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## **Minutes of the September 4, 2021, McKenzie Lakes Association Member Meeting**

### **Call to Order by MLA President Sandy Swanson at 9:03 a.m.**

**Determination of quorum:** There were 46 members present, and a quorum was established to conduct association business. Seven board members were present, including Sandy Swanson, Jeff Larson, Lisa Kiener-Barnett, Swany Swanson, Scott Ballantyne, George Kuechle and Ted Colangelo. Board Secretary Jan Caldwell and Board Director Missy Isabella were absent and excused.

**Welcome and thanks to all members in attendance.** New members in attendance were introduced.

**Secretary Minutes:** Minutes from the July 31, 2021, member meeting were approved with no additions or corrections.

**Treasurer Report:** Treasurer Jeff Larson provided a review of the Treasurer's Report. Once final Booya numbers are received, the numbers will balance. The Report was approved.

**Booya Report:** Booya Co-chair Lisa Kiener-Barnett reported that more than \$6,000 was raised at the event, which compares very favorably to past years. Discussion held regarding limiting the amount of booya per paid ticket, to discourage those wanting to take booya home using their own containers. Ideas included informational signage and the use of food tickets. It was noted that revised committee sign-up sheets are needed to ensure that all duties are covered, especially clean-up after the event. New regulators and hoses are needed for next year's Booya.

### **Ongoing MLA Programs:**

- Website – July newsletter, meeting minutes and board meeting minutes are posted. Booya photos and boat parade photos are posted. The apparel shop is a work in progress. A Booya soup mug to be sold on the website and at next year's Booya was discussed with favorable responses. More fact finding will be conducted and forwarded to the board for consideration.
- Membership – President Sandy Swanson reported that the member rolls exceed 260 members.
- Secchi Reading/Water Sampling – Lower McKenzie: 10.5. Middle McKenzie: 16.5. No report for Big McKenzie.
- Loon Watch – Loon families are thriving on Lower McKenzie.
- Buoys – Thanks to Paul Sperling and the "Buoy Boys" for their work on the buoys in Big McKenzie. Regarding buoy placement: Applications for buoys must be submitted to the DNR and permits are issued after a rigorous review. DNR approves the locations of all buoys based on several factors including lake size, type, shape, and safety of location. Buoy placement

cannot be determined by MLA, nor can the buoys be moved at MLA's discretion.

**Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) programs:**

- **Purple Loosestrife** – Need more Rodeo from DNR (Burnett Co AIS team has provided in the past)
- **Zebra Mussels** – Monitoring plates need to be measured and reported to Sandy Swanson. An email with directions on how to count the mussels was sent to those who have the plates. Essential to count accurately for comparison to previous years. Please send your counts to Sandy by September 20.
- **Clean Boats/Clean Waters boat monitors** – Grants have covered the program on all three lakes this summer. As agreed by resolution, an application for a grant for 2022 will be submitted. The grant application is due November 1.
- **Decon stations** – Volunteers have ensured that the bleach solution bottles have been kept filled during the week this summer. Boat monitors have maintained the solution during their weekend shifts.

**Presentation on Zebra Mussels by MLA Board Director Scott Ballantyne, PhD, professor of biology at University of Wisconsin, River Falls**

Meeting attendees heard the latest information on Scott's zebra mussel research in collaboration with colleagues at the University of Minnesota. Brief highlights: Scott has worked with RNA for 30 years and is hoping to use that background to inform his work with zebra mussels. The research team is learning more about zebra mussels by mapping the genome. They are striving to find and inactivate a specific gene that causes zebra mussels to thrive (for example, the gene that allows them to attach to a substrate). The zebra mussel problem won't be solved in the near future. As with purple loosestrife, the hope is to control the issue so it's not as damaging as it could be. Inspect weeds coming out of the lake; Zebra mussels are clinging to the long weeds and even attaching at the bottom and anchoring in the lake muck. It's safe to eat fish that have eaten zebra mussels.

For more information the zebra mussel research or to learn more about the University of Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center's conference on **September 22**, go to its homepage [here](#).

Thanks to Scott for an informative presentation.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- George Kuechle informed members that he will be managing a booya in October at Webb Lake. He requested permission to borrow the equipment used at MLA's booya. Unanimous permission granted.
- Rebecca Swanson informed members of the disturbing news that many septic holding tank pumpers are no longer willing to service holding tanks in the McKenzie Lakes area. The list of septic tank pumpers on the Washburn County Zoning webpage is outdated; all those called refused to service Lower McKenzie Lake. She recommends calling your vendor prior to the need for pumping your holding tank to ensure that they are still willing to do so.

- As agreed by resolution, a shared cost grant with the Burnett County AIS team for an AIS plant study on all three lakes in 2022 is approved; Burnett County will file the application and conduct the study.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

### **2022 MLA Calendar:**

April 30 – Roadside Clean-up  
May 28 – 1<sup>st</sup> Member Meeting  
June 25 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting – Annual Meeting  
July 4 – Boat Parade  
July 30 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Member Meeting  
August 6 - Booya  
Sep 3 – our 4<sup>th</sup> Member Meeting