

**PGOLID Board Meeting
December 7th, 2021 5:00pm
Cormorant Pub and Online**

Board Members Present: Erika Gilsdorf, Dave Stene, Bob Leonard, Karen Hart, John Kruse, John Cosgriff entered at 5:11, Nick Valentine entered at 5:28
Board Members Absent: Dave Haarstad, Denise Lund-Smith,
Others Present: Steve Henry PGOLID Lake Coordinator,

Chair Leonard called the meeting to order at 5:07pm.
The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Introductions: The Board members introduced themselves and discussed their Holiday plans.

The Agenda was presented. There was an addition of Mosquito Control discussion under New Business
A motion approve the Agenda was made by Steen and seconded by Hart.
Ayes All

Minutes

The September Board meeting minutes were reviewed.
Steen made a motion to approve the minutes and Hart seconded it. Ayes all.

Treasurer

The current Financial Report and the Claims and Disbursements were reviewed. There was discussion of raising the Contingencies account to \$105,000.
Hart made a motion to approve the current Financial Report and Claims and Disbursements and increase the Contingencies Fund to \$105,000. Cosgriff seconded. Ayes all.

Board Reports

Buoys – Superior Lakeside provided a buoy maintenance sheet. 5 buoys will need replacement, there are sufficient anchors and chain. The budgeted amount should cover the costs.

Lake Coordinator Report

The Coordinator Report is attached following the Minutes. There was discussion of the proposed 2022 water sampling plan.

New Business

Feasibility Study- Cosgriff lead discussion about the ongoing urbanization of the lake shore and possible community planning steps to address the current and future impacts on water and lake quality. PLPOA members have expressed interest in possible local wastewater treatment options such as cluster systems or otherwise. The Board will review historical documents and discuss with PLPOA.
Mosquito Control- The current product used to control mosquitos, Biomist,

The next Board meeting is TBD with time TBD and location TBD.
Steen made a motion to adjourn, Hart seconded. Ayes all
Meeting Adjourned at 6:52pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lake Coordinator Report – December 7th, 2021

1. AIS Treatment

- The MN DNR sent AIS Treatment reimbursement checks totaling about \$3000.
- The grant application period for MN DNR AIS Treatment grants 2022 should open in January.
- While processing the grant payment we did have a persistent phishing attempt trying to gain account and systems information.
- Wild Celery was a prominent plant in 2021! Several lakes surveyed by RMB had Wild Celery levels much higher than ever observed. On Fish Trap Lake we found it at over 50% of the sites sampled which is a tremendous level of coverage.

2. Lake and Stream Monitoring

- Lake Water Quality Report – See additional attachment
- Littoral Sampling was done in October. This sampling was originally done in 2008 and has not re-occurred since then. It will be done monthly from May to October while lake samples are being taken with several additional sites.
- Zebra Mussel Sampling – report to be handed out at meeting. Similar to previous years.
- Sediment Samples were taken again this October. Sites sampled were on the eastern portion of Pelican Lake and will be compared to the 2004 samples from the same sites. Results will come back about January.
- 2022 Plans
 - Diagnostic monitoring on Spring Creek, 3 to 4 sites.
 - Littoral samples to document near shore conditions and trends, 10 sites regularly.
 - Sediment sampling program expansion, sampling 10 sites once each year.
 - Sonar transects: In the past work has been done in Minnesota on documenting plant growth and species with sonar, including by MN DNR. I recently saw an Engineer's report that documented 'bottom consolidation' and 'plant bio-volume' as indicators of lake health. This is not something done currently by MPCA or DNR but definitely tracks some significant lake conditions.

3. Partnerships

- Hubbard COLA – I distributed the 'Priority Area -Intersection of Risk and Quality' map and shared the link to the presentation on lake protection at the Hubbard COLA meeting.
- Crow Wing SWCD – Discussion about their Island-Loon Project and good approaches to get projects accomplish. They indicated that finding forums and methods to avoid the politics of discussing/proving a 'decline' in lake quality can be key. Currently they work extensively with the County Highway Department where lake quality is a non-issue in project determination.

- One Watershed One Plan – Habitat and Stewardship were discussed at the November meeting. The concern related to lakes was habitat loss due to vegetation removal. Lakes will be one of the items discussed for priority setting during their January 3rd meeting, 10 am to 3 pm. Those Priorities will then be approved January 27th. The Watershed Plan is projected to be finished within the year.

4. Workshops and Research

- Otter Tail AIS Presentation – Meg Duhr from the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center gave a presentation at Thumper Pond in Ottertail covering programs at MAISRC and the AIS Explorer. The AIS Explorer does have good tools for judging County level Starry Stonewort risk.

RE: Lake Use Changes - Spencer McGrew was a host of the presentation and he relayed that since MN DNR is almost always at the west Pelican Lake access Otter Tail County does not have a lot of inspection data from that access. What OTC inspectors saw was a 20%+ increase in boater launches in 2020. Initial review of 2021 indicates a reduction from 2020 but still above pre pandemic levels.

5. Student Communications – Possible Intern

- I spoke with a Carolyn Voss who is a student in limnology, lake systems, at Concordia College and has connections with Pelican Lake. Carolyn was very knowledgeable and passionate about Minnesota's lakes. I shared RMB's summer intern opportunities with her. She had some questions about the Pelican Lakes as follows. I will answer the first and the others are for your consideration. I have definitely heard opposing responses to these concerns, so there is no wrong answer.

- Carolyn: Looking at the lake water quality data I was surprised to see that it indicates Pelican Lake's quality is improving, for several years there has been increasing amounts of weeds, slime, and algae blooms. Can you explain that?

Steve: Standard mid-lake water quality measures gauge a lake's productivity based on the free floating algae and not rooted algae and plants. In the past free floating algae was the dominant form of lake productivity in most lakes, we measured how much algae was in the water based on secchi disk clarity and we knew about how productive that lake was. Now, in the presence of zebra mussels, most of the free floating algae gets eaten within days, digested, and deposited next to the rooted algae

and plants. This has shifted the lake's expression of productivity to the rooted algae, plants, and floating algae near your dock and away from our mid lake sampling site.

- Is it going to go away or get worse?
- Will the lake's quality be protected?

DRAFT