

## Turtle Lake Watershed Partnership Minutes

**Saturday, April 12, 2008**  
**Turtle Lake Mission**

**Attendees:** M. Swanson, B. Gourlay, B. Lukan, G. Wacker, J. Philip, D. Taylor, J. Cameron,  
**Guests:** Lorelia Benoit, SWA, (Walter Gobert, Don Gormley, Allan Henko – Fishing Lake Stewards)

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M.

Merv Swanson opened the meeting and welcomed the members and visitors. After introductions Merv outlined that he expected that there would be 3 – 4 Board meetings over the summer of 2008. He then reviewed the agenda for additional items.

Bob Gourlay read the minutes from the Sept. 29, 2007 Board meeting and asked for errors or omissions. None were sited. Bob motioned the minutes be adopted as read, seconded by Gary Wacker. Carried by a show of hands.

### **Financial Report**

Bob Gourlay reported that the TLWI bank account as of March 31, 2008 was \$9,593.16. There were outstanding 2007 Membership invoices to Powm Beach, South Bay, Horseshoe Bay and Evergreen Acres, along with invoices to SNOWS and the DFO. Cash on hand and accounts receivable as of March 31, 2008 totaled \$11,068.16. Bob asked for questions and motioned the financial report be adopted as read. John Cameron seconded, carried.

### **Turtle Lake 2004-2007 Water Quality Report – Lorelia Benoit SWA**

Lorelei Benoit, Ecologist, Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, provided the board copies and presented the highlights of the Turtle Lake 2004-2007 Water Quality Report. They were as follows:

- Sampling period: 6 times / year for 4 years (2004-2007)
- Parameters used in the SWA Water Quality Index for recreational lakes included: ions, nutrients, bacteria, metals, pH and dissolved oxygen.
- Over the course of the 4 year study, Turtle Lake Water Quality Index score ranged from a low of 92% to 100%, resulting in “good” to “excellent” ratings.
- The overall rating describes Turtle Lake water quality as: “Protected with only a minor degree of threat or impairment; conditions rarely depart from natural or desirable levels.

Lorelia informed the board that the study is now complete and that she would send Merv Swanson a PDF of the final report and addendums. Merv also informed the board that he had received a letter from SWA informing the TLWI Board that they will not be continuing their direct involvement with the stewardship programs.

The board members thanked Lorelei for her work and the significant support she provided to our organization.

### **Website Statistics Report**

Bob Gourlay presented statistical usage information on the tlwi.ca website. Since its launch in late July 2007, the website has received 2,090 visits with 465 of them in August tapering off to 75 in March 2008.

## **SNOWS Report – Terry Kotyk**

Terry reported the SNOW's would be responding to SWA discontinuance of support for lake stewardship groups.

The Last Mountain Lake Stewardship group has recently embarked on a "Fuel Spillage Prevention Program" The program is quite visible through out the U.S. and is making its way north. Terry provided some literature on the topic. Don Taylor volunteered to investigate the program further and to report at the next board meeting.

Terry also reported that SNOWS is working on a Lakeshore Development Capacity policy. Gary Waker volunteered to assist Terry in the development of this policy.

## **New Business**

Merv Swanson inquired as to the board's interest in developing a sewage system inspection program throughout all lakeshore communities. He was involved in such a program with the Provincial Parks. He said that he had contacted Ken Startup, the public health inspector for the area, and that he was open to the idea, providing resources and funding could be provided.

Some of the board members felt that activities such as inspection and enforcement of legislation and by-laws should be left with the regulating authorities. However the TLWI could make a significant contribution to the issue by educating cabin owners on the nature and scope of the problem, along with instructions on how to inspect and test their own holding systems. Cabin owners could also be educated on how problematic systems, owned by others could be anonymously reported for inspection and action if necessary. The discussion resulted in the following motions.

**Motion 08-001:** Bob Gourlay – Move that an invitation be extended to the funding hamlets and RM's to host a Cabin Owner Information session where TLWI representatives will outline key issues and activities of TLWI. Seconded by Jack Philip, carried

**Motion 08-002:** Bob Gourlay – Move to develop and include a segment in the TLWI Cabin Owner Information sessions, which identifies the issue of faulty sewage holding systems and what cabin owner can do to test, repair and report them. Seconded by John Cameron, carried

**Motion 08-003:** Bob Gourlay – Move that the Turtle Lake 2004-2007 Water Quality Report be printed and delivered to the hamlet boards by their TLWI Board Rep. The report will include a covering letter from Merv Swanson, the President of TLWI. The letter would speak to highlights of the report, thank the hamlets boards for their support and extend and invitation to have TLW Inc. present an informative PowerPoint presentation to their hamlet residents during the summer of 2008. Seconded by Bernie Lukan, carried.

## **2008 Annual General Meeting**

The 2008 Annual General Meeting has been set for Saturday, July 26, 2008, 10:00 A.M. – Noon at the Turtle Lake Mission. John Cameron volunteered to book the church and arrange for lunch. Ken Startup, the Public Health Inspector was suggested as a key note speaker.

**The meeting adjourned at 1:45 P.M.**

## **Next Board Meeting**

Saturday, June 21, 2008  
10:00 A.M. – Noon  
Turtle Lake Mission