



E.L.I.A. Board Meeting - Minutes
October 3, 2020
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM
Conference call via Zoom

1. **Call to Order** – (Schott)
2. **Roll Call** - (Elias) **X**= Not in attendance. Establishment of a quorum: 12/16 present.
 - John Schott, President
 - Chris Strigenz, Vice President
 - Kim Elias, Secretary
 - Randy Boeldt, Treasurer
 - Tom Nelson, Lifetime Director
 - Bill Easom
 - Mike Froh
 - Rick Gebhardt
 - Peter Gunther
 - Nancy Hanlon -**X**
 - Joe Majerus -**X**
 - Dee Sheehan -**X**
 - Awais Siddique -**X**
 - Kevin Sofen
 - Sue Staum
 - Mary Jo Vollrath
3. **Review Minutes – August 1, 2020 -Virtual Meeting** (Elias)
 - Motioned moved to accept Minutes.
4. **Treasurers Report** – (Boeldt)
 - a. Current income statement and balance sheet review
 - a. Tourism will be proving their payment at an upcoming meeting. Nancy and Chris may attend this meeting.
 - b. Water testing is above the budgeted funding. Motion made to move money from weed control to the water quality testing -Motion carried.
 - b. Membership / Contributions
 - c. Tippy is considering adding a granite bench with the Andy Jung Memorial contributions.
 - Motion Moved to accept Report.
5. **Committee Reports** –
 - a. **Lake Water Quality** -
 - i. **Weed Committee / Clean Boats, Clean Water Program** (Hanlon provided the following report prior to the meeting.)
 - **Weeds / Invasive Species** -It has been a robust weed growing summer. I know many of you worked hard on your beaches to try to keep them at bay and it is an endless job.
 - The **DASH divers** came and spent 2 full days in Neuses Bay: Day 1 468 lbs of Curly pond weed (CLP), Day 2 496 lbs of CLP. The Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) was not growing yet. Jeff sent us an **underwater video** of how dense the weeds still were after 2 days of pulling. I paddled over there and could not see the difference. Very discouraging.



- The **DASH divers** came back September 10 and attacked an expanding patch in Brosius Bay. They had planned to go to Sheboygan Bay as well but they decided it was time better spent to actually eliminate that patch. While the 2 divers were working John and I rode around the lake with Jeff onboard to spot patches that could be eliminated. He shared with us how impossible the Neuses Bay weed growth is for them to control. He said it is like they are just nibbling at it while it just keeps increasing. It will take serious measures to make a dent in this area. Jeff has made **a map of the lake with the GPS** markings where there are controllable patches of EWM. We will work off this map and the DNR's PI survey map planned for next year to help us locate and work toward controlling the spread.
- We were scheduled to have a **chemical treatment** with Brian in Neuses Bay and the outlet bay. When Brian came in late June, the weeds were not growing yet. When he was set to do a treatment in July, he was denied a permit from the DNR. They have had a rule on the books that there should be no treatments after July 1 as it may cause harm to native weeds. They started enforcing this rule this summer. We treated on July 17th last year. We have a challenge in abiding by this rule in our lake. It is a deep lake and some years it warms up slowly, so the window between warm enough water in late June and the first of July can be a short time.

Clean Boats/Clean Waters:

- We had a shaky start to our season as the DNR did not want inspectors at the **boat ramps** due to the virus. There also were not many training sessions in our area. We managed to get 3 young people trained and Tee shirts and CBCW masks provided for them. It was mid to late July before we were full strength.
- The DNR is prorating the **grant payments** with no punishment for not reaching 200 hours. We will be at 142 hours. ELIA paid out \$1,734 and we will be reimbursed for \$1,300.50
- The boat ramp was very busy this summer and the **overflow parking** lot was used on many Saturdays. There was an influx of first-time boat owners coming onto the lake. That makes for a chaotic launch at times. The education of these new boat owners was a very important job this summer as most had not heard of the CBCW program.
- **Point Survey** – Not completed in 2020 as scheduled due to Covid-19; DNR maps the lake and identifies the invasive species.
 - **Action Item:** John –will send a letter of request for funding the Point Survey in 2021. DNR is still working on their budget.

ii. **Water Quality (Elias)**

- **2020 Lake Water Sampling** was completed in May-August (6 events) and data is entered into SWIMS and available on the DNR website. Parameters sampled included: water clarity, temp, dissolved oxygen, total phosphorus, chlorophyll. Water was reported as CLEAR and BLUE. The average summer (July-Aug) Secchi disk was 13.5 feet which is above the avg for the Southeast Georegion which is 6.1 feet. 8/22/2020 Deep Hole; Surface Temp 76.4 (F), Secchi 11' 0"; July Secchi 16' 0" which brought our avg up to the best clarify since 1992.



- **Chemistry data:** The average summer Chlorophyll was 2.9 µg/l (compared to a Southeast Georegion summer average of 20.5 µg/l). Total Phosphorus average was 15.8 µg/l which is higher than historical results for the second year in a row (see graph) with Aug the highest for the year at 17.4 µg/l. However -Lakes that have more than 20 µg/l and impoundments that have more than 30 µg/l of total phosphorus may experience noticeable algae blooms.
 - The overall Trophic State Index (based on chlorophyll) for Elkhart Lake was 43 which suggests that Elkhart Lake – is consistently mesotrophic. Mesotrophic lakes are characterized by moderately clear water but have an increasing chance of low dissolved oxygen in deep water during the summer.
 - _John asked Kim to add the historical data to the spreadsheet for comparison. _Kim to complete data sheet.
 - Sarah Majerus (Stantec) is still working with DNR to see if we be reimbursed for the 2020 sampling covered (paid for) under the grant. Chrissy and Heidi gave us a verbal approval, but nothing in writing yet. The DNR is reviewing 2021 pre-proposals for surface water grants, so they've put this on the back burner.
 - John -They are evaluating if adding a silt fence around "alga island". Theories include that there are nutrients from below which may be causing this this bloom.
- b. **Boating Safety (Gebhardt) – Buoy Removal** Completed on Oct. 1 and have two buoys that need to be replaced. One may have been hit by a propeller and the other was old and worn. The buoys are stored at the Fire Station. Thanks to the local lake owners and Rick for assisting with the removal!
- c. **Government Relations (Boeldt/Schott)**
- Randy has not heard if the **Town of Rhine** will be funding ELIA for 2021. John will follow up on this.
 - Randy and John talked with the EL Village and John will follow up on Monday regarding contributions from the Village to ELIA. Preliminary budget shows a \$2000 donation for 2021 covered from room tax payments.
 - Randy said the Village is still talking with **Osthoff** regarding the mooring buoys and extra boats being docked at Osthoff. The Village is planning on taking a more active role next year. The Village videoed the entire lake shore and this survey will be evaluated this winter. The original Village video was 25 years ago during the Osthoff's development initiation. The Town of Rhine is under the DNR requirements and they do not have the same lakeshore requirements. The Development Agreement with Osthoff is dated 1993.
 - **Lake Patrol** - End of season patrol report hours: May 36.5, June 113, July 153.5, Aug 123, Sept NA. Reportedly, another busy boat season on the lake with potentially more boaters given the Covid-19 State Order. Mike did supply a list of cautions and citations.
- d. **Membership (Staum) –**
- Sue reported on the **new recommended guidelines** for dues notifications of members and removal of unpaid members from membership list. The



membership committee met on 8-31-20. We recommend the following guidelines for dues notification of members:

- January Initial email to all members.
- March email reminder to non-paid members.
- Early May annual meeting "Save the Date" email to all members, with dues reminder.
- Early June Annual Meeting -email to all members.
- Late June post-Annual Meeting email to non-paid members.
- Personal contact of non-paid members by board members, as appropriate
- December End of the Year Letter from the Present which is the first letter to pay for the next year.
- Removal from Membership List of non-paid members from membership list at their own request or after 4 years

We feel that no further non-paid members' contacts need to be made for 2020. Our committee will be happy to update email letters used in past years, with your additions and editing. We welcome your comments and suggestions regarding these guidelines.

e. Public Outreach / Keep Elkhart Blue (Strigenz)

- **Facebook:** Chris continues to post to Facebook to direct people to website, build ELIA awareness, membership & donations and to increase KEB sales. Twelve postings in Aug and Sept.
- **Merchandise:** Hand sanitizers, microfiber cloth, stickers and hats continue to sell but we have not had events this year (Annual Meeting, Parade...) We do have items sold at the Chamber (\$269 + \$120) and new KEB Website (\$46). Kevin sold wrist bands from Wristponsible (\$500). Kim collected \$304 from OTR& \$20 from Gina's. Replacement merchandise continually distributed.
- **Depot Dispatch** -August P-Filter Article written by John. Chris to obtain electric copy from Pam to add to our ELIA website.
- **Community Awareness:** 1) BODs - please send other KEB photos for website. _Kim to follow up with Kevin for access to the ELIA Google Acct for adding photos.

f. Website Update, <https://keepelkhartblue.org/> - (Boeldt / Elias)

- Randy continues to update and improve the website and Kim assist with content and coordination. Randy will be updating the Home Page.
- Our Google Drive ELIA Folder is the repository for all ELIA files- https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1YTVIZQujnRgUhG95B8tOb3CR_v2kLjJn
 - Randy will add underwater video, once Kim / Chris provides correct link and John / Nancy provide narrative.
 - Kim shared link with Kevin so he can add photos for use.

g. President's report (Schott)

- **ROOTS Program** – Village of Elkhart Lake kicked off a collaborative project with the Sheboygan Rotary Clubs through its Restoration of Our Trees Sheboygan (ROOTS) program to combat the devastation of public forests caused by Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation in this prominent resort



venue. ROOTS and its parent Sheboygan Rotary Club are providing a matching cash grant and volunteer support to assist the Village of Elkhart Lake including supporting the Elkhart Lake Fire Department with a project of accelerated replanting of non-ash trees in several of the community's most prominent municipal parks and parkways. At today's well-attended event, we planted 6 trees in Fireman's Park and will plant more next year in this park as well as Village Square Park, Lions Park, and Village parkways.

- **Lap Top from Chris Kraig** – Randy is working on speed issues so we can use for the outflow meter.
- **Osthoff** – Discussions with the new management who would like to be involved and better support ELIA; provide information on the weeds, sell stickers in their gift shop, John asked for the owners to become member of ELIA, is providing brochures, may ask guests to collect fees when using the boat launch and keeping vehicle at the parking lot. Events to sponsor ELIA was also discussed for next year.
- **Boat Landing and Traffic** – We have more than required number of parking spots in addition to the overflow parking lot. EL is open to the public with a large number of parking spots which allows for boating "over use" which can be dangerous. Carrying capacity is above recommendation. The County will consider an ELIA, Town and Village letter recommending closure of the overflow parking lot. Chamber and Tourism would need to improve or input also. The Conservation Association in WI were also involved in the meeting. DNR reported that the lakes in WI have been very used and dangerous. Items to evaluate are monitoring and recording the number and types of boats, DNR may video tape via drone to collect data, increasing patrols and evaluate citations vs tickets. County and DNR attendance at a meeting last Thursday to discuss the trend of activity levels. John will be drafting a letter for ELIA BODs to evaluate and approve for submittal to the County.
 - **Motion for ELIA** to engage in discussion with the above groups to propose closing the overflow parking lot; Rick Motioned, MJV 2nd; Motion passed.
- **Lake Path update;** Shoreland road has a permanent fence installed. Private property so owners have the right to close the path on their property. Chrystal Lake is working with the Village to add a path to connect and potentially around the lake. HRC does not want a path on their property. Tourism has succeeded in bring more people to the lake and road activity by pedestrians, cyclist have increased.

6. New Business – None.

Adjourn

Next Meeting Dates:



- January 30, 2021 - Board Meeting, Grashorn Center
- March 6, 2021 - Board Meeting, Grashorn Center
- April 2021 - Committee Meetings/work
- April 2021 - Wisconsin Association of Lakes Meeting
- April 24, 2021 - Board Meeting, Grashorn Center
- May 29, 2021 - Board Meeting, Grashorn Center
- **June 11, 2021 - Annual Meeting**