board members.

Zach reviewed the Treasurer's report. Pointed out the Meeting Advertisements expense was for meeting notices for the weed project we did on South Lida.

Dave reviewed the priorities of the Lake Association.

Dave reviewed how the efforts to eradicate curly leaf pondweed transpired starting last fall. A meeting was held with specialists to figure out what was happening on South Lida and what we could do about it. It was decided that treatment was needed, so the Lake Association paid for a survey and solicited quotes for treatment. Survey was \$1950, Treatment \$15,000 and Public Notices cost \$320. Total roughly \$17,270.

A similar survey done on North Lida will cost around \$4000 - \$6000. Treatment costs would be dependent on the amount of Curly Pondweed found.

It is not possible to eradicate all of Curly Pondweed, but we can make an impact.

Dave covered how our dues are not enough to continue with treating the problem. Thus the Beach Captain's voted to increase dues to \$30 to help with it, but we are still missing roughly half of property owners paying membership.

Forming a Lake Improvement District is one solution that would help bring in more membership dues and income to treat the problem. Another solution would be to raise dues to \$50 and ask for additional donations.

Dave reviewed what a Lake Improvement District is (A local government entity focused solely on improving water quality, access, fishing or other lake issues), who runs it (Board) and how it is formed (by petition signed by at least 50% of property owners) followed by approval by the county after public hearings. A plan describing the goals and proposed programs of the LID is required. The budget for the program determines the assessment to residents.

Question- how will we know how successful we will be in treating the Curly Leaf Pondweed? We will have a survey done again next May. Also asked, do we know how effective this treatment has been on other lakes? Dave responded that Pelican Lake has been treating for around 10 years, but not sure the success rate.

If we form a LID, a board of 5-9 members determines the spending and we are accountable for the projects we fund.

A question was asked why did the dues go down? (last year) Because our balance was getting too high with no plan in place for spending. Do LIDS have sunset clauses? They can be dissolved the same way they were created (with a vote, public meetings, etc...)

Question: Why doesn't the state park have more of an interest in assisting with the problem? They were at the meeting last fall but didn't offer to assist with the solution.

Comment was made: Have to be careful about raising the dues, might make it more difficult to get a LID passed and to get the same people to pay. Comment that \$50 is a cheap investment- if you want to sell your place and you have that green water out front- you will have problems selling.

The Board has decided that we are going to push ahead, if we don't get the signatures, we don't get the signatures, but we are going to proceed. A suggestion was made that we Make a motion to pay someone to get signatures. No motion was voted on.

Tony Grindberg shared that everyone on his beach is supportive of forming a LID. It's time to act now, if we don't address this problem, everyone should pay something, unanimous on their beach to support the LID.

Question was asked: What if your property is part of an association? (Some former resorts have their own association.) The cost would still be based on the size of your property, property taxes paid. So if the whole area divides the property tax costs evenly, the LID cost would fold into that and the assessment would be made on the total area of the association property.

Question: If you have a LID do you need to have a Lake Association? Some do just to organize more social type activities. Should we ask our members, would you pay the dues if we raised the dues to \$50? If we didn't raise it, How do we get more people to join? We need to be able to pay for these weed projects. It's not government spending our money, it is your neighbor deciding how the money is spent.

Question: Will there be any members on the Board that are not property owners? DNR? Answer is no.

Someone said they were on Pelican Lake for many years, they only paid \$50 to be a part of the LID.

Comment: Thanks to the Board for all the work you do. Grant money – did the Board look into any of that? DNR will have some money available, it is a possibility, but when Davelooked into it, he said there isn't any money there now, but he will let us know if there is. Another benefit to a LID is we would have more access to grant money.

Question: Can we tap into the Heritage Fund? Answer is we can only if we are a LID. You have more options to bring in more money if you have a LID.

Question: Can we get the petitions now and not wait until the fall? Neighbors should be asking neighbors. Board wants to make sure all of our i's are dotted and t's are crossed before we proceeded. If the LID is approved your \$50 would end and it would be tagged on to your property taxes. We would need to figure out what the cost would be of the projects proposed before we would know how much it will cost the property owners. In other words, the Board develops a plan with a budget then the total amount is divided amongst property owners. Ie. If the budget is \$70,000 and there are 700 property owners, the amount due to each property owner is \$100. Again, it would also open us up to granting opportunities.

We need to educate the rest of the people. Beach Captains talk to property owners. It was suggested that we set up a second Beach Captain's meeting to determine how to proceed. Open it up to anyone

else who is willing to help. Dave can come up with a one-pager with speaking points. It was asked that we get LID information on the Lake Lida website.

Richard Lewis would like to make a motion to raise the dues to \$50 and do whatever it takes to move forward with the LID. Bob Green seconded. Motion passed. Comment: I'm not opposed but we need to get the word out.

Eleanor from Our Mississippi Our Future was introduced – not asking for money, looking for support for talking to your local government. The group is active in protecting and preserving the Mississippi. More information at ourmississippiourfuture.org. Passed around a sign up.

Jim Wolters, DNR, reported on the fish surveys done on North and South Lida. Done about 15 surveys since 1950 on North Lida. Showed the fish catch rates for a variety of fish species. Haven't stocked Lake Lida since 1988. Lake Association stocked walleye fingerlings in 2006. Stocked North Lida this spring- zebra mussels could be having an impact on natural reproduction of walleye- research is being done to find out for sure. But just to be cautious, they decided to go ahead with stocking. For the next few years DNR is going to be stocking the Lida lakes. Question: Could this have anything to do with the slot limit not working? South Lida hit a historic high last year with number of catch rate for Northern Pike. South Lida was stocked as well. South Lida's habitat has really changed.

Original objective of the 17-26 inch protected slot length limit for walleye in N and S Lida Lakes was to Increase the proportion of walleye 17 inches and greater to at least 35% of the summer gill net catch. One of the reasons it was put into place is to protect the spawning females. Mean catch rate was 10.4 walleyes by gill net. Last year we were at an all time low, that's why they stocked. Regulation may be stabilizing the numbers. An objective of slots is to have them protected, then have them come out at the other end as a trophy. DNR shared graphics we can make available on our website.

Bottom line the slot limit is working, but they are at a point right now to decide if it is time for a change. New option that has been used on some of the larger lakes 20-24 inch protected slot. Allowing a little more harvest but still protecting the walleye. DNR is going to propose next year to drop the Lida's slot limit to 20-24 inches. Is there any discussion about lowering the limit? Yes, on a state level it is being discussed, but there isn't overwhelming support for it at this time.

If they decide to change the slot limit in 2021 it will go into effect.

U of M has discovered the genes of the zebra mussel- they are closer to finding a way to control them.

Walleye fund, it was suggested that after the shock and treatment this fall, might be a good time to do it. Jim said this year wouldn't be good, but next year would be. Or anytime on South Lida. What can we get for \$2k- they are generally about 18 bucks a pound- 20-25 fingerlings in a pound. What is the survival rate of the fries? Can't give a definite percent because there are so many variables, such as what kind of a spring we have.

Meeting was adjourned.

Side conversation suggestion was made: point out on the one pager that only 307 of the 700 members pay their dues.