

LITTLE PLATTE LAKE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING
July 9, 2022
LAKE TOWNSHIP HALL

The Annual Meeting was called to order by President Dave Van Hammen at 10:06 AM. Board members and attendees introduced themselves and stated where they live on the lake.

Dan Bigger, Richard Stowe and Logan Turner, Conservation Officers from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources were the guest speakers. Dan Bigger opened with a brief summary of the DNR and their objectives in protecting wildlife, citizens, and our natural resources both on the land and in the waters while enforcing the laws accordingly. He stated they have only 9 officers to cover 4 counties making it necessary to prioritize responses in the order of urgency. He opened the floor for questions from members.

What are your biggest challenges?

Challenges shift from season to season but some of the most constant are:

Bear incidents are more frequent and probably the most time consuming. Several incidents were shared by the officers and members.

Marine situations require them to have numerous kinds of boats in order to access all waters including the Great Lakes. They are currently waiting on an air boat.

AIS-Aquatic Invasive Species Boaters, kayakers, and canoers are all responsible for cleaning their vessels making sure they are not transporting invasive species from one body of water to another. Anything that can hold water can transport invasive species. Biggest task is educating the public. This is now enforceable by law.

Poaching is still a concern for all species whether it's fishing, hunting or harvesting pelts. Members were referred to the website www.michigan.gov/dnr click on contact us and scroll down to RAP (Report All Poaching) or call 800-292-7800.

A question about swimmer's itch in Little Platte was sent in with a membership renewal. The answer is yes, it has been present but it is difficult to treat. Some helpful information was printed on the back of the agenda.

What can be done about the bright lights on the lake at night?

Basically nothing. There are no laws banning or restricting times for night fishing. The lights are directed into the water but the reflections off the water are very bright. It was stated that some of this fishing should actually help our lake as they are targeting carp.

What can be done about harassment of wildlife, particularly loons?

If you see actual harassment taking place, again contact the DNR. While it may disturb wildlife, someone trying to get closer to take pictures is not considered harassment.

Are Jet Skis legal on Little Platte Lake? Yes, there are no laws on the books at the township, county, or state level against jet skis. It's very difficult to ban an activity on an individual lake. It takes investigations, hearings etc. and then must be determined to be a safety issue that needs to be controlled.

Why has the Bluegill population declined so much? With the influx of people, fishing has been heavy over the last 3 years, but it's really a question for Heather Hettinger, Fisheries Management Biologist for the DNR.

Will the DNR place trash receptacles at the Homestead Dam during Salmon season? We have in the past and have found them thrown in the river and also set on fire. The DNR has banned camping and campfires in this area. They have also changed regulations for fishing from 100 feet above and below the weir to 300 feet. It's an isolated area and hard to staff.

What can be done about the beaver? If they have become a nuisance, permits can be obtained to trap. Trapping season is from the 1st of November through mid-April. Most beaver damage happens in the fall.

Burn Permits were discussed. The DNR website has a fire permit section where a color-coded map by county is displayed. Call 866-922-BURN (866-922-2876) for a permit.

Closing Remarks were centered around bears again. Some bears are trapped and relocated but they are very territorial and may return. The DNR is currently looking into tattooing the bears when they are relocated. Hunting licenses have increased probably 50% in the last few years. The average weight of the bears harvested is 160lbs. The bear trapped on Deadstream was over 300lbs. The bear trapped in Grand Traverse was 500lbs and the mamma bear with cubs in Thompsonville was estimated at 250 to 300lbs.

A round of applause was given our guest speakers as they departed and the business meeting continued.

Secretary Report – Diane Brown, stated the minutes of the LPLA 2021 annual meeting are posted on our website for review. A few printed copies were also available.

Invasive Species Report Jerry Rupley reported that Restorative Lake Sciences (RLS) surveyed our lake again this year and found less than 3/10 of an acre of the invasive Milfoil. There will be no need to treat the Milfoil this year. We do have the Phragmites on the state land at the east end of the lake. Jerry is contacting the Grand Traverse Conservation District for assistance in treating this fall. He has also been looking into a boat washing facility for the public launch area, but needs more information before pursuing. It will be very costly and will require grants. Jerry reported that the garlic mustard reduced this year but reminded us it is bi-annual and that we need to continue to pull each year.

Treasurer Report - John Ester provided members with the Treasurer's Report reflecting a balance of \$29,736.35 as of May 31, 2022. The proposed budget for 2022-23 was also discussed. Motion to accept the treasurer's reports was made, seconded and passed. Copies of both reports will be posted on the website.

Wildlife Report –We have two pair of loons this year. Two chicks have survived from the nest at the east end of the lake and they are growing daily. The eagles also produced two chicks this year. They are now off of the nest located in the Deadstream. John stated how fortunate we are to have the pair of Trumpeter Swans on our lake with 3 cygnets. He thanked Mary Tomaszewski for the pictures of the loon with the chicks on her back and the swan with three cygnets. Bob Kondak was also recognized for the great work he is doing on the LPLA website.

Water Level Report – Jim Dodge gave the water level report. He provided a detailed chart depicting water levels from 3/5/21 to 7/8/22 (please see charts, below). He stated that this past winter was only the second time since the mid 60's that we experienced less than 100 inches of snow. The lake level begins to be monitored when the snow melts. Last year it was 3/5/21 and this year 4/8/22 before the lake completely thawed. The lake was low this spring due to the lack of snow and a dry spring. Even though boards were added, there was no water spilling over the top board so it was not adding to the lake level. He will look into getting boards added earlier next year.

Old Business:

Jim reported that the new culvert was completed last summer at Saffron Creek. It was installed in an upside-down U-shape in order to have a natural bottom. Spillways were dug on each side and grass planted to try to hold back runoff. We haven't had enough rain to test. Elmer's Blacktop will be paving about 100 feet over the culvert. The question was raised about guard rails and Jim will seek an answer from the Road Commission.

New Business:

Election of officers was conducted by Jerry Rupley. A motion was made seconded and approved to re-elect our existing treasurer, John Ester and existing trustee, Jim Dodge to each serve another two-year term.

No date was set for our 2023 annual meeting

There were 32 members and 3 guests in attendance.

Dave Van Hammen adjourned the meeting at 11:52AM

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Brown, Secretary

July 13, 2022

POST MEETING NOTE: Jim Dodge contacted the Road Commission July 11, 2022. He was told they do not plan to add guard rails at the culvert on Saffron Creek.

Water Levels – 2021 cf. 2022

