

Lake Lucerne Advancement Association

Annual Board Meeting

June 19, 2021

Meeting was called to order by Rick Hermus, President at 9:00 a.m.

Attendance: Jim Wienser, Joe Heilmann, Jim Zach, Sally Hickman, Rick Hermus, Patty Voigt, Jack Kloss, LexAnn Hitchcock. There were 40 guests in attendance.

Jim Z. has correction to minutes from 8-31-2019 under Fish Habitat Committee to read WI DNR Regional aquatic Biologist Scott Van Egeren's shoreline habitat and aquatic plant survey is continuing and will finish by this fall.

Joe moved to approve the minute from 8-31-2019. Terry Coughlin second the motion. Motion carried.

Jim Wienser introduced the new boat landing coordinator Devin Henson. If you want to volunteer you can sign up online at Google Calendar under Lucerne Boat [Landing@gmail.com](mailto:Landing@gmail.com). We are paid \$12.00 per hour for volunteers under our grant.

We are having issues with the toilet at the landing. May decide to not put there next year. We are on the DNR list for a toilet and fix the parking lot.

Jim Zach gave Fish Stick project update. This is the largest Fish Stick project in the state of Wisconsin. The permit is good thru 2025. Fish Stick Project can be summarized in 5 phases- Planning, Permitting, Preparation, Placement and Propagation Payoff. A total of 41 fish sticks were built on the southern end of Lucerne, 2 were in the northern portion. There were 7 more planned but we were unable to complete due to ice conditions.

**1) Planning — Nov 2018-October 2020:**

Understanding that the nearshore web-of-life from microscopic to the visible is dependent upon nutrients such as O (oxygen), CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide), N (nitrogen), and P (phosphorus) — however elemental C (carbon) is the necessary building block for life that then utilizes those nutrients. C can become a limiting factor in oligotrophic lakes with developed shorelines where trees no longer fall in and are allowed remain in the water. Fish sticks provide that source of C. Fish cribs in deeper water do not serve that function.

Thanks in this phase to LLAA Fish Habitat/Fishery and Water Quality Committee members: Tim Sprink, Dave Schlitz, Mike Heim, Ryan Siggelkow, Tim and Jeff Turriff, Mary Heilmann, Ed Mullaney, Jim Wienser, and Vern Kamenick. WI DNR Fishery staff including Greg Matzke, Scott Van Egeren, Scott Toshner, Greg Sass. Sakoagon Fish Biologist Mike Pruel. Rick Gruel Landscaping. WDNR MFL Specialist Liz Wood. UW Extension Lakes staff at UWSP - Eric Olson

and Lynn Markham. WI Lakes - Mike Engleson. WI Lakes Partnership staff and presenters at the WI Lakes and Rivers Conferences. Ed Smith - Northwoods Insurance Agency and Nate Pezewski - Horton Group Insurance Agency. A fishery habitat development grant from the Forest County Potawatomi Community and Lynne Black - Town of Lincoln Chair made project possible.

## **2) Permitting — July-October 2020:**

We have a 5 year permit, through 2025.

Thank you to:

Shoreline property owners willing to host fish stick(s): Cary Chmielewski, Jim Mitchell, Mike Heim, Jim Wienser, John E Novak.

Fish stick plan and design - WDNR Greg Matzke

Lucerne shoreline habitat and aquatic plant survey (confirmed lake is low in woody shoreline material (Carbon)) and provided expensive data to prepare for a revised lake management plan if we take advantage of it.

Application was a very complicated process - Forest Cty Land & Water Conservationist Steve Kircher made it possible.

WI DNR Water Management Specialist Jared Seidl.

## **3) Project Preparation — November 2020-February 2021:**

Thank you to Tim Sprink, WDNR Jason Headson and Liz Wood who had selected suitable trees on Anthony Island. John Novak hired a tree cutter who dropped trees around the island which became covered with over a foot of snow.

We had uncertainty of winter weather conditions and during COVID pandemic. Monitoring ice thickness, planning ice road routes, plowing snow and packing slushy snow so areas could freeze solid, then roads and staging areas needed to be maintained with additional snow blowing and plowing using tractors, trucks, UTV/ATVs, and snowmobiles. Thank you to Steve Van Grinsven, Tim Sprink, Jim Wienser, Kole Olson, Robert Pfeiffer, Jake Wincapaw, Jeff Turriff, Ryan Siggelkow, and Rick Hermus.

Two hundred fish stick anchors and cables were ordered, additional cable needed to be added to the anchors. Also 3/16" aircraft cable needed to be cut into two hundred 7' lengths and crimped end-loops made for tying trees to each in each cluster. This was done by Joe Heilmann, Mike Heim, Jim Wienser, and myself.

#### **4) Placement of Trees and Fish Sticks — Two long weekends in February 2021:**

By early February we had 18-22" of ice under our ice roads and staging areas. Thank you Ken Mihalko and his skid steer. He joined in our endeavor on a 1 day notice after the prior contractor backed out. Ken had lighter equipment and less clearance but because of our snow clearing he had no problems moving trees and assembling the fish sticks. We made efficient use of Ken's services because of the donation of labor and machinery by Roy Conrad, John E Novak, Tim Sprink, Steve Van Grinsven, and Jim Wienser. Some removed trees off the island to where other operators connected and dragged them over to the staging areas where Ken was able to pick them up and assemble. Additional volunteers who located trees in the snow, cabled/uncabled trees for the tractor operators, and cabled the fish stick clusters included Mike Heim, Dave Schlitz, Dave Ebben, Jim Wienser, Jennifer Zach and myself.

As the weather warmed, two holes formed in our ice roads — first one cut off our direct access to the DNR islands after the first weekend. That meant that all equipment had to go over Anthony to access the DNR islands. The second hole formed on the last day of the second weekend closing off further access to the DNR islands.

WDNR Greg Matzke and Katie Renschen developed an idea to anchor the fish stick clusters directly to the lake bottom by using an ice auger to drill holes and drive the anchors into the lake bottom, completed March 3. This saved us a lot of time and additional expense of temporarily cabling fish sticks to on-shore trees.

#### **5) Propagation and Payoff:**

What we've completed **so far is habitat** work. It's not very visible. Initially the structures will attract fish but if fish are given a chance to propagate and provide food and shelter to the young fish over the next few years, the beneficiaries will be fish, people, loons, and eagles.

Since our permit is open through 2025, the general membership present were invited to call me if interested in hosting a fish stick or tree fall secured to their shoreline.

Rick Hermus gave a short report regarding the "Loons and Lead Program. Lead poisoning is the leading cause of death for loons. Working on education. Smith Sport and Hobby has lead free fishing tackle.

Healthy Lakes Program handout has 5 programs that you can participate in. They include Fish Sticks, Native Plantings, Diversion, Rock Infiltration and Rain Garden. Steve Kircher, County Conservationist-Land Information/GIS Director is our Lakes Grant Program volunteer. His email is [lcc@co.forest.si.us](mailto:lcc@co.forest.si.us) if you have questions on these programs.

LexAnn would like to thank the 21 volunteers that came for clean up. She gave the following update of events: July 4<sup>th</sup> boat parade at 10:00 a.m. with Water's Edge start. Brat Fry drive thru on July 17 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fun Days needs volunteers for 2 hour shifts. Schaeffers

has given permission to sell raffle tickets outside of the store. Committee Head meeting on July 17 at 9 a.m.

Lake Lucerne Golf Outing on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at Nicolet Country Club, Laona. Registration 1:00 p.m. with Shot Gun start 1:30 p.m. Dinner and cocktails at Water's Edge on Lake Lucerne. Please register by September 3. Contact Mark Orlovsky at 414-255-4271 with questions.

Rick asked for a motion to approve the budget. Joe Heilmann moved to approve. Tom Braunreiter second.

#### Nominations

Board Position 1: Mike Hitchcock nominated Diane Braunreiter

Vern Kamenick nominated Jim Zach

Bill Voigt nominated Jenny Criel

All accepted nomination.

Board Position 2: Terry Coughlin nominated Joe Heimann. Joe accepted nomination.

Secretary: Joe Heilmann nominated Patty Voigt. Patty accepted nomination.

President: Jack Kloss nominated Mark Orlovsky

Jenny Criel nominated Jim Wienser

All accepted nomination.

Rick entertained a motion to adjourn meeting. Motion to adjourn by Joe. Patty second the motion. Meeting adjourned.