

## **Turtle Lake Watershed. Inc.**

### **Minutes of the August 25, 2018 Board Meeting Turtle Lake Mission**

#### Board Members in Attendance

Lloy Willy, Brian Clark, Bernie Lukan, Vince Voss, Gary Polinski, Dennis Klath, Court Peddle, Bob Leslie, Dave Blackwell, George Rozdilsky, Victor Hamm, Jim Range, Nancy Range.

#### Guests in Attendance: Lillian Rallison

#### Presentation of Agenda:

Moved by Brian Clark, seconded by Bernie Lukan, carried.

#### Presentation of Minutes:

Nancy Range read the minutes of the June 28, 2018 meeting and moved their adoption. Seconded by Court Peddle. Carried.

Presentation of Financial Statement. The present bank balance is \$3,946.38. Moved by Nancy, seconded by Dave Blackwell that the financial statement be adopted as presented. Carried.

#### Motions to Pay:

It was agreed that once received, the bill for the water testing be paid as received. Carried.

#### Old Business:

- a. The results of the "Love your Lake Project", completed during the summer of 2017, will be forthcoming by the RM of Mervin to cabin owners later in the fall of 2018.
- b. The infill at All Season's Resort has had no known regulatory approval as of yet.
- c. The proposed RV campground for Kopps Cove was denied for non compliance.
- d. Letter from the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce was read by Bob Leslie.  
Moved by Bob Leslie, seconded by Victor Hamm that a letter be written to thank this group for their initiative and for their efforts in this worthy cause we all share.  
Moved by Brian Clark, seconded by Vince Voss that a donation be submitted along with this letter to show TLWI support. Carried.
- e. Dead Birds: Colleen Redekopp's report on the findings of the study on the carcasses of the dead birds found on the shores of Turtle Lake has been up to this point inconclusive and will continue. It is strongly suspected that this was an environmental event; a spring storm with strong winds that blew these juvenile birds around the lake before they could fend for themselves.
- f. Moved by Bernie Lukan and seconded by Brian Clark that we send a request to the organizers of the Turtle Lake Walleye Slayers Classic. Ken Cundiffe is the contact person for this group. The motion suggests we request the organizers of this Fishing Derby be asked to report to TLWI prior to the tournament so we may work together

and support this group to insure the continued safety of the lake in light of the threat of Invasive Species. In addition, TLWI would appreciate feedback from the group after the derby regarding the results of the derby, weights and species taken from Turtle Lake.

#### New Business:

1. There was no representative from the Ministry of the Environment at today's meeting.
2. Victor Hamm, councillor for the RM of Mervin was in attendance
  - a. Facebook: Lloy Wil ly would like a second person to assist her in setting up and administrating a TLWIFacebook page.
  - b. Twitter: Louis Bossaer has the twitter site up and running; @turtlelake
  - c. TLWI Website: parts of this are up and running; parts under construction and will be completed during the winter season.
  - d. July 24, 2018 AGM Review  
Chad Doherty is to be thanked for the overall quality of his presentation covering the 2017 Turtle Lake Fish Survey and Invasive Species. Once Chad's final report is available, it will be posted on the website.
  - e. Victor Hamm reported that the RM is presently accepting proposals for new developments on Turtle Lake. They will be reviewed in the new year and may or may not be accepted. This is in keeping with the policy that new developments are allowed if they meet mandatory regulatory requirements after 75% of existing residential lots are being occupied.
3. The request for the support of the TLWI from the Hamlet Council of South Bay for their initiative to have the water level of "The Bay" lowered was discussed. Victor Hamm reported that the Bay levels have dropped from 3 to 4 inches due to the removal of beaver dams on the Warner River by the RM of Mervin. After discussion the TLWI board concluded that the TLWI could do little to help remediate the high water levels of the Bay except to encourage the RM of Mervin to continue the ongoing program of beaver dam removal from the Warner River downstream.
4. The U of S is starting a Master's Degree Program in Water Security. The NSRBC suggested we submit a proposal RE: a data analysis project compiling historical to present water quality results on Turtle Lake be submitted as a prospective research topic for this degree. Katherine Finn of the NSRBC is submitting this proposal on our behalf.
  - a. Victor Hamm presented a motion that The TLWI fully agreed with and supported the NSRBC proposal to the U of S for grad student assistance in the development of a protocol for water quality test interpretation. Seconded by Dave Blackwell. Passed

5. President Jim Range reported that The Canadian Council of Environmental Ministers have developed a software tool Canadian Water Quality Index that is designed to standardize the analysis and indexing of water tests. President Jim Range has the software installed and has volunteered to take the training online to use this program, if available.
6. The NSRBC has requested we set up a tentative schedule for ongoing water tests on Turtle Lake. Moved by Brian Clark, seconded by Bob Leslie that the spring test be completed by or near June 15 and the fall test, by or near September 15 of each year. Carried.
7. Moved by Bob Leslie, seconded by George Rozdilsky that water testing be done in September of 2018. Carried.
8. TLWI Priorities for 2019
  - a. Biological assessment of water; analyzing water variations during the season
  - b. Oil development and water. Moved by Nancy Range, seconded by Bob Leslie that we contact the RM regarding a presentation on water issues and the oil industry. Carried. This could be a possible presentation for our AGM.
  - c. Shoreline development and the Water Security Agency
  - d. Invasive Species Education
  - e. Water Testing on Turtle Lake
9. TLWI meeting dates have been set for the 2019 season.
  - May 11, 2019
  - June 22, 2019
  - July 16, 2019 Annual General Meeting
  - August 17, 2019
10. At present, we have no representation on the TLWI Board from Parkland Beach. Court Peddle will try to approach the Hamlet and request a TLWI representative be appointed.
11. Adjournment:

Victor Hamm moved adjournment at 12:00.

## Old Business:

The assessment required for the “Love Your Lake” program was completed. The results will be sent out by the RM this fall. Regarding the refunding of membership fees paid to TWLI, Jim mentioned that he and Bob Leslie had attended the Turtle Lake Lodge AGM and made a presentation explaining the role and activities of the TLWI. The Turtle Lake Lodge residents present at the AGM voted overwhelmingly to renew their membership with TLWI. The discussion regarding proposed development within the jurisdiction of the RM of Mervin on Turtle Lake had all been disallowed due to non-compliance or failure to meet the RM development proposal requirements. The developers of the project are free to reapply to the RM in the future. The RM is free to allow or disallow any development without explanation as to why.

New Business: The recent appearance of dead gulls at so many beaches has alarmed Turtle Lake residents. Colleen Reddekopp, Conservation Officer in attendance, reported that approximately 60 carcasses were sent into a pathologist at the University of Saskatchewan for analysis. No virus or disease has been found at this point; the cause remains unknown. If a cause is established, the TLWI will be notified.

The establishment of a Master’s Program in Water Security and Master of Sustainable Environmental Management has given rise to the offer of a partnership with TLWI and the University. Students completing this one year degree require the completion of a research projects; possible options that were mentioned during the follow-up discussion were: the impact of wake boats on shallow prairie lakes, the impact of water storage with the new SAGD plants and the impact of sea doos on the lake, a data base for the assessment of our water test results.

## Guest Speaker

Chad Doherty, biologist with the Ministry of the Environment, reported on the findings of the 2017 fish survey of the lake. The report will be posted on the website once it has been received. The essence of the report was that fish stocks are reproducing normally; wall eye populations outperform that of pike though the wall eye numbers have dropped somewhat. Chad explained that the fish numbers are excellent, fishers are not having the fishing satisfaction of the past simply because there are more people fishing, therefore less fish for the average fisherman despite the fact that fish populations are good. Chad also gave a detailed presentation on Aquatic Invasive Species, the impact of their presence, efforts made at present to prevent their spread and locations of affected areas.

Education is the critical tool in preventing the spread of invasive species. Education of the non fishing community, that is the pleasure boaters, is the greatest challenge presently. Most fisherman are aware and conscientious about the clean, dry and drain your boat procedure as they wish to protect their investment. However the other recreational lake users such as the

wake boaters, water skiers may not see themselves as potential carriers of the invasive species. Many wake board boats with inboard ballast tanks are problematic because they are virtually impossible to remove any invasive species residing in the ballast tanks.

Bonnie Shier moved adjournment. Time: 9:00 pm.