

MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2011 - BOARD OF ISCCW (LAKEGUARDS)
9:00 A.M. USFS VISITORS CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM

Members present: Dudley Pierce, Chair; Ken Wendt, V-P; Steve Wilkinson, Treas; Joe LoMastro, Jim Okraszewski, Arny Domanus, Fred Duerkop, Jim Floriano, Bob Turnquist, Bill Rehling, Bob Zelinski, and past Pres. Will Buergey.

Guests: Diana Mehlhop, Marvin Schwinn, Bill Artwich, Barb Gajewski, Frank Kuchevar, John and Cheryl Neumann, Daniel Straszewski, Sandra Butelewski, and from the USFS Ian Shackelford and Lauren Hildebrandt,

Guest Presenters: Bob Langjahr and Jean Ott of Aquatic Biologists and Jake Britton of Sepro Corp.

Meeting Called To Order at 9:04 AM.

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Dudley reported that Lac Vieux Desert Tribal Walleye Fishing which was to start Wednesday will be a few days delayed. The list of lakes contains several lakes with invasive species and, through very good relationships with the new Tribal Chairman, we have been asked to wash boats on a nightly basis.

2. VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Ken stated that the revised RAC grant request for Bass Lake was submitted in March.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Steve gave the treasurer's report: starting balance of \$88,653.37 (March 14th balance plus March 15th un-deposited funds); membership receipts of \$325; and, expenditures of \$453.25, resulting in an ending balance of \$88,525.12. Report was accepted as presented.

4. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

- No report at this time.

5. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

- Diana Mehlhop reported that 275 memberships have renewed so far (256 "A" memberships and 19 "B" memberships) contributing a total of \$27,980. Sometime in May Diana will be sending out a mailing to all township residents, including some not previously contacted. This is a large list and she will need help with stuffing, etc. Diana added that she and Ken were in the process of converting the township wide mailing list, received from Watersmeet Township in label format, into an editable computer format. Ken stated that he had a company to assist and would need a small sum (well within the \$260 previously authorized for the Gogebic County printed list). The request will be added to the agenda under new business.

6. EDUCATION/PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Bill Rehling reported that the committee would not meet until May.

7. APPROVED OF MARCH 15, 2011 MINUTES

- After a short time for review, Steve Wilkinson moved acceptance as presented. Ken Wendt seconded – approved by voice vote, no dissension.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS - AQUATIC BIOLOGISTS PRESENTATION

- Ian Shackelford gave a brief USFS report stating that Anthony Scardina will take over as Forest Supervisor for the Ottawa National Forest on June 6th. GLRI has been refunded for \$300 million dollars to be used in the next two years. He has no idea at this time of how much might become available for boat washing by ISCCW. If they are able to fund ISCCW boat washing we will need a new agreement with the Forest Service. A list of the 17 submitted Gogebic Title II RAC second round proposals was passed out. Ian reviewed the Michigan DEQ applications for permits to chemically treat nuisance aquatic plants (available online). Ian noted that three applications came from Gogebic County (Duck, Langford, and Crooked Lakes) and six applications came from Dickinson County. No applications from Iron County. Ian summarized WePIC activities, and said they are looking for members to actively serve on a steering committee. He concluded by stating his summer weed crew has been hired and introducing a new on-site (Watersmeet) USFS wildlife biologist, Lauren Hildebrandt (For those who have data to share add Lauren to your email distribution list at lhildebrandt02@fs.fed.us).
- Bob Langjahr was then introduced to discuss the use of fluridone (Sonar AS) in Bass Lake as an alternative to weevils and/or 2,4D spot applications. He reiterated what we had learned from the March proposal hand out provided through Joe LoMastro, emphasizing that the application would be placed and then monitored for ninety (90) days to maintain a 6ppb concentration within the lake. Jake Britton, of SEPRO Corp producers of the chemical, stated that he thought it might be difficult to get anything accomplished this year. In response to questions they commented that there are no restrictions on the fluridone regarding fishing or swimming but, the lake must be posted for a thirty (30) day restriction on any irrigation use. The application method is by injecting the chemical into the lake through hoses off the back of a power boat, about six feet (6') below the surface, and allowing it to spread like dye. Fred Duerkop asked why fluridone and not 2,4D. The answer is 2,4D (as used in Michigan) is a granular chemical best suited to spot treatment of EWM. Spot treatments can not be accomplished with liquid chemicals like Sonar AS. Both are very selective in plants they attack. The main reason to use Sonar AS on extensive EWM infestations is cost. Comparatively, 191 acres of Bass Lake can be treated with fluridone, and monitored, for the same cost as spot treating 10 acres with 2,4D. Ken Wendt asked for a re-affirmation of the costs as given in March, Bob Langjahr stated that the full cost would be approximately \$18,000 plus DEQ permit and any required surveys. Bob said that the DEQ would most likely require a fairly current Point Intercept Survey as well as a Bass Lake Management Plan. He said they usually want this data in December of the year prior to the year of application. A question was raised as to how the lake outlet would be accommodated since the effectiveness of the fluridone treatment requires 90 days with 6ppb being maintained. Bob answered that issue depended on outlet flow rates with lesser rates being controllable with the “bump” procedures they use, while if flow rates are too high Sonar AS may not be an option. Barb Gajewski mentioned an earlier study which included flow rates. We will try to find a copy of the survey, Barb and/or Will Buergey may have this. Jim Floriano asked what the typical initial EWM kill ratio is. Jake Britton said a minimum of

80% of the plants would be destroyed with only scatterings left which could, in subsequent years, be spot-treated with 2,4D. Bob said that they have had some successes wherein the Lake has remained free of EWM for 2, 3, and even 4 years before further treatment became necessary. Jake Britton re-affirmed his corporation's guarantee which states that after completion of the first year's treatment a minimum of 80% of the EWM would be dead. He added that 8 gallons would adequately treat all 191 acres based on the information given to them that the lake's average depth is 6'9". Bob added that if a new survey would be required cost would be approximately \$3,000. The last question discussed was how we satisfy skeptics as to the safety of this type of treatment. Bob stated that the guidelines most states require for aquatic chemicals research before they will approve it's use are more stringent than required for chemicals used for human consumption. Four hand outs on Sonar AS (including Michigan's Houghton Lake case study) were provided with extras available for other interested persons, additional information can be had at sepro.com. They ended the presentation by saying that it might be possible, by rushing an application to the DEQ with the proper surveys and a management plan and some "political pressure", to get a permit to enable treatment in 2011. Plants need to be actively growing which would target the first part of June as the start.

9. AGENDA CHANGES – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- The agenda was amended to include under "New Business" Ken's list development request. Motion to approve as amended by Steve Wilkinson, seconded by Joe LoMastro. Approved by voice vote.

10. OLD BUSINESS

A. Grants Updates

- RAC meeting to review grants will be on May 19th in Marenisco at 9:30 AM. Public comment will be in the morning, see hand out list for particulars of requests or, if you did not receive a list, contact Army Domanus or Ian Shackelford. Forest Service will meet between now and May 19th (date unknown) to review requests. Any request not receiving their initial approval will be dead and not part of the RAC review.
- Jim Okraszewski reported that the \$64,000 "Sustain our Great Lakes" pre-application submittal was denied.

B. Bass Lake Work Plan 2011

- In answer to Ken's question of when is a good time to get the maximum number of Bass Lake residents together to discuss a plan, John Neumann said we should set up a plan prior to the informal Bass Lake meeting he has scheduled for May 14th at 11:00 AM. To his knowledge there is only one objector left to deal with, everyone else is ready to go. Dudley asked for Board member thoughts. Will Buegry said he favors the use of the Sonar AS because of the ability of an 80% EWM kill, and because of the reasonability of the cost. The only reservation was if we could still do it this year. John Neumann offered the comment that any more delay won't help, his lake people are ready to do it. Will Buegry then offered a motion "to expedite and process an application to the DEQ for a permit to treat this year", seconded by Joe LoMastro. Ken said he agreed with Will and we should try and do it. Steve Wilkinson voiced agreement as well. Army Domanus also voiced agreement and asked about the possibility of a law suit or could we avoid application

around the one objector's area. The answer is "no" since the DEQ requires an even distribution around the lake. The question then asked was because this is a liquid application dispersed into the water does it bring into play the problems with lake bottom treatments. Bob Langjahr said his firm has not had a law suit in 34 years. Steve Wilkinson asked Frank Kuchevar if we could get a legal opinion from the Township's attorney. Frank said he would pursue the subject. He added that perhaps the Township could do it by 'statutory right' which could eliminate any law suit threat. This was thought to be a good idea because of the legal aspect and also since the Township has budgeted \$20,000 for ISCCW in 2011, which is enough to cover the full first year cost. Lastly was a reminder of John Neumann's Bass Lake residents meeting scheduled for May 14th. We would hope to have the DEQ application filed by then.

C. OFFICER'S MEETING SCHEDULE – HIRING AND JOB DESCRIPTION

- By agreement the meeting to review the job descriptions for Educator/Coordinator and the biologist functions will be held on April 29th, at 9:30 AM, at the home of Steve Wilkinson. We have three potential applicants for the Educator/Coordinator position, they are: Kathy Peterson, Amber Giannola, Fred Reimer, and possibly Jo Pepin.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. LIST DEVELOPMENT

- Ken requested up to \$150 for conversion of the .rtf Township mailing list into a text file so it can be structured and edited. Steve Wilkinson made a motion to approve, seconded by Joe LoMastro. Motion approved by voice vote.

B. OTHER MEMBER INFORMATION

- In response to a question Ian reported that the new FS landing signs have arrived and stored in the FS garage.
- Dudley stated the tribal fishing will end on May 13th.

12. ADJOURNMENT

- Ken Wendt moved adjournment, seconded by Steve Wilkinson. Adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Ken Wendt
Acting Secretary