

THE DOUGLAS LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

AGENDA AND NOTES

Present - Officers: Ron Witthoff (President), Scott Davis (Vice President), Linda Woolcott (Secretary); Kathy Buchweitz (Treasurer). Immediate Past President: Mary Ellen Sheridan. Zone Reps: Cheryl Krehbiel, Alan Grams, John Young, Joyce Oldham, Holly Gedert, Joan Caldwell, Anne Covy, John Perkins; Standing Committee Chairs: Joan Hartwig, Barb Huey; Warren Woolcott. Directors: Karie Slavik, Laura Hannaford.

Date: June 6, 2024	Time: 9:30 am-12:53 pm	Location: Pellston Regional Airport, 2 nd Floor Conference Room	
Agenda Item	Discussion	Decisions/Findings	Next Steps
Call Meeting to Order – Ronald Witthoff, President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ron called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One third of Executive Board constitutes a quorum; quorum noted. 	
Minutes of Previous Meeting/Attendance – Linda Woolcott (See attached)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linda Woolcott presented minutes of 8/15/2023 Executive Board meeting. Motion by Scott Davis to approve minutes, seconded by Joyce Oldham. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes approved as presented 	
Treasurers Report – Kathy Buchweitz (See attached)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kathy Buchweitz presented Treasurer’s Report through April 30, 2024. Holly Gedert pointed out that the budgeted amount for the loon preservation program was not included. Kathy noted that correction and will update Report. Motion by Holly Gedert, seconded by Scott Davis to approve Treasurer’s Report with correction to add budgeted amount for loon preservation program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treasurer’s Report approved with addition 	

<p>Membership Administrator’s Report – Barb Huey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barb reported that as of May 31, 2024, there are 374 members. Dues collected January 1 through May 31, 2024, is \$7,250. Barb will provide Zone Reps list of those who haven’t paid so they can follow up. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barb to provide list of those who have not paid dues to Zone Reps
<p>President’s Report Ron Witthoff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boat Ramp Introduction of New Directors Mobile Boat Wash/ EGLE Landing Blitz Linking Lakes Conference Munro Township Millage Proposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Boat Ramp</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ron Witthoff reported that in September 2023 Munro Township signed the Memorandum of Understanding that the Executive Board previously approved. Ron announced that Kevin Olson agreed to take on the job of Coordinator of the Boat Ramp Volunteer Group. Munro Township cleaned out the ramp at Kevin’s request around Memorial Day. The dock has been installed. Ron said additional volunteers are needed and should contact Kevin Olson directly. <u>Introduction of New Directors</u> Ron introduced Laura Hannaford, who was present at the meeting, and Laura described her long association with the lake and pleasure to participate in the Association. Dave Thompson was unable to attend the meeting, but Ron provided a brief background of Dave’s history at the lake and his prior efforts on behalf of the Association. <u>Mobile Boat Wash/ EGLE Landing Blitz</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mary Ellen Sheridan reported that Tip of the Mitt will have interns operating the mobile boat wash on Saturday, June 8, 2024. DLIA will have volunteers talking 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need final signed copy of Memorandum of Understanding for records.

	<p>with boaters re invasives and handing out educational pamphlets.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Mary Ellen requested volunteers for the EGLE-sponsored Landing Blitz to be held on June 29, 2024. A DNR conservation officer will be present to talk to boaters about the importance of cleaning their boats. 3. Ron reported that he and Scott are investigating Walloon Lake air compressed boat washers. They will ask Tip of the Mitt representatives whether they are effective and get back to the Executive Board. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Linking Lakes Conference</u> Ron reported that he, Dennis Mikus and Holly Gedert attended the Linking Lakes conference sponsored by Tip of the Mitt. He reported that Lake Charlevoix has an impressive educational program. He also reported that Walloon Lake has found areas of invasion of Eurasian Milfoil, which the Association is attempting to mitigate/eradicate at a high cost and with uncertain outcome. • <u>Munro Township Millage Proposal</u> Ron reported that Bill Hartwig had reached out to Ron about two millage proposals that will be on the August ballot from Munro Township – one for road improvements and one for fire protection. Bill requested that Ron ask DLIA to approve a resolution of support but Ron 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ron and Scott will ask representatives of Tip of the Mitt whether the Walloon Lake air compressed boat washers are effective and get back to the Executive Board with recommendations. • Ron will coordinate getting a notice in the e-news about the millage vote in August.
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	<p>recommends that DLIA publish the dates and issues to be voted on in the e-news.</p>		
<p>Committee Reports:</p> <p>University of Michigan Bio Station – Karie Slavik</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karie Slavik reported that the Bio station is hosting its 116th session. It currently has 110 people at the station and will peak at 250 in July. The Bio station will host an open house on July 21, 2024, and will hold a poetry workshop in association with the open house. There are plans to replace the metal cabins and to become carbon neutral in the coming years. Mark Paddock was surprised on 11/2/2023 with the dedication of the gorge trail. The new signage at the gorge reads, "Welcome to the Mark and Ruth Paddock Trail at Carp Creek Gorge". The Biological Station Strategic Planning is underway and there will be a town hall listening session on July 12 at 9am in the Gates Lecture Hall for community partners and Douglas Lake residents are encouraged to attend. 		
<p>Old Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record voted taken by e-mail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linda Woolcott reported that there were three votes held by e-mail: (1) September 9, 2023 — approving Laura Hannaford and Dave Thompson as Directors and John Kafer as member of Ad Hoc Future Planning and Funding Committee; (2) September 27, 2023 — approving Sharon Fortner as member of Ad Hoc Future Planning and Funding Committee; (3) April 3, 2024 — approving date, place and time of DLIA annual meeting. 		

<p>New Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shoreline Survey Project • Appointment of Nominating Committee • Annual Meeting Plan • Swimmer’s itch permit/program • Ad Hoc Future Planning and Funding Committee Report • Future Executive Board Meeting Dates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Shoreline Survey Project</u> Holly Gedert described the shoreline survey project being conducted by Tip of the Mitt over several weeks this summer. Prior surveys have been done in 1998, 2002 and 2015. Unfortunately, the shoreline has declined rather than improved over those years. As in years past, field workers will go by boat along the shoreline to complete their survey and that work should be completed by August 9, 2024. The report should be complete in 2025. Holly said there is still money available for owners to use for improvements to their shoreline up to \$2,000. A communications committee to assist Holly was formed to develop a communications plan and logistics for the survey. Scott Davis, Suzanne Witthoff and Sharon Fortner are members of the committee along with Holly. Members of the Executive Board offered suggestions for education of members such as meetings at homes to view/learn about planning for lake-friendly improvements; circulation of before and after photos; and communications about best practices in e-news. • <u>Appointment of Nominating Committee</u> The term of office for President, Vice President and Secretary expires after the Annual Meeting. Ron recommended that Mary Ellen Sheridan serve as chair of the Nominating Committee to nominate officers for these positions with Ruth Thompson and Peter Klaas as members of the Committee. Cheryl Krehbiel moved that Mary Ellen Sheriden act as chair of the Nominating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion approved appointing Mary Ellen Sheriden as chair and Ruth Thompson and Peter Klaas as members of the Nominating Committee. 	
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	<p>committee with Ruth Thompson and Peter Klaas as members. Joan Caldwell seconded the motion. Motion passed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>DLIA Annual Meeting Plan</u> <p>Suzanne Witthoff reported that the Annual Meeting will include a pancake breakfast like last year’s meeting. She requested volunteers to help with the meeting. She has been working on a tentative agenda and guest speakers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Swimmers’ Itch Program</u> <p>Ron reported that the permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for relocation of merganser ducks per the swimmers’ itch program has expired. Ron provided a history of the program. The Executive Board approved a two-year trial of a program operated by Swimmers’ Itch Solutions to relocate merganser ducks from the lake to stop the cycle of infected snails. The program operated for one year and then the DNR paused the program due to concerns about bird flu. When DLIA was ready to start the program for 2024 it learned a number of things: its DNR permit has expired and the DRN will not renew it; costs to relocate the ducks increased from \$3,000/year to up to \$7,500/yr.; interruption in the program will not allow for an appropriate study of its success, so the program would need to be in place for at least two more years; it is not clear whether the DNR will grant the permit in time for the program to be accomplished this summer since the last recommended time to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion approved to spend \$200 to file for permit with DNR, with approval to be sought first at Munro Township as required by DNR; seeking the permit will keep options open for Executive Board to consider proposal by Swimmers’ Itch Solutions, look at other options, evaluate effectiveness of program, consider timing of project and costs. 	
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	<p>relocate ducks is at the end of June. Executive Board members expressed concern about cost of the new two-year program, whether the permit and contract could be finalized on time to be useful in 2024, whether the program works and whether there are other methods to fight swimmers' itch. Motion was made by Scott Davis, seconded by Cheryl Krehbiel to spend \$200 to file for a permit with DNR, with approval to be sought first at Munro Township at its June 12, 2024 meeting as required by DNR; such permit being sought to keep options open for Executive Board to consider proposal by Swimmers' Itch Solutions, look at other options, evaluate effectiveness of program, consider timing of project and review costs. Motion was approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ad Hoc Future Planning and Funding Committee</u> <p>Scott Davis, co-chair with Cheryl Krehbiel, presented the Ad Hoc Future Planning and Funding Committee final report. In its report, the Ad Hoc Committee recommended the Executive Board authorize an annual membership dues increase from \$25 to \$35 beginning in 2025, and encourage donations be made to a special project fund. After a lengthy and comprehensive debate which included perspectives from a wide variety of members, the Executive Board voted to recommend to the membership that annual dues be raised from \$25 to \$50 per membership. The Executive Board considered the Ad Hoc Committee's findings that dues of \$25 do not cover</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion approved to request membership approval of increase in dues from \$25 to \$50. 	
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	<p>operational expenses of the DLIA. In addition, the Board noted that DLIA has used fundraising dollars from directory ad sales and net profits from merchandise sales, which amounts vary from year to year, to cover basic operational needs. Those funds could be used instead to build coffers for currently unforeseen needs, like boat ramp extraordinary expenses, or mitigating invasive species. If approved by the membership, the higher dues will enable DLIA to cover all operating expenses. In addition to seeking increased revenue through higher dues, the many members of the Executive Board were receptive to offering an opportunity for members and friends to offer additional support through donations for future special projects and rainy-day funds. Membership dues have remained the same for ten years. A motion was made by Scott Davis and seconded by Cheryl Krehbiel to request membership approval of an increase in dues from \$25 to \$50 per member per year. The motion passed with two abstentions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Next Meeting Date</u> The next Executive Board meeting date was left open. 		
Adjournment – 12:53 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to adjourn made by Scott Davis seconded by Alan Grams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion passed 	
Minutes submitted by Linda Woolcott			