

ANNUAL MEETING  
OSPREY LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION  
July 4, 2018 -- Props Landing Restaurant

PRESENT: Schneider, Broolsma, Meyer, Dannehl, Larson (Bob), Falch, Buhs, Storer, Riegelman, Pellant, Schaefer

President PJ Schaefer called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

- I. FINANCE. PJ reported that, in 2018, 20 households on the lake have contributed \$4,100 to the OLPOA mission. There is \$18,918 in the bank account at this time.
  
- II. WATER ISSUES
  - A. PJ updated us on current water litigation. Mr. Hausman, a Round Lake property owner, has his case before the circuit court. He has lost two other filings and has appealed it to the circuit level. PJ's opinion is the current action may go well for Mr. Hausman. He also assumes that whichever side loses will appeal the decision. Mr. Hausman's current suit seeks to have Sawyer County manage the water level of Round Lake. PJ anticipates that this battle over water flow will continue long after we are all gone.
  - B. The culverts on the creek on County NN need replaced again. In the last repair effort, the County added a third culvert, but kept the two old ones, combining them with the new. The two old culverts are now failing, so the new culvert is the only one allowing water to move south under NN. Mr. Hausman has notified authorities that he expects to be included in actions involving the culverts. There continue to be several beaver dams upstream. PJ was told that the County will replace the damaged culverts, no other changes, but doesn't have the money in this year's budget to replace this year.

COMMENTS: Bob Pellant commented that he is celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being a property owner on Osprey Lake, and that in 1988, he actually had 20 feet of sand beach in front of his home where now there is none, due to current high water levels.

- III. MILFOIL
  - A. PJ reported the board considered filing for a grant for milfoil control last year, but did not move forward with it.
  - B. PJ brought samples of the Northern Milfoil (the GOOD one, retains its form after detached from the plant), and Eurasian Milfoil (the BAD one ... after it breaks off from the main plant, often due to boat propellers, jet skis, etc., any tiny frond is capable of floating to a new part of the lake and becoming an established plant. The fronds on Eurasian collapse out of water, when compared to the springy foliage of the Northern). There are lakes throughout Wisconsin that are so clogged with Eurasian Milfoil that they are unnavigable. OLPOA has treated with "Renovate" pretty successfully. The milfoil will never be eradicated, just controlled. The last "Renovate" treatment was in 2014.
  - C. PJ presented a map of the known Eurasian Milfoil infestations in Osprey Lake. Heavy areas near Sandburghs, west of the island, between Rentons and Storer. And some by the landing. The heavy spot near the creek entrance from Round Lake has actually shrunk. PJ said we are fortunate, as the flora in Osprey Lake is actually quite diverse, with the Northern Milfoil and other native water plants crowding out the invasive Eurasian Milfoil. PJ provided maps with Eurasian Milfoil "hotspots," so that property Owners can ask guests and renters to avoid tubing or boating in the troubled areas.
  - D. The board plans to apply for another grant for milfoil treatment. The grants require that the lake has a milfoil management plan in place. OLPOA's plan says it won't treat less than five acres of water at a time. We hire a fellow named Dale Dressell who told PJ he estimated treatment cost of about \$1800.00 per acre.

COMMENTS: Barb Meyer asked if kayaks were a problem. No. Joey asked if a buoy or other marker could be put in the trouble spots, so that visitors to the lake know which areas to avoid. PJ said our DNR water officer said buoys aren't a good idea, because people are drawn to the "off-limits" area out of curiosity. Jeff mentioned some lakes have tried having divers pull up the milfoil by the roots, but often have greater spread of the plant afterwards.

#### IV. SPEARFISHING

- A. PJ conferred with several Tribal, State and Federal agencies on spearfishing after discovering walleye gut piles on the landing road in early May. He complained to the LCO Tribal Fisheries official, from whom we have purchased thousands of dollars-worth of extended growth walleye to stock Osprey Lake. The official stated that Osprey Lake has not been "declared" as a spear-fishing location. Regulations are: Tribal members may spear as many fish on Tribal property as they like, any time of year. To spear in NON-Tribal lake areas, the fishermen must formally register for a specific lake, and are allowed to take only 20 fish per person, per day. So if the spear-fishermen in early May were fishing anywhere but the Tribal frontage by the landing, it was illegal, because Osprey Lake was not "declared." If they were fishing in front of any OLPOA members' homes, it was illegal.
- B. PJ's LCO Fisheries contact referred our situation to GLIFWC (Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission) that is responsible for overseeing the 1855 treaty rights. PJ was contacted by GLIFWC Agent Pat Retzlaff who is interested in our situation. If any property owners see spearfishers on NON-Tribal lake areas, try to get the boat description and license number or photo. Or they may call the LCO game warden (Henry Bearheart, 715-699-3140) or the DNR hot line, 1-800-TIP-WDNR, which is active 24/7. After talking with PJ, Warden Bearheart had his interns clean up all the furniture and garbage from the landing.
- C. PJ was told by LCO Conservation Officer Dan Tyrolt that, for every "declared" walleye reported taken (from a non-Tribal lake that has been declared), they restock ten times as many extended growth walleye. Free. So if they legally took 100 walleye from Osprey, LCO would stock 1000 extended growth in Osprey.

COMMENTS: Joey Falch stated she sees the spear-fishermen in front of her home every spring.

#### V. OSPREY FISHERY UPDATE

- A. PJ deals with Max Wolter at the DNR office. This spring, the DNR was on Osprey Lake two nights, netting fish, and also shocking the water to get a count on walleye and other fish populations. Even though we stocked with extended growth walleye since 2005, most of the walleye they found in the Fyke nets were stocked in 2011-2013. There were no EGW walleye from the 2,150 that were stocked in 2016 in the Fyke nets, and only very few when using shock. The DNR plans to stock another 2,150 walleye this fall. OLPOA was ready to give up on stocking because of poor results.
- B. PJ distributed Max Wolter's "Age walleye catch rate" chart. Our walleye catch during the spring testing was essentially zero, when compared with other lakes. The clear lakes had the worst walleye numbers, as there are less places for fish to hide from both spearfishermen and predatory fish. Max told PJ about an experiment he conducted on Smith Lake. In the Fall of 2013 the DNR planted Extended Growth Walleyes (EGW) in Smith Lake. The following year the age catch rate was 1.8 EGW in Smith Lake, compared to the Northern Wisconsin Average catch rate of 4 and Sawyer County average catch rate of 5.9. In 2015, before planting the same number of EGW the DNR purchased a truckload of minnows and released them into Smith Lake, prior to planting the EGW. The result was a five-times greater catch rate of 9.5. as opposed to just adding the walleye with no "fast-food." OLPOA plans to participate, as it's only \$250 for the truckload of minnows.
- C. Other DNR survey results from this spring include netting a STATE RECORD white sucker in our lake, and found a 44" musky in the shocking. If you want more statistics about the fish in our lake from the DNR study, contact PJ.

D. PJ cited our fisheries management options as:

- 1) Continue to try to build the walleye, making that our top priority, with sm/lg mouthed bass as second priority, and quality panfish as third.
- 2) Give up on the walleye and emphasize the bass. Panfish populations would naturally decline.
- 3) Concentrate on high-quality panfish. This would entail regulating the bass populations, and a lot of government hoops to jump through.

COMMENTS: PJ would like to keep working on the walleye, although the bass will probably take over in the end. Max from the DNR said if the bass take over, the northern pike and crappie will be able to hold their own.

- 4) VOTE: Eight voted to continue working on walleye, with three voting to give up and concentrate on bass.

VI. MUSKIES

- A. Max Wolter from the DNR asked if we wanted to stock extended growth (12-18") muskies. The DNR will stock, free of charge, about 1 per acre, so nearly 200 for Osprey Lake once every 3 years.

COMMENTS: Jason Buhs, an avid musky fisherman, said that muskies would help keep the bass population down. And that most musky fishermen do catch & release. Northern pike have a negative effect on other species in that they hatch early, so consume the fry of later hatching species.

- B. VOTE: Ten in favor of accepting musky extended growth muskies, one abstention.

VII. GENERAL BUSINESS

- A. NO-WAKE HOURS. There continue to be jet skis, speed boats (alone, or pulling tubes or skiers) that are violating the no-wake hours on Osprey Lake. Legally, only no-wake boating is allowed between the hours of 6 p.m. and 10 a.m. These regulations are jointly specified by Hayward, Round Lake and Hunter Township, along with the LCO Tribe. This is to allow families and fishermen to have quiet times on the lake. Please advise your guests and renters to abide by these regulations.

- B. PJ and Jeff, the two board members present, requested that our by-laws be amended to allow the board to conduct its business of the board (protection and enhancement of Osprey Lake) without having to get a vote of the members. They asked for discretion up to \$20,000. PJ noted we have spent \$25,000-\$26,000 on milfoil treatment alone, since the OLPOA was formed in 2006. Jeff noted that some of the grants we apply for require that we put up 50% of the cost, so they'd like the freedom to commit to that without having to take a vote from property owners who are scattered to the four winds. Brad Brolsma suggested that expenditures should be unanimous, by all three board members.

1. VOTE: It was unanimously voted to amend the by-laws to allow the board discretionary spending up to \$20,000 without a voted approval by OLPOA members, and that it should be a unanimous spending recommendation by the three board members.

COMMENTS: Carole Dannehl reminded us that the DNR regulations require boats to come no closer than 100 ft. to any pier or swim float, and 200 ft. from piers/floats for jet skis. Please remind your guests and renters of these State regulations.

- C. INVESTMENTS OF OLPOA FUNDS. PJ reported we are getting 0.12% interest on OLPOA funds. He looked at CD rates, which were only .4%, and decided it wasn't enough of a difference to warrant tying up the funds.
- D. ANNUAL MEETING. PJ requested we amend the by-laws to change the annual meeting date from the first Saturday in August, to July 4 (or online).

1. VOTE: To change annual OLPOA meeting to July 4, unanimously approved. An online meeting may occur, if scheduling is unworkable.

2.

E. ELECTION. Current board (PJ Schaefer, President; Jeff Schneider, Vice-President; Brian Follett, Secretary-Treasurer) was re-elected by postcard mailing, for another three-year term. PJ thanked us very much. Brian will continue to serve on the board until such time as he no longer owns property on the lake.

VIII. THANK YOU, PROPS

Props kindly bought all the refreshments (coffee, bloody mary) for our meeting.

PJ adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Joey Falch*