

Turtle Lake Watershed Inc. Board Minutes

Saturday, April 23, 2016 10:00 A.M., Turtle Lake Mission

Board Members Present: George Rozdilsky, Dave Blackwell, Les Gagnon for Bob Leslie, Bernie Lukan, Scott McRobbie, Colleen Reddekopp, John Kindrachuk, Clint Johnstone, Jim Range, Nancy Range

Call to Order:

President Jim Range called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. Jim welcomed everyone and led the group with introductions. Jim passed out a copy of the meeting agenda and asked that it be reviewed for additions and deletions.

Jim Range read the minutes from the September 12, 2015 meeting and asked if there were any errors or omissions. Bernie Lukan moved that the minutes be adopted as read; seconded by Dave Blackwell. Carried by a show of hands.

Financial Report:

President Jim Range made a brief report of the financial status of the organization. The previous minutes indicated on August 31, 2015, a bank balance of \$7,832.00. The present bank balance as of April 23, 2016 is \$9,976.70.

Report from the Ministry of the Environment: Colleen Reddekopp, Conservation Officer.

Ms. Reddekopp indicated that there are no new Ministry initiatives this year however, there is ongoing concern about the fishing pressure on Turtle Lake. Ms. Reddekopp made mention of the harmful effect of “double dipping”, a practice difficult to both accurately monitor and enforce. This is the practice of limiting out more than once per day. Consequently, the Department relies on tips from concerned citizens to address double dipping. Ms. Reddekopp went on to describe the illegal installation of a barricade at the mouth of the Turtle River. She asked if anyone had any additional information about this installation. The reward of \$2000 offered by Sask Tips made it clear to the public the issue of rules and regulations regarding unauthorized interference with lake water levels. Ms. Reddekopp took this as an opportunity to explain how Sask Tips is funded. Each RM in the province contributes to the Sask Tips fund. Sask Tips funded the \$2000 reward offered for information regarding the installation of the barricade on Turtle Lake. The barricade was removed by the department prior to the ice going out on the Lake.

There were no major issues regarding winter fishing this year. It was reported as a poor year for fishing. The Mitchell Brothers voluntarily plowed a road to facilitate the easy removal of ice fishing shacks. Jim Range suggested a letter of appreciation be sent to thank the Mitchells for their contribution. This was supported in principle by the group.

Report from John Kindrachuk of the North Saskatchewan River Basin Council.

John Kindrachuk made a detailed presentation to the group about the threat to Turtle Lake and all Saskatchewan Lakes regarding the presence of invasive species, more specifically the Zebra muscle. Implications for the impact of the establishment of a zebra muscle population within a lake and river system was detailed. Once the zebra muscle is established, at present, it cannot be controlled. The side effects have enormous environmental and economic implications. As one zebra muscle can produce a million offspring, it does not take long for boats, docks, buoys to be weighed down with the growth of these shelled creatures. The sandy beaches consequently become littered with sharp shells of this species making them impassible without foot protection! It was made clear that contamination comes into the province on boats from Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and various American states bordering the province. John brought with him a sign donated by the North Saskatchewan River Basin Council to inform the public of the necessary action to prevent the spread of Zebra muscles in Saskatchewan. May 8, 2016, 1:00 P.M. at 229 Beach Avenue South Bay, is the date set to hold a workshop for all interested in learning how to properly decontaminate watercraft. John Kindrachuk also agreed to return to the next meeting of June 11th to make a multi media presentation on the "Love our Lakes" program.

Moved by Scott McRobbie /seconded by Bernie Lukan that 15 signs be ordered as an initial response by the Turtle Lake Watershed Inc. Clint Johnstone volunteered to make inquiries as to the cost of additional signs to be printed in Lloydminster.

In conclusion, John Kindrachuk asked for help in identifying any potential local sites for the restoration of fish habitat. Monies are available for such projects.

President Jim Range made a report on his investigations of the continuation of the water testing program to continue to monitor the health of Turtle Lake. This testing program, once a provincial initiative, has been discontinued. Consequently, some Saskatchewan Watershed Associations have assumed the responsibility for the maintenance and cost of this testing program. Jim Range agreed to meet with representatives from the Christopher Lake/Emma Lake Watershed group for a more detailed exploration of how this is handled.

The decision to elect a new Secretary-Treasurer to replace retiring Bob Gourlay was deferred until the June 11th meeting due to low attendance of Board members at today's meeting. Nancy Range agreed to perform these duties on an interim basis.

The next meeting was announced: June 11th ; 10 A.M.

AGM Thursday, July 21, 7:00 P.M.

August 20th, 10:00 A.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 A.M.