

## **West Lakes Association – Board Meeting – Wednesday, May 10, 2023**

Meeting was called to order at 7:08pm by President, Jean Thomas.

### **Attendees:**

Cliff Foughty, Diane Foughty, Becky Heidenreich, Linda Knefely, Randy Mull, Rosie Risser, Jane Silver, Stan Silver, Jean Thomas

Becky motioned to accept the Minutes of the April 5 meeting, seconded by Cliff and the minutes were approved. A few members did not receive the email with the Agenda and the Minutes; this will be checked into and corrected.

### **Old Business:**

**Weed Spraying** – Jean reported that Aquatic Weed Control will be out in the next day or two to do an initial weed spraying. Per the LARE grant, the spraying must be done prior to the water temperature reaching 60 degrees. The cost will be \$1254 to spray 23.4 acres (normally we have 50 sprayed). A representative from Aquatic Weed Control will be at the General Meeting on June 10 to answer questions. Private spraying for residents who have scheduled with Aquatic Weed Control will be done at the end of June; Jean will put this on facebook. Weed spraying should be considered a #1 priority for the Association; supplemental spraying may be needed – cost is \$270 per acre – possibly needing 6-15 acres sprayed depending on weed growth. We may also need a Fall spraying especially in the “Horseshoe” area which is just past the dam. Jean mentioned the flooding we had in early spring – 3 homes had water inside the home. The Emergency Management Agency, Gabe is the new Director, called several times and inspected the lakes daily during this time. Luckily, the rain that was predicted never materialized – we got snow instead which turned out to be a blessing. The previous Fall spraying that was done also had a big impact on how fast the water was able to drain; Fall spraying for this year should definitely be kept on our radar.

Randy mentioned that he will need to submit a final report with information and photos for the REMC EnviroWatts grant we received.

Jean also explained the LARE grant situation and wants to find out more about the difference in the amounts being awarded – previously there was \$750,000 available for weeds and spraying; this year the amount was \$275,000. She feels the likelihood of receiving any LARE grants in the future is questionable. BTW we now have a dedicated DNR officer for our lakes; he was on the lakes once last year and gave 11 tickets.

**Jones Lake Sediment Problem** – Jean had no update on this, she has heard nothing from them and feels like nothing will be done until at least next year. To recap, the Jones Lake Group did receive a \$100,000 LARE grant for sediment removal that they must use within 2 years.

**Stop Logs** – These have NOT been put in yet. The lake is at 6.4 feet; it needs to be at 5.5 or 5.8 feet in order to do this.

**Conservancy** – Randy reported that he and Paul met in April and determined that they need to start this whole process over again from scratch. They are meeting with P. Kelly, the past President of Indian Lakes and will need to meet with the current President to definitely find out if they are in or out as this will make a big difference going forward, especially financially. Next would be to meet with the attorney, then the DNR, with the goal of getting signatures on a petition in 2024. Estimates from 5 years ago - \$30,000 for an Engineer; \$5,000 for the attorney. Sylvan Lake does have a conservancy called the “Rome City Conservancy” which includes all residents within the city limits, not just lake residents. Bottom line, many more meetings and much more research needs to be done.

**Log Removal** – Randy stated that logs were removed on Friday – the river is pretty clean!

**Newsletter** – Feedback on the Newsletter has been positive. Linda stated she has started the Summer edition which should go out at the end of July. So far it will include Lake Rules and a recap of the Boat Parade; any ideas, stories, articles you would like included, please send to her.

## **New Business**

June General Meeting – Saturday, June 10, 2023 – registration begins at 9:00am; meeting begins at 10:00am – location West Lakes Boat Mart. All board members should arrive by 8:15am to help get everything set-up and ready.

Jane/Stan - will get coffee started and will order/pickup donuts

will do 50/50 sales and drawing

Rosie – will bring everything for the registration table. Jean would like everyone who attends – member or non-member - to Sign-In. Rosie will have a sheet for that as well.

Diane – will handle the Merchandise Table – available items can be purchased directly or items can be ordered (order forms will be available). A new item – a water bottle that can be personalized – will be offered.

Yard signs will be available at the meeting; we are limiting signs to one (1) per household at this time. Older signs that have been damaged or need replaced can be given but more than 1 sign per paid household should be discouraged.

Technical needs include:

A wireless microphone – Dan has one???

Big Screen – Randy

Projector – Association has this

Window coverings – suggestions made as to how we could do this, i.e. Command Strips & tarps, cardboard....

We will set up at far corner of boat mart – same as the Fall Meeting

Ken Thomas has done the set-up previously with Ned

Tables – Registration (2); Merchandise (1); Coffee & Donuts (2-Marina has); Becky will bring 2.

Water will also be provided

Tentative Agenda for meeting to include:

Conservancy – Randy/Paul

Weed Spraying – Michael Shaefer to redo his presentation given at the Fall Meeting – only more concise.

Guest speaker from Aquatic Weed Control

Log Removal - ?

Jones Lake Sediment - ?

Each topic/speaker will be kept to their specified time limit.

Jean's goal for this meeting, and for the Association, is to instill a more positive mindset when lake residents think of West Lakes. The slogan, "For the Love of our Lakes" needs to be the reason we are doing any of this. The more that people see and hear this the more it will become part of us. She hopes to make it clear and transparent that 1) the future of LARE grants is questionable so we, the residents, may need to come up with the funds for yearly weed spraying; 2) anyone can make a donation – member or non-member – and for any project or fund they choose. She will also be providing a Final Report for this year's Weed Spraying giving all information - area sprayed, cost, grant and LARE funds received, donations made. It was also mentioned that we need to get accurate numbers and make a point of the # of households on the lake versus the # of paid memberships.

Lastly, volunteers. We want to get more people involved in the Association but when we ask for volunteers, and people sign up, someone needs to contact them. Also, it was noted that working at Bingo is no longer a fundraiser, to anyone.

**Boat Parade** – Date for this years' parade is Saturday, July 1 with the rain date the following Saturday. Easy way to remember, it is always the same day/rain day as Sylvan Lake fireworks. Jane, who has done a wonderful job at it for the last 22 years, is again handling the parade. Judges have not been determined yet; she is to reach out if she needs any help whatsoever.

**New Budget for Weed Spraying** – Rosie clarified this with Jean.

**Neighborhood Pot Lucks - Association Events** – Jean touched on this briefly as a few Jones Lake residents have mentioned having their own pot luck. More events like this need to be talked about and held.

**Lake Director Reports:**

**Becky – Waldron Lake** – she will start this week going house to house and plans to visit both sides of the lake. She has only ever had 1 person be rude; most are very receptive to her visit.

**Jane/Stan - Steinbarger Lake** - Stan has explained (again) about the concrete stop logs but nothing other than that to report.

**Cliff/Diane - Jones Lake** – had someone ask about the lily pads in the channel but there is nothing we can do about this.

**Randy – Tamarack Lake** – nothing to report.

**Comments/Announcements**

Corporate Seal – it is gone. Randy talked to Dave Wick who thought Linda Lichtsinn had it but it cannot be found. It hasn't been needed so if it ever is, we will figure it out then.

Rosie did a lot of work editing and updating the members list/spreadsheet, giving the individual lake lists to Becky, Jane and Randy. These will be very helpful as they make visits to their individual lake residents to welcome them and solicit memberships. Thanks Rosie!

Jean will be sending out the first batch of electronic invoices – initially they will only go to the people who had paid memberships last year.

Cliff motioned to adjourn at 9:17pm; seconded by several.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Knefely