

Sam Rahaim, president, called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM. Because of the Covid-19 crisis, Zoom was used for a virtual meeting and the residents were provided information to attend via their computers or other electronic devices. The board members in attendance were Jeff Shull, vice president, Barb Barrett, treasurer, Marty May, member at large, Marge Knable, secretary and Sam Rahaim, president. Sam thanked everyone for their patience and reviewed the procedure for the meeting with attendees being muted and questions to be sent to bearlakeassociation.com. Sam was then made host for the meeting so he could share his slides. He then introduced Jason Broekstra, Vice-President of Michigan Operations for PLM.

Jason Broekstra

The past few years, Bear Lake has had some small increase in EWM acreage along with some algae and purple loosestrife but still well below the high point of 2012. PLM will be checking for new variances of hybrid EWM during their June survey. PLM is also looking at using a new product called ProcellaCOR, which has a different active ingredient and found to be very effective. Algae will be addressed as necessary as the natural drainage with high water levels and no outlet will produce more algae growth. Big Twin Lake is also very high and they were trying to work with the state to consider being a no-wake lake for this year but that was not successful. There was a possibility that if the lake's status was changed it may have become permanent. Jason also spoke of State Bills MPA 71 and 72 which would give local authority to limit the speed on lakes. Blue Lake Township has filled out the application for this. Cold Springs Association has decided to work with residents regarding the flooding, lake erosion, and long term effects in the future. Their letter suggests a 500' no wake buffer zone around the lake instead of the normal 100' buffer. -All the state lakes without an outlet have issues with no place to send the water and the prediction is that the lakes will continue to rise. Jason also indicated that starry stonewort nor curly pond weed has yet to be found in our lake. Questions for Jason can be sent to bearlakeassociation.com.

Board Members Terms and Voting

Jeff Shull's 3 year term is up and no one responded to the request from Marge for a volunteer. Sam said that Jeff has agreed to serve again. Marge Knable made a motion to re-elect Jeff Shull for another 3 year term, Barb Barrett seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously

Health of Bear Lake

Sam prepared a PowerPoint presentation to follow the agenda previously sent to the members. **This will be on the website and will include the graphs.** Once again, we are an oligotrophic lake with low nutrient content and all readings are excellent from PLM, the Au Sable Institute and CLMP. CLMP testing was cancelled this year due to lack of funding but a new grant will begin in 2021. We thank Sue and Mike Boss for taking the readings in the past. Craig O'Brien has volunteered to continue transparency readings this year.

Related Lake Information

Sam explained last year's County Board of Commissioners proposition to eliminate the **Point of Sale** Septic tank inspection failed because one of the other nine counties in the health district did not approve the proposition. MI is the only state with no uniform Septic Tank code. There are environmental groups that are attempting to get Michigan to form a state wide unified code on septic tanks.

It was reported that **fish** were once again **stocked** in the lake but no data was available at this time.

Treasurer's Report

Sam shared that Bear Lake's SAD assessment was \$42.35 and was based on previous year's costs and this year's estimated expenses. Lake treatment averages \$5000 per year and other expenses about \$800. Current balance is \$8,007.56. The Association account is comprised of donations received from neighbors who want to support the lake. This past year we received donations of \$135 and after expenses have a balance of \$2,429.19. **Details are available in the PowerPoint presentation on the web.**

Loon Ranger

Mary Vervisch, our Loon Ranger, reported that we had 2 baby loons last summer which was the 6th year we have had babies. The loons have been nesting in Eleanor Bay and we hope to see some babies after June 20th. A "loons nesting" sign will be put up at the boat launch and one at Eleanor's Bay. Please stay the required 200 feet away from Loons. They are federally protected and one should call the Sheriff (231-258-3350) if you see a problem. Concern was shared of the many pontoons that anchor at the entrance to Eleanor Bay where the loons have nested. Let's all work to protect the loons. Sam indicated the new signs are yellow and request people to stay 200' away from the loons.

What you can do

Please support the lake by reviewing the list and getting involved. Rake the lake is easy and it helps eliminate the nutrients that add problems to our lake. FYI – about 90% of lake septic tanks were tested with colored dye and no problems were found.