

# **Pelican Lakes Association**

## **Annual Meeting**

**June 24, 2017**

Meeting called to order by Craig Norman, President at 9:00 AM at the Breezy Point City Hall

Approximately 100 people attended. Those present included the participants and guests noted below.

### **1) Welcome and Introduction – Craig Norman**

Outlined the purpose of the organization including protecting the health of the lakes and education of the best practices for the health of the lake. Programs in these areas include:

Healthy Lakes:

Water quality testing, shoreline management, monitoring fisheries, watershed land use, and forestry

Aquatic Invasive Species,

Landing monitors, AIS research, lake surveys focused around landings, boat decontamination, and AIS treatment.

Education & Communication

Newsletter, Beach Captains, website, seminars, member meetings and events, guest speakers, and partnering with other lake associations, businesses, government offices and non-profits.

Mr. Norman then introduced our three Guest Speakers.

### **2) MAISRC Update – Nicholas Phelps, Co-Director**

Dr. Phelps thanked Pelican Lakes Association for its generous support and provided an update on the center's activities and funding support.

In addition to established invasive species, the Center is focusing on new concerns, such as Starry Stonewort, and new techniques for solving aquatic invasive species problems as we cannot solve today's problems with yesterday's solutions.

The Center is partnering with other research organizations, the DNR, industry and non-profits like PLA to prioritize its research efforts and make the most impact with its results.

The AIS Detector program, which PLA helped to create, will add citizen scientists around the state to extend the reach of trained AIS identifiers, helping preserve the DNR experts for confirmed sightings of AIS.

Dr. Phelps described the upcoming September showcase of MAISRC research results, encouraged PLA members to subscribe to the MAISRC electronic newsletter and to stay positive and active in the fight against AIS.

### **3) DNR Fisheries**

Jim Nichol introduced Mark Bacigalupi, DNR Brainerd Area Fisheries Supervisor.

Mr. Bacigalupi reviewed long term trends in DNR surveys of Pelican Lake fishing conditions, showing that recent counts are on the lower end of historic levels. Of recent stock results, some years were more successful than others, with the 2105 class showing good promise.

DNR "Creel" surveys involve extensive time interviewing boaters and sampling catches, and while they are expensive the DNR has been conducting across the state more frequently and recent tests resulted in stocking 4 million walleye fingerlings at a cost of \$17 - \$20 million two years in a row. The 2016 Creel Test results on Pelican were reviewed in detail and compared to results from the 1999 Creel Test. Lower levels of fishing activity were found, along with reductions in walleye and black crappie success. With additional low test results in 2017, it is possible fingerling stocking for Pelican will be approved for 2018.

Cormorant control results were described, along with the rules for possible future control efforts.

Zebra mussel density updates from transects lines in shallower locations shows increased density over the last two years. Over 54% of the lake is deeper than 15 feet, so those results may not reflect the conditions across the whole lake. At this time the population distribution is spotty.

### **4) Crow Wing Soil and Water District – Darren Mayers, CWC SWCD Staff**

Mr. Mayers described the mission of the Soil and Water Conservation District and its efforts in partnering to protect & preserve soil (land) and water.

The programs conducted by the district to protect preserve forests and lakeshore habitat were described, along with the programs available to assist private landowners with planning, improvement, managing forested area and lakeshore.

### **5) PLA programs and projects.**

Craig Norman presented updates on association continuing programs and special projects. Included in these were continued water quality testing, landing monitor services, beach captain volunteers and newsletters. New lake survey services were described as well as updated website and outreach efforts.

The new decontamination station being established at the Pelican Square car wash was described, in terms of arrangements with Pelican Square, Inc. and operations.

The support of the decontamination facility and the landing monitor program by Crow Wing County and the City of Breezy Point was also noted with appreciation.

## **6) PLA Finances**

Craig Norman then reviewed the finances of the Association as well as membership numbers. The trend of increasing member donations and advertising revenue were shown to support new program spending.

With the new programs and projects described earlier, 2017 programs are expected to result in expenditures will match or slightly exceed receipts, after two years of having receipts in excess of spending levels.

In addition, the decontamination station will result in one-time expenses in 2017 that will have benefit for future years, using approximately \$14,000 of savings. Also, the association has reserved \$9000 to spend on walleye fingerling stocking if approved by the DNR for 2018. Finally, there will be up to \$4500 of additional landing monitor expense in 2017 to match the DNR grant of cost-share hours received by PLA.

## **7) PLA Directors and Officers**

The members present were asked to approve, and approved, the following recommended slate of Directors of Pelican Lakes Association for two year terms: New member, Chuck Lane, taking over for Tom McGrann who completed his terms with thanks from the association. Renewing members of the Board for addition two year terms are: Tracy Donovan, David Spizzo, Bob Vaughn and Craig Norman. Board members elected to two year terms in 2016 are Laurie Greeno, Art Weaver, Jodi Billy, Bob Hamilton, Matt Stephens, Jim Nickel and David Slipy.

The Officers confirmed by the Board at its meeting on June 23, 2017 are: Craig Norman, President; Jodi Billy, Vice President; Tracy Donovan, Secretary. The Treasurer role is currently vacant with duties being performed by Craig Norman; the position is expected to be filled soon.

**Meeting was adjourned at 11:00.** Following the meeting the remaining tree seedlings acquired by the association for planting in the Pelican Lakes watershed were distributed to attendees.

**Respectfully submitted,** Tracy Donovan, Secretary