

THE DOUGLAS LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

AGENDA AND NOTES

*Present:* Mary Ellen Sheridan (President), Bill Foster (Vice President), Suzanne Witthoff (Treasurer), Barb Huey (Secretary); Directors – Frank Beaver, Scott Davis; Past President – Holly Gedert; Zone Reps –John Perkins, Cheryl Kreibel, Joyce Oldham, Gail Beaver, Joan Caldwell, Linda Alexander, Betsy Naumer; Standing Committee Chairs – Scott Davis, Bill Hartwig, Pete Klaas, Anne Covy, Joan Hartwig, Karie Slavik, Sharon Fortner; Members – Kim and Ed Grant; Guests: Curt Blankenspoor and Randy DeJong Swimmer’s Itch Solutions, LLC

<i>Date:</i> Sept. 30, 2020	<i>Time:</i> 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	<i>Location:</i> Zoom virtual meeting	
Agenda Item	Discussion	Decisions/Findings	Next Steps
<b>Call the Meeting to Order by the President</b> – Mary Ellen Sheridan (MES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mary Ellen called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One third of Executive Board constitutes a quorum; quorum noted.</li> </ul>	
<b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting/Attendance</b> – Barb Huey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mary Ellen noted that the names of people who made a motion and second for SI Task Force request for \$1500 and Adjournment were not recorded but all motions presented were approved with no nays or abstentions so they are replaced by a color.</li> <li>Motion by Suzanne Witthoff, seconded by Joan Hartwig to approve minutes of 7/9/2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes of 7/9/2020 approved.</li> </ul>	
<b>Treasurers Report</b> – Suzanne Witthoff (see attached)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suzanne noted that the report shows the budget through Aug. 9, not Aug. 31.</li> <li>Cash Assets through Aug. 31 is \$108,158.11.</li> <li>Donations through Aug. 31 is \$2265.00.</li> <li>Total Expenses through Aug. 31 is \$16,857.22.</li> <li>Motion by Holly Gedert, seconded by Scott Davis to approve Treasurer’s Report of 7/9/2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treasurer’s Report approved.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>President's Report</b> – Mary Ellen Sheridan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MES noted that she talked with Kieran Fleming, Executive Director of the Little Traverse Conservancy about appointment of a DLIA member who would serve as liaison between DLIA EB and the LTC. Fleming indicated there would likely be a position available on the LTC Stewardship Committee. MES briefly summarized the role of this Committee. She solicited feedback from the EB to identify someone who might be interested in serving DLIA and LTC as liaison. She noted that Mark Paddock has served DLIA in this capacity for many years.</li> <li>• Looking for people to attend Watershed Council's virtual Lake Association Summit on Oct. 9.</li> <li>• MES noted that the Boat Ramp Maintenance crew has worked with shovels this summer to keep the boat launch usable while awaiting EGLE permit approval to bring in professional equipment to clear the sand from the pads. This work will take place when appropriate in 2021.</li> <li>• The incidence of Swimmer's Itch declined with the heat in July and August which affected snail data collection. See Swimmer's Itch Task Force Report below.</li> </ul>	<p>Suzanne Witthoff volunteered to attend the meeting.</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A celebration of ‘loving living on Douglas Lake’ is proposed for 2021 with a budget included in proposed budget.</li> <li>• There is an open Director position for 2020-2022 due to Bill Foster becoming VP. Jennifer Bates has agreed to become next Director.</li> <li>• Frank Beaver, Linda Orlow and Scott Davis have agreed to serve another 2 years as Directors.</li> <li>• Motion by John Perkins, seconded by Joan Caldwell to approve Jennifer Bates as new Director and reappoint Frank, Linda and Scott to another 2 years as Directors.</li> <li>• Corrections to list of Standing Committee Chairs: add Road Cleanup committee with Rich Gedert as Chair and correct spelling of Margie Ladzick’s name.</li> <li>• Motion by Gail Beaver, second by Scott Davis to approve corrections.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion approved.</li> <li>• Motion approved</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Committee Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimmer’s Itch (SI) Task Force – Kim &amp; Ed Grant, Curt Blankenspoor, Randy DeJong both with Swimmer’s Itch Solutions, LLC</li> </ul>	<p>Discussion with Curt &amp; Randy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curt has a lot of knowledge about SI and DL through his 40 year history working on DL, with his father as well as with UMBS. He has also worked on 28 lakes in northern Mich.</li> <li>• SI is dermatitis caused by parasites that infect a waterfowl species and live as larvae in a specific snail host species. The parasite must have both for SI to be present. Because of this,</li> </ul>		

	<p>successful SI control strategies have focused on trapping infected waterfowl and relocating them to areas without its snail species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To be able to relocate mergansers, a lake association must do a needs assessment. If specific criteria are met, they may then apply to DNR for a permit to trap and relocate merganser broods.</li><li>• In late summer, a needs assessment was done on DL and from the data gathered from 2020 and 2019 it was concluded that “there are multiple pieces of evidence that suggest that common merganser control would be effective on Douglas Lake”. See Douglas Lake Swimmer’s Itch Assessment Report 2020 for specifics. Curt noted that the data gathered is consistent with previously gathered data from the past 30 years. He also noted that on DL 90% of mergansers are infected while less than 5% of mallard ducklings and goslings are infected.</li><li>• Cost to DLIA is \$3000 per year for brood removal whether we have 1 brood or 10 which is less than other lakes have been charged due to data they currently have, and UMBS relationship. DNR permit for relocating is \$200, covers 3 years. Could be some travel costs if Curt &amp; Randy are not teaching at UMBS at the time. They suggest after 2-3 years they can train people from DL to do relocation. Larks Lake is interested in</li></ul>		
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	<p>working with other lakes to trap &amp; relocate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefits are usually seen the end of summer you begin or the next summer.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion from Q &amp; A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By removing mergansers which are natural to DL what are ecological impacts? This is something DLIA will have to wrestle with. Curt &amp; Randy feel that trapping &amp; removing has least ecological impact compared to shooting them (there is a merganser hunting season) or adding copper sulfate which have been done in past/at other lakes.</li> <li>• DNR regulates where birds are relocated to and how many can be taken to each place. Places that do not have the necessary snail species are chosen. Some places used before; E. Tawas, Cheboygan State Park, Wilderness State Park.</li> <li>• Hens &amp; ducklings are removed after ducklings are out of nest &amp; in water, have bonded with mom. All are tagged for data gathering purposes.</li> <li>• How to know that they won't come back? Hens can come back to a lake after having successful brood in the previous year while ducklings come back to area where they fledge (learn to fly).</li> <li>• Mergansers travel 5-10 miles/day. 1 or 2 broods on DL can get snails on entire lake infected. Ducklings can be</li> </ul>		
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	<p>50 times as heavily infected as an adult.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snails are quick producers so it makes snail control difficult to control SI.</li> <li>• Nothing will totally get rid of mergansers. Migrants come. Teenage birds can't be relocated (DNR rule). At other lakes Curt &amp; Randy have worked with, infection level in snails have been reduced over 99% over 2-3 years. They would fully expect the same thing on DL. Every lake they've worked on has had significant reduction.</li> <li>• About 30% of people never get SI because it is an immune response and some people are not susceptible.</li> <li>• Is there treatment for mergansers with parasites? There is a veterinarian drug for worms but it only gets rid of current worms, then they get new ones.</li> <li>• SI Task Force encourages board to seriously consider this proposal. If the cost is an issue, they feel sure that they can raise the money.</li> <li>• MES asked Kim Grant if she'd be willing to continue compiling data of SI incidences if we move forward. Kim agreed.</li> </ul> <p>EB Board discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SI Assessment Report (see attached) from SI Solutions details the methods used to gather data and results. The data indicate "multiple pieces of evidence that common merganser</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kim Grant has agreed to continue to collect data on log regarding incidents of SI on DL</li> </ul>	
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	<p>control would be effective on Douglas Lake”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Even if data improves, we can’t be sure which variable(s) actually caused the change. Other water fowl and snail can also be hosts, could naturally have fewer birds, etc.</li> <li>• If we are going to try this, we need to relocate mergansers for 2-3 years as well as continue to collect incidences of SI data from members, then revisit its effectiveness.</li> <li>• Do we have data on what have people tried preventively?</li> <li>• We have data collected of 51 incidences of SI around the lake this summer. How well does this represent all members of DLIA? Is removal of mergansers something that most members want to do, financially, ecologically?</li> <li>• Could we change human behavior so we don’t have to relocate native species? There are times at lake that we can’t spend time outside due to mosquitos &amp; black flies which is part of lake life. So is SI. We need to go extra mile to get people to do preventive things before eradicating a species on lake.</li> <li>• DLIA has been addressing SI for at least 12 years through education. We found before that a small percentage of members wanted to pay for relocation. Costs quoted to us in prior years were significantly higher so DLIA did not move forward.</li> </ul>		
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Budget Committee – Scott Davis</li> <li>Community Relations – Bill Hartwig</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How does UMBS feel about removing native species when they own so much land here &amp; they are research institution?</li> <li>There was a suggestion that the SI presentation from Inland Lakes Conference would be good to share with all members.</li> <li>The Zone Reps present want to know for sure what their members really think about the issue, think a quick poll will be helpful.</li> <li>Motion by Gail Beaver to develop a single issue poll of membership to determine level of support to move forward with Swimmer’s Itch remediation, second by Joan Caldwell.</li> <li>Proposed \$3000 expense for Swimmer’s Itch is contingent on decision by EB to move forward with project.</li> <li>Scott explained \$15,000 in proposed budget for Investment in Cash Assets. This money is idle funds that are proposed to be moved to a fluid, interest bearing account.</li> <li>Motion by Scott Davis, seconded by Joyce Oldham to approve Proposed Budget for 2021, with \$3000 contingency money allocated for Swimmer’s Itch project.</li> <li>Bill has attended 6 Cheboygan County Road Commission meetings and 4 Munro Twp. meetings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion approved.</li> <li>Budget for 2021 approved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheryl Krehbiel will develop poll &amp; share draft with EB to have input before sending to members. Expect to send to memberships within next 30 days.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He assisted the SI Task Force in obtaining Twp. support and concurrence needed by DNR for proposed SI abatement</li> <li>• Assisted residents in getting Bryant Rd. potholes repaired</li> <li>• Worked with Burt Twp. to write article for DLIA newsletter on Burt Lk. non-motorized trail; wrote article about ORV regulations pertaining to DLIA and Munro Twp.</li> <li>• Member of team to develop Cheboygan County Blight Ordinance (not DLIA but generated interest at DL)</li> <li>• Developed proposed Munro Twp. Road Millage</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• News Team – Joan Hartwig</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently soliciting and preparing articles for 2020 Fall Newsletter.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invasive Species – Pete Klaas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sept. 6 the mobile boat wash station was at DL boat launch. DL volunteers assisted in washing 7 boats and sharing info on the ‘Clean, Drain and Dry’ message to eliminate movement of invasive species between lakes.</li> <li>• A permanent power boat wash station is at the DNR boat launch site on Paradise Lk.</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Merchandise - Kelly Davis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successful year of sales, grossing just over \$16,000 so far while expenses coming in under budget.</li> <li>• Biggest seller was insulated tumblers.</li> </ul>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loon Committee – Anne Covy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online store for holiday season is to be tested this year. Plan to be open early November until Dec. 15.</li> <li>Kelly thanks all who helped in every capacity to make this year successful.</li> <li>Successful loon season. DL had 4 nests with 3 nesting pairs. Chicks were hatched at N. Fishtail (1), Marl Bay (2), Maple Bay (2).</li> <li>Next year’s plan includes a 4<sup>th</sup> nest camera and better location for Nuttings Bay nest which was not occupied this year.</li> </ul>		
<b>Unfinished Business</b>			
<p><b>New Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposal to Conduct Membership Survey – Cheryl Krehbeil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cheryl noted that there have been many changes in households recently on the lake. She proposed that DLIA survey current members to gather updated info regarding current demographics.</li> <li>Having this data could influence such things as how dues money is spent, which long term project(s) to undertake, etc.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be discussed at later date.</li> </ul>
<b>Adjournment</b> - 3:15 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion to adjourn made by Scott Davis, seconded by Joyce Oldham.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion passed</li> </ul>	
<b>Minutes Submitted by:</b> Barb Huey			