

West Lakes Association Fall Meeting

August 27, 2022 – West Lakes Boat Mart – 10:00am

The meeting was brought to order by current President Ned Lichtsinn who proceeded to introduce and recognize Officers and Directors of the Association who were present.

- Treasurer Rosie Risser went over a handout of the Treasurer's Report which was included with the Agenda. There were no questions; a motion to accept the budget was seconded and was approved.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the Secretary's Report submitted for the June 11, 2022 Spring Meeting.
- Ned asked for 12 volunteers to take out the Stop Logs – there are 8, each weighing about 150 pounds. When these are taken out the lake level will go down considerably so getting boats out of the lake by October 15 would be a good thing to do.
- Peggy Wihebrink representing the Kosciusko Water & Woodland Invasive Partnership (KWWIP) was introduced and gave a presentation about their group and what they do – protecting the land and water from non-native invasive species of plants. She emphasized that even though it was named Kosciusko that Noble County has already contributed to this cause and is already involved; they will actually be adding Noble to their name. She left information on their group and how to join.
- Darren, a DNR Conservation Officer serving Whitley County was present. There are two new DNR Officers currently in training that will serve Noble County. Officer Darren started by answering questions he had already received and continued answering several questions that came from the floor. Some of the issues addressed were buoys, lake speeds, piers (restrictions on length, number of piers and number of boats allowed), life vest requirements for different watercraft, fishing – rights of lake front owners and of fishermen, and license and driving requirements for motor boats, golf carts and ATVs. Officer Darren agreed to stay until after the meeting to answer more questions. He also mentioned that all this information can be found on the In.gov website.
- Randy Mull next gave a presentation with information about the newest insect threat – the Gypsy Moth. He explained its life cycle, how it can kill oak trees specifically and how to help get rid of them if you see them. He also mentioned briefly the Lantern Moth which is also becoming a threat in our area.
- A brief report was given by Jean Thomas, Association Vice President. The Lake Directories are out – please email Jean with any changes so the next printing will be a more current and correct directory. She also reiterated Ned's plea for volunteers to take out the Stop Logs and for the need to increase our membership numbers. She is working on designing a flag for West Lakes and asked for any volunteers who would be interested in this to contact her. Lastly, Becky Heidenreich was acknowledged and thanked for all of the volunteer work she does on behalf of the Association.
- Mike Schaefer, who is well qualified to report on the lake water height and water flow, explained quite clearly, using provided graphs, that it is the spraying of weeds that keeps the water flowing and not the removal of logs. The graphs showed water level, rainfall dates and

amounts, tree removal dates, vegetation spraying dates and the effect these all had on the water level. It was quite obvious that the flow of the water was greatest, therefore decreasing the water level, after the vegetation spraying. He is collecting all this data to be used to help with funding to be able to continue spraying in the coming years.

- There were five positions to be elected this fall, President, Secretary, Jones Lake Director, Tamarack Lake Director and Director at Large. A motion to close the nominations as given by the board and a vote to accept these nominees was seconded and accepted. The new officers are Ned Lichtsinn, continuing as President, Linda Knefely, Secretary, Cliff and Diane Foughty, Jones Lake Director, Randy Mull, Tamarack Lake Director and Paul Veldmann, Director at Large.

The meeting was adjourned and everyone was invited to enjoy the pot luck.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Knefely