

Annual General Meeting – Turtle Lake Watershed Partnership Minutes

Thursday, July 21, 2016

Turtle Lake Mission

Board Members in Attendance: Victor Hamm, Bob Leslie, Bernie Lukan, Scott McRobbie, Louis Bossaer, Dave Blackwell, Don Taylor, Court Peddle, George Rozdilsky, Clint Johnstone, Jim Range, Nancy Range

Membership: 27 people registered at the AGM

Call to Order:

President Jim Range called the meeting to order at 7:09 and welcomed members and visitors. Jim Range distributed copies of the meeting agenda. He then called for the adoption of the agenda. Moved by Victor Hamm; seconded by Kevin Heisler; carried.

Nancy Range read the minutes from the August 20, 2016 AGM. She asked if there were any errors or omissions. Nancy Range motioned that the minutes be adopted as read, seconded by Court Peddle, carried by a show of hands.

Jim Range handed out copies of the financial statement, explaining that at this point, the statement had not been audited. The Income Statement for the period ending March 31, 2016 indicated revenues of \$1,512.50, expenses of \$1,512.73 with a net income of -\$0.23. The Balance sheet as of March 31, 2016 reported total assets of \$7,986.65, total liabilities of \$0 and total equity of \$7,986.65. Jim indicated that this statement had not yet been audited. Moved by Kevin Heisler; seconded by Tanya Hamm that we find a suitable auditor to audit the books of TLWI. Carried.

President's Message:

President Range reviewed the TLWI mission which is to maintain the health of the Turtle Lake aquatic ecosystem and the general health of the lake and shorelines. Jim explained the former name, Turtle Lake Watershed Authority was changed as the group has no authority. Consequently, the TLWI group functions to achieve their goals through Education.

Nomination and Election of Board Members

Jim handed out a list of all board of directors whose term of office will be expiring on August 1, 2016. Court Peddle made the motion that all existing directors whose

term of office ends August 1, 2016, have their terms extended for an additional two year term ending August 1, 2018 if they are approved by their respective lake communities to continue to serve. Seconded by Bob Leslie, carried.

Water Levels:

Scott McRobbie made a report on the present water level of Turtle Lake. During the spring, the lake was 5" above the weir; at present it is 8" above the weir. It was mentioned that only three years ago, the lake was 22" above the weir.

Presentation 1: Love your Lake Thomas Abe This presentation was cancelled due to a Husky oil spill on the North Saskatchewan River. We will invite Thomas Abe to make this presentation at our August 20 meeting.

Presentation 2: Robbie Gaetz Ministry of the Environment

Rob handed out an information sheet from the Ministry on the issue of Invasive Species. Robs presentation included a general overview of the Zebra and Quadra Muscle problem, the results of contamination to a lake such as Turtle and efforts being made at present to control the spread. As there is no way at present to rid a lake of zebra muscles once contamination is found, it is critical that the public is alerted to the reality of invasive species and encouraged to take personal action to prevent the spread into our lake. As each female can produce one million spawn in a season, in short order they take over the lake ecosystem, successfully removing the food and nutrients needed to sustain the present life forms in the lake. Shorelines soon become litters with the shells that are so sharp that the shoreline is rendered inaccessible. At present, the monitoring of boats entering the province is being done at the American/Canadian Border and most recently, one checking station has been set up on the Manitoba/Saskatchewan border at the South East of the province. At present, the province owns two mobile decontamination stations. Gaetz went on to say that the Ministry has plans to test and monitor the substrate of Turtle Lake in the near future. In the end, the province relies on Education and an informed, proactive public to control invasive species in this province.

Presentation 3: Jim Range TLWI Water Testing and Signage for Invasive Species

Jim Range ended the meeting with a brief overview of the history of water testing on Turtle Lake. The provincial testing of important recreational lakes was discontinued in the province in 2007 due to budgetary constraints. The TLWI board feels that the waters of Turtle Lake should continue to be tested in order to monitor and detect any changes in water quality. There are a number of Watershed associations in Saskatchewan that have chosen to take on the responsibility of the testing, documenting and reporting of water quality. Jim reported that the Board

had asked him to see if the water quality testing could be subcontracted to Wayne Hyde of Christopher Lake, Emma Lake Watershed. Wayne had no interest in water testing on a contractual basis, but was more than willing to function in an advisory role. Jim further mentioned his next action would be put together a detailed list of equipment necessary and relative prices; to investigate funding options for equipment purchase, and finally to organize a group of volunteers who would be willing to learn how to do the water testing.

The TLWI awaits word from the Ministry of the Environment for permission to get additional signs printed for each Turtle Lake Hamlet to inform the public of the serious threat of Invasive Species. At present, we have been allocated one sign only.

An active question and answer period followed.

President Jim Range then thanked Rob Gaetz for his presentation. It was suggested that Thomas Abe's presentation on the Love your Lake project be presented at the upcoming August meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05. P.M.

Next Board Meeting: Saturday, August 20, 2016; 10:00 A.M. , Turtle Lake Mission. All board meetings are open to the public.