

**NSTLRA Board Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 2013
North Bay Café, Phelps, WI**

Members In Attendance: President Roger Ganser, Treasurer Dick Donarski, Mike Schindler, Ginny Parker, Ron Ottoson, Kay Ottoson, John Hyde, Joe Wallace, Steve Bahrke, Cap and Denise Pedersen.

Members Not In Attendance: Bob Bailey, Marti Primich, Don Zirbel, Margot Peterson

Minutes: A motion is made by Ginny Parker to accept the minutes of the August 15, 2013 Board Meeting. Mike Schindler seconds the motion and the minutes are approved by the Board.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dick Donarski reports that the balance in the checking account is \$6,001.24 and the AMEN Fund currently has \$54,526.31. He has paid an invoice from Stantec in the amount of \$24,983.30 for this summer's treatment of North Twin. We still have an outstanding amount with Aquatic Plant Management. Dick says memberships are trickling in, but he feels we will have a hard time reaching our membership number of last year, 233. Right now we are at 204 members. Roger Ganser asks Dick if we can go through and see who did not renew their memberships this year, as it may be worth contacting them. Dick feels we have a shortage because of the number of cottages for sale and the Swimmer's Itch issue. John Hyde says he has only received a low number of emails regarding Swimmer's Itch.

Lake Treatment Plan: Cap reports that we haven't received a report from Onterra yet regarding the treatment this summer. In addition to the chemical treatment on North Twin, there were 140 hours of hand pulling EWM in South Twin. Onterra has the coordinates of the hand pulling that was done, on the West side of South Twin, and Cap is anxious to get Onterra's report. Cap will provide Margot Peterson with an article about the hand pulling for the newsletter along with a photograph of the pullers pontoon with a load of EWM.

Swimmers Itch: John Hyde has been reading online studies of Swimmer's Itch. He has learned more about the relationship of algae and phosphorus in the cycle. He talked with Wisconsin Waters yesterday regarding studies of Swimmer's Itch. However, if we can't manage Swimmer's Itch, we wouldn't want to do a study, because you can't treat Swimmer's Itch. John says we are not going forward on a study at this time. John is looking into things that create a larger population of snails in the lakes. He will contact Rollie Alger at Vilas County Lakes and River Association. Also, John plans on getting names and numbers for other lake associations in Vilas County and will call and discuss if they have a Swimmer's Itch problem and what they have done. Roger Ganser mentions that the Devils Lake Study found there is nothing you can do about the problem and that it is cyclical. Ron Ottoson suggests that a positive note from the board, saying that we firmly believe in preventative measures to avoid Swimmer's Itch, would be a good idea. John Hyde plans to send out another communication to property owners talking about preventative measures, in a positive tone. John will also submit an article for the upcoming newsletter. Roger Ganser believes that Onterra said the phosphorus level in our lakes is very average. John says contributing factors to the cycle of Swimmer's Itch are septic water going into groundwater, fertilizing of yards, etc. Roger suggests that then perhaps next year we should put an emphasis on shore land restoration. Perhaps we could get Kevin Gauthier and/or Quita Sheehan from the DNR to take a pontoon ride around our lakes with some of us to get a better understanding of their definition of a natural shoreline. Joe Wallace

interjects that he has heard a rumor going around about a development on North Twin with condominiums and a golf course, which would impact the lakes.

DNR Monitoring Grant: Mike Schindler reports we received a grant for \$1950, covering 200 hours of monitoring at Phelps Landing by UW interns. Roger Ganser motions that we apply for this grant again next year, Ron Ottoson seconds, and the board approves. Roger thanks Mike and Mary Schindler their work in obtaining this grant.

Newsletter: Margot Peterson is asking for articles for the newsletter and would like to have information by the end of September so she can get the newsletter out in early October. Kay Ottoson sent her an article about the Golf Outing. Mike and Mary Schindler sent her information on Clean Boats/Clean Waters.

Email Distribution List: Mike Schindler will go through Dick Donarski's memberships for this year to see if there are any new emails. He'll forward them to Denise Pedersen and she will update our email list.

Cap Pedersen was at the Town Lakes Committee meeting on Tuesday evening and reports that our membership fee is by far the lowest of the lakes. Sand Lake charges \$50. Dick Donarski feels that if we increase our membership fee, that might decrease the amount donated to the AMEN Fund; Dick says most people send one check for their membership and AMEN Fund contribution. John Hyde agrees and would prefer we keep the membership fee low and work on increasing donations to the AMEN Fund. Ron Ottoson asks if we should be looking at different techniques for getting people to join the association. John Hyde says when he contacts other lake associations regarding Swimmer's Itch, he will also ask about their membership recruitment techniques as well. Kay Ottoson adds that fun events attract people and Roger Ganser agrees and feels we should offer one per month during the summer.

Marketing: Kay Ottoson feels we need publicity in the papers and on radio about what are fun events are and encourage people to join the association. She will provide information to the newsletter and by email to publicize our events. Kay says the Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 12th, the Poker Run will be on Saturday, July 19th, and the Golf Outing will be on Friday, August 8th.

Social: Ron Ottoson suggests the idea of having a picnic on the island in North Twin; a fun event that could also draw new members. Cap Pedersen feels it would be difficult for many boats to tie up at the island. Perhaps the Camp Birch Knoll would be a better location as they more docks and people could drive if they prefer. Ginny Parker mentions that the camp's owner, Gary Baier, asked for our membership list, so perhaps would be willing to let us use the camp as it would be good publicity. Roger Ganser asks if we should invite everyone, members and non-members, and the consensus is we should invite everyone. Someone asks about liability, and Mike Schindler responds that we have \$1,000,000 in liability insurance so we would be covered at the camp. Roger Ganser suggests we make it BYOB and we provide the food, or we provide food to grill and everyone brings a dish to pass. Ron Ottoson will approach Gary about using the side, and tell him this could be a benefit to the camp as many of the people attending have granddaughters, etc. Gary could offer tours of the camp. Ginny Parker adds that Gary's father, Ed, who lives at the camp, has a wonderful collection of old photos that could be displayed. Ron adds that we would probably have to schedule the picnic in June before camp starts or in August when camp ends. Ron mentions he and Cap have discussed raising the price of the Golf Outing next year, from \$30 to \$35 and it is agreed that would be fine. Although the golf outing is limited in size because Sand Lake Golf Course is 9 holes, Kay

Ottoson says she will publicize the event and say that it is limited. John Hyde suggests to Ron to ask for restaurant gift certificates as prizes for the event.

Fishing Report: Roger Ganser will contact Marti Primich to ask if he is still an active Board Member.

Roger Ganser asks about possible dates for our May Board meeting in 2014. The 22nd is a Thursday and it is agreed to have our meeting then. Ginny Parker asks if perhaps we want to have that meeting at the Phelps School.

Roger Ganser asks if there is any other business. Ron Ottoson reminds everyone that Margot Peterson needs information for the newsletter. Roger will call Marti Primich about writing a fishing report. Mike Schindler asks if we are trying for any grants for next year. Cap Pedersen responds that he is relatively sure we can get a grant again for hand pulling, but chemical treatment will be the issue. Roger asks for a resolution to authorize Cap and Roger to work on obtaining a grant with Onterra, once they have finished their post-treatment survey. It is approved.

The meeting is adjourned at 9:30 AM