

Little Traverse Lake Property Owners Association

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Friday May 7, 2021 8:30 AM

Zoom Meeting

Participating in the Zoom meeting were Directors Race, Skjaerlund, Shutz, Verellen and Leanderson.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM.

Communications – Leanderson reviewed the communications received since the last Board meeting.

Treasurers Report – Shutz reported a bank balance of \$24,270.38. Donations total \$20,530, \$16, 600 for water quality, \$2940 for boat wash, and \$840 other. Expenditures are \$10,000 Canale, \$500 beaver dams, \$5165 Gosling.

Water Quality – Race provided the following written report:

Water Quality Report to the Board of Directors
May 2021

2020 Projects and Results

1. Water Quality

Dr. Ray Canale completed the second year of his three-year research project to evaluate the water quality of our lake. He tested algal nutrients (total phosphorus and nitrates), chlorophyll, Secci Depth, and dissolved oxygen at several depths in the off-shore waters. These tests were conducted twelve times in 2020. Mixed species of periphyton and Cladophora were measured at nine near-shore sites. He has submitted his interim 2-year report, including the updated EXCEL database with this year's data, which can be found on the LTLA website. He will complete his water sampling program this summer.

We are happy to report that our lake is Oligotrophic (top TSI rating) which means it is low in nutrients, has excellent clarity, and limited algae. This scale is also used by other Leelanau County lakes to measure lake health. The original purpose of our three-year water quality initiative was to get a baseline of historical data in an accessible database with analysis done by an expert in the field. Dr. Canale's extensive report accomplished that goal and, along with his suggestions for future preventative measures, forms the basis of our ongoing program.

2. Enteric Bacteria Monitoring

Ron Reimink of Fresh Water Solutions (FWS) completed the first year of a three-year research project evaluating the potential for using new molecular biology (qPCR) to assess the effects of riparian septic systems on our lake water. The qPCR test determines if human bacteria HF-183 is present. Well water was tested on 9 volunteered properties along with the surface water in front of the home. The sites were chosen because they either showed evidence of human bacteria in the FWS 2018 survey of the shoreline or the 2019 study, have wells/septic systems that are 40-50 years old, or showed evidence of cladophora growth in previous years. The testing was repeated 3 times over the summer at each site.

We were encouraged to find no human contamination in surface lake water of the 9 properties tested. Only one of the tests showed Enteric bacteria (can be nonhuman) in the surface water. 4 tests showed Enteric in wells one of the three months, and 2 of the 9 wells had human contamination during one of the

three months tested. Those two homeowners were notified and they have done additional testing and remediation.

3. Invasive Species Monitoring

FWS completed three surveys to identify terrestrial and aquatic species. The Submergent Aquatic Vascular Plant Survey's purpose was to identify problematic species using a rake toss method at 15 sites. Emphasis was on identification of highly invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil and Starry Stonewort. No invasive species were found.

The Emergent Plant Survey goal was to identify species around the perimeter of the lake. One unknown species was identified which is not believed to be invasive because most are well-documented in literature. Several patches of Purple Loosestrife were found on the SW/NW shoreline. Some growth of Narrow Leaf Cattail (not common cattail) was found which can be invasive. This should be monitored in 2021. Evidence of golden algae, a community of microscopic diatoms, was found on the north shore. This is not known to cause harm to lakes.

The Algal Survey found a diversity of species. Blue-green algae can cause toxic blooms but there is no concern about the levels in the lake at this time.

Their biggest concern was the presence of Purple Loosestrife which should be eradicated. The complete 2020 FWS report can be found on the LTLA website.

2021 Projects

1. Dr. Canale will complete the final year of his testing and analysis. The 2021 data will be entered into the database and he will submit an appendix report next fall which will be put on the website. He will present his findings to the membership in a Zoom presentation in July. In addition, he will conduct a periphyton survey at locations around the shoreline where these species have been observed in previous years.
2. FWS will test 8 new properties using qPCR. Drone (IR imaging) technology will be used to identify problematic septic systems. 96 samples total will be taken and analyzed. We will add additional sites and testing if we have the funding. In addition, all sites will be tested by LTLA for E Coli, Coliform and nitrates using the County Health Department's protocol. Four inlets will also be tested for HF-183 in late July/early August after a heavy rain to compare to 2019 testing.
3. Another Submergent Aquatic Vascular Plant Survey will be completed to identify problematic species. The results will be compared to 2020 field work. Detection of highly invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil and Starry Stonewort will be a priority.
4. Another Microscopic Algal Community Survey will be conducted by FWS to monitor algae growth and compare to last year's findings.
5. The entire shoreline will be assessed by FWS for the presence of invasive species, especially invasive Purple Loosestrife and Yellow Flag Iris.
6. The 2020 shoreline drone footage will be analyzed and cataloged by FWS for Cladophora, erosion, greenbelts, terrestrial invasive species, etc.
7. Drone technology will be used to map and analyze aquatic gardens in mid-summer. FWS biologists will either snorkel or dive on all major gardens with special attention directed towards identifying invasive species.
8. Information on septic system inspections with contact numbers for private companies and the Health Department will be put on the Association website along with helpful links.
9. Fundraising for the boat wash at the Township Park will commence as soon as we hear the results of our grant request. Permits will be obtained and an installation plan will be developed.
10. Jeff Shutz, LTLA Board member and Water Quality Committee member, will serve on the Board of Directors of Leelanau Clean Water so we will have a strong voice representing our lake in that county-wide organization.

The Water Quality Committee has developed strong relationships with our professional teams to develop this extensive plan. No other lake of our size in the county has a plan this comprehensive. We look forward to another successful summer of monitoring our water quality.

Water Quality Budget for 2021

Expenses (4/27/21-12/31/21)

Canale	\$5,000 (final payment) + \$1,200 (shore survey)	\$6,2000	
FWS	Enteric testing and aquatic surveys	\$14,834	
LTLA	E Coli Testing	<u>\$ 3,045</u>	
	Subtotal	\$24,079	
<u>Income</u>			
WQ Balance as of 5/5/21		\$19,367.34	
Two committed donations			<u>\$4,000.00</u>
		Subtotal	\$23,367.34

Additional expenses

Boat wash (\$35,000) - grant (\$9,500) = \$25,500

Discussion took place regarding the boat wash grant which is expected this month. It is estimated that we will need to raise \$25,000 for the boat wash.

Water Quality communications was discussed. An information email needs to be sent out to educate the members on actions and budget required. An email should be sent out summarizing the water quality findings. Plan is to educate members on water quality and invasive species this year with the focus on fund raising on the boat wash. Then in the fall, we summarize where we have been, what we have accomplished the last three years, and what our funding needs will be going forward.

Leanderson reviewed the communications committee strategy. It was decided it would be better to wait to send out anything requesting funds/dues until we have the grant decision. Only communication now is the water quality update. Plan is to send out dues/donation request after the grant decision in early June. Skjaerlund to do an edit of the water quality "44.9" blast to be sent out first. He will forward edit to water quality committee and to Leanderson for communications committee.

Race requested that when Remink does the septic study that all location results be kept private. Locations will not be put on the website. Results will be communicated privately and thus Gurthet feels we may have better participation. This plan was agreed upon.

Discussion took place regarding fund raising goals for the boat wash. It was determined that we need to add \$10,000 to the boat wash goal for a total of \$35,000.

Shutz reported that the letter of support for the Lake Leelanau Board was no longer needed. They have received enough letters to meet their needs.

Skjaerlund commented that the analysis that Remink completed from the Allgiuer/Newton drone fly over needs to be coordinated with an on the ground physical survey to confirm the findings. Also, there are confidentiality concerns. Our analysis should not be given to others and should be used for general analysis not specific property data. Skjaerlund and Gurthet to contact Dennis to ensure our confidentiality concerns are addressed.

MURT Heritage Trail – Verellen reported that the LCRC will be repaving CR-669 north of M22. It was suggested that the shoulders of 669 be built for permanent use and the road could then be rebuilt in five years using the same shoulders. This effort did not get support from Tim Stein. He does not know when he will receive Covid money allocated to the Township. He has received assurances from TART that there will be a spur along CR-669 from the Heritage Trail to the beach. Stein also said that he would like to repave TLR with larger shoulders. TART has hired OHM to do an environmental assessment near Glen Lake and then may do the assessment of the 669 spur. Shutz commented that he has received communications from TART that they want to start the process, with OHM, of designing the route of the trail around Jone's and Martin's property. Skjaerlund added that we need to get a final plan from TART and it should be open to public comments. We also need to be notified in advance of any permit applications (dunes, wetland, etc.) so that those permits can be commented on by the public.

Membership – Leanderson had no update on the membership since dues notice has not been sent out yet.

Committee Reports

Water Level – Leanderson reported that Tim Stein received an email from Scott Tucker, NPS, that the Gosling recommendations for beaver dam removal has been sent to the NPS in Colorado and Tucker has not received a response from them yet.

Website/Directory – Leanderson had no update on the website/directory

Old Business – Fun Run – Leanderson reported that he received two quotes for approximately \$600 for feather flags to replace the banner. It was decided to move forward with a design and firm quote. Food - Race will bring the food and water. Shutz will get the coffee. Skjaerlund will provide the sound speaker. We will reach out to Tom Lauer about his truck.

The Annual Meeting will be August 7, 2021. Discussion took place on whether we can hold the meeting inside at the Township Hall. Plan is to have one Zoom meeting on water quality and one on invasive species. If we are going to have presentations at the Annual Meeting, we need to be indoors. Shutz to get the Township Hall rented.

New Business – Leanderson reported that the communications committee would like to use the LTLA moniker rather than LTLPOA on all communications. Skjaerlund suggested that we file a DBA with the State. Otherwise, we need to continue to use LTLPOA. Shutz said he would start that process with the State.

Board of Director Election – Leanderson reported that there will be one Director opening this year for election. Feelers to be sent out to possible candidates.

The next meeting is Friday June 4, 2021 at 8:30 AM either Zoom or in person.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM.

