

**THE DOUGLAS LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION  
55th ANNUAL ASSOCIATION MEETING**

**AGENDA AND NOTES**

**DATE: Saturday, July 27, 2024**

**TIME: 10:30 a.m.**

**LOCATION: Pellston High School Auditorium**

Agenda Item	Discussion
<b>Call to Order/Opening</b> – Ron Witthoff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Ron called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and noted that a quorum had been achieved. He welcomed everyone to the meeting on a sunny lake day. He read the purpose statement of the Douglas Lake Improvement Association to remind everyone of its function and intention. Ron provided a special welcome to new members and thanked Suzanne Witthoff and her committee for organizing, preparing and serving the pre-meeting breakfast. Ron also expressed appreciation to Stephen Seelye and Pellston Public Schools for allowing the DLIA to have its meeting in the Pellston High School Auditorium.</li><li>▪ Ron introduced Munro Township Supervisor, Keith Ginop, and Munro Township Trustees, Don Tracey and Paul Nows, who attended the meeting. He expressed appreciation for the significant Township help with the boat ramp construction and ongoing cooperation.</li><li>▪ Ron encouraged members to volunteer for tasks listed on cards at the entrance and breakfast tables. He said he is encouraged by the support members offer when asked, such as the group of eight people who volunteered to be on the Ad Hoc Future Planning and Funding Committee. The members of the committee include Cheryl Krehbiel and Scott Davis, co-chairs, along with Linda Alexander, Sally Butler, Sharon Fortner, John Kafer, Suzanne Witthoff and Holly Gedert as members. Ron also announced that when the Association asked for volunteers for boat ramp crew leader, three people volunteered. Kevin Olson agreed to lead the crew, and Tim Davis and Roger Bates volunteered to be on the crew. Ron noted that Linda Orlow oversees volunteer recruitment so anyone who would like to get involved may contact Linda.</li></ul>

<p><b>Minutes of 2023 Annual Meeting – Linda Woolcott</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Linda Woolcott presented minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting and noted that they need to be corrected to include approval of the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting.</li> <li>▪ Motion by Mary Ellen Sheridan to approve the minutes corrected to include approval of the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes, seconded by Susan Hartwig.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Treasurer’s Report – Kathy Buchweitz</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kathy Buchweitz presented the Treasurer’s Report. She stated she is in favor of the recommended dues increase from \$25 to \$50. There were no changes proposed by members to the Treasurer’s Report.</li> <li>▪ Motion by Scott Davis to approve Treasurer’s Report, seconded by Dave Thompson.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Guest Speaker – Olivea Nicholson,</b> Water Protection Intern Tip of Mitt Watershed Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Olivea Nicholson, Water Protection Intern at Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, gave a presentation on invasive species on inland lakes. She began by explaining that the goals of the Watershed Council are to educate, prevent and protect lakes, streams, groundwater and marshes in its northern Michigan service area.</li> <li>▪ Ms. Nicholson defined invasive species as species that are non-native to the ecosystem and cause harm to the economy, environment or human health. She noted Douglas Lake has already experienced invasive species damage caused by zebra and quagga mussels. She showed photos of invasives that have been found in nearby lakes such as Eurasian Watermilfoil, Curly-Leaf Pondweed, Starry Stonewort, and European Frogbit. She explained these invasives can form large mats or dense colonies and shade out native aquatic plants. They reduce diversity, impede movement of fish, tangle in motors, block out sun, change the oxygen content of the water and generally make the lake less attractive for swimming and recreation.</li> <li>▪ She showed maps of locations of invasives that have been found in southern Michigan, such as Hydrilla, Flowering Rush and Red Swamp Crayfish, which may eventually make their way north to Douglas Lake unless users of the lake are vigilant.</li> <li>▪ Ms. Nicholson said that to avoid bringing invasives into Douglas Lake, boat owners should clean, drain and dry their watercraft before putting it in the lake. Water from the craft should not be put in the lake and fish bait should be disposed of in the trash, not the lake. Releasing living animals and plants in a lake, river, or near shore can establish unwanted populations.</li> <li>▪ Ms. Nicholson encouraged the use of a mobile boat washing station. It uses high pressure and heated water to wash invasive plants and animals from boats and trailers. Diluted household bleach solution may be used along with physical removal by brushing.</li> <li>▪ Ms. Nicholson showed photos of Purple Loosestrife, a flower that looks attractive, but which damages native plants by its rapid growth which overtakes natives and reduces plant diversity and habitat value to wildlife. She explained that Tip of the Mitt has a biocontrol program which helps get rid of Purple Loosestrife, through use of the purple loosestrife beetle which feeds on the Loosestrife vegetation.</li> <li>▪ Audience members asked questions about methods that have been used by other lakes such as Paradise Lake and Walloon Lake to get rid of invasives. Noah Jansen, from Tip of the Mitt said that there are some chemicals that</li> </ul>

	<p>have been approved for invasives and that in some cases scuba divers have been employed to hand pull the invasives but none of these methods have completely rid the lakes of invasives. The best way to deal with invasives is to stop them from coming into the lake to begin with.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ms. Nicholson encouraged residents to report any sightings of invasives. A report should be accompanied by one or more photos, and the location, date and time of the sighting. The report may be made to: MISN’s online reporting tool or app; EGLE Aquatic Invasive Species Program; <a href="mailto:EGLE-WRD-AIP@Michigan.gov">EGLE-WRD-AIP@Michigan.gov</a>; INaturalist: or TOMWC <a href="mailto:info@watershedcouncil.org">info@watershedcouncil.org</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Remarks from Director, University of Michigan Biological Station –</b> Aimee Classen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dr. Aimee Classen thanked the members of the Association for being good neighbors to the Bio Station.</li> <li>▪ She said that the Bio Station is proud of the distinguished faculty it has attracted and encouraged members to attend the last lecture of the summer which will be given by Dr. Noah Whiteman, from University of California, Berkley, who will be speaking on hummingbirds.</li> <li>▪ Dr. Classen said it is the Bio Station’s 116th season this year. She said the students at the Bio Station “learn from a place instead of about a place”.</li> <li>▪ Dr. Classen said Douglas Lake campus updates will focus on carbon neutrality; year-round presence; cabin replacement, utility infrastructure and interior redesign of community spaces. The Bio Station plans to be a sustainable, accessible and inclusive educational space.</li> <li>▪ The strategic planning process for a 5-year strategic plan is occurring now and Dr. Classen encouraged DLIA members to participate in the process. The Bio Station will gather input through August through a survey and town hall discussions to set goals.</li> <li>▪ The Bio Station has had several successes in conservation. One of the highlights is its Piping Plover Captive Rearing Center in which the Bio Station has been researching and restoring the Piping Plover population. The Great Lakes shores was originally home to nearly 800 nesting pairs and that number was down to between 12 and 17 pairs when the Bio Station began its program. The population is now over 80 nesting pairs. The Bio Station’s goal is 150 nesting pairs in the US.</li> <li>▪ The Bio Station is strengthening its study of snow science with the changing climate. It plans to do soil ecosystem research, track snowpack and look at the impact warming climate on forest productivity and water quality among other topics.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Old Business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ none</li> </ul>
<p><b>New Business</b> <b>Election of Officers –</b> Mary Ellen Sheridan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mary Ellen Sheridan, chairperson of the Nominating Committee, on behalf of Pete Klass and Ruth Thompson, the other members of the Nominating Committee, nominated the following: Ron Witthoff, as President, Scott Davis</li> </ul>

<p><b>Vote on Dues Increase</b> – Scott Davis; Cheryl Krehbiel</p>	<p>as Vice President and Linda Woolcott as Secretary. Mary Ellen requested nominations from the floor and there were none. Ron, Scott and Linda were elected by acclamation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ron reported that the Ad Hoc Future Planning and Funding Committee recommended to the Executive Board that the Association dues be increased from \$25 to \$50. The Ad Hoc Committee was appointed to examine current DLIA tasks and activities and their funding sources and determine if those activities should be continued or cut back. The Ad Hoc Committee met several times over the fall and winter and prepared a report with several recommendations. The report was presented to the Executive Board at its meeting in June and published in the E-news three times. The recommendation was to raise dues to \$35 from \$25. The Ad Hoc Committee explained that the \$35 dues amount would not cover projected annual expenses without merchandise and directory sales included. Operating expenses alone total approximately \$47. Because the Executive Board determined that it wanted dues to cover expenses, and amounts earned from merchandise and directory sales are not constant, the Executive Board decided that it would raise the dues to \$50 to cover the operating expenses. Any funds received from merchandise and directory sales would be available as a reserve fund to cover emergencies such as boat ramp issues and invasive species prevention/eradication.</li> <li>▪ Scott Davis and Cheryl Krehbiel joined Ron in the discussion and asked for questions from members.</li> <li>▪ Some members suggested that the dues be levied on a sliding scale so that people who want to pay more than \$50 could do so to fund a reserve fund for emergencies and/or invasive species.</li> <li>▪ Scott said the plan is to let people know when they pay dues that they can donate more than the \$50 dues amount for a reserve fund.</li> <li>▪ Ron said that last year when the Association gave people the option to donate extra funds to replenish the reserve fund, over 40 people gave more.</li> <li>▪ In response to a question of where the \$50 will be going, Cheryl described many fixed expense that DLIA incurs, some of which are increasing, including: increased cost for Mail Chimp due to the higher number of members in DLIA; costs to update the DLIA website; expenses for aquatic invasive surveys and shoreline surveys; and contribution to a Bio Station scholarship.</li> <li>▪ A member suggested that the DLIA recognize people who pay more and Ron said that the Executive Board will look into that.</li> <li>▪ Holly Gedert noted we would need people’s permission for public recognition.</li> <li>▪ Cindy Wolack moved to approve increase in dues from \$25 to \$50. Susan Hartwig seconded the motion.</li> <li>▪ The increase was approved by voice vote.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Special Recognition</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ron recognized Kelly Davis for her outstanding service in organizing and running the merchandise sales for the past five years. Ron said Kelly spent at least 10 hours a week on the sales and worked on it all year long. Her</li> </ul>

	contribution to the Association was significant and unpaid. Kelly noted in brief remarks to the members that she loved doing the job and she could not have done it without the help of many other people who assisted her.
<b>Adjournment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Mary Ellen Sheridan moved that the meeting be adjourned and Scott Davis seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.</li></ul>
<b>Minutes submitted by Linda Woolcott</b>	

DRAFT