

# EMILY LAKES AND RIVER ASSOCIATION

## ANNUAL MEETING AND BOARD ELECTIONS

August 4, 2012

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 12:35 P.M. This meeting is the annual meeting held for all members of ELRA. Board Attendees: Jane Schulte, Tom Hintz, Ken Scribner, Wayne Gapsiewicz and Becky Gromek. Absent: Chuck Proshek, Steve Kolkind

**Announcements:** Jane advised members there are 3 important issues to discuss, limiting topics to 10 minutes in order to end the meeting timely. Our speaker, Steve Kolkind had a family emergency so the topic originally planned “Aquatic Invasive Species” and new boating inspection regulations will not be given, but the information from the DNR is on the display table.

**Annual Meeting Minutes:** Review of 2011 annual meeting minutes- no discussion by membership. Donny Gromek made 1<sup>st</sup> motion made to approve, Kristi McLain made 2<sup>nd</sup> motion.. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Tom Hintz distributed treasurer report to membership for review.

Checking and Savings:

2012 Proposed Expenditures \$3836

2012 Actual Expenditures \$1740 (to date, with approx \$2000 more before end of year)

2013 Proposed Expenditures \$1888 (with \$570 added later in meeting)

Membership

2012 Proposed: 105

2012 Actual: 112

2013 Proposed: 110

See further details provided the ELRA Treasurer Report.

Ken made first motion to accept. Becky made second motion . Motion carried.

Walley Stocking : The budget proposed for 2012 included \$1800 for walleye stocking of Lake Mary. In 2006, 2008 and 2010 the lake association received a permit from the DNR to stock walleye in Lake Mary. The DNR stocks Lake Emily. The DNR fisheries division did sampling on Lakes Mary and Emily several weeks ago and the official results of the sampling will not be available until Spring 2013. Per the DNR there has been virtually no change since the 1998 sampling and if the DNR stocked Lake Mary, walleye would not be their choice. The oxygen level in Lake Mary is possibly not conducive to walleye and suggestion was black crappies and small mouth bass. Question to the membership from the board was “should we postpone the stocking of walleye this year?” After discussion and a vote, the majority of membership was in favor of skipping this year and review the possibility of stocking next year. Question posed “since the walleye was ordered, is the membership obligated to move forward with the walleye stocking?” Jane will check into our commitment to see if the board can cancel the walleye stocking with no penalties.

Boat Inspections: Membership was advised the board approved a donation to the City of Emily to assist with the DNR boat inspection grant the City received. A commitment of \$500, not to exceed \$1000. The board voted 5-

**EMILY LAKES AND RIVER ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL MEETING AND BOARD ELECTIONS**

**August 4, 2012**

2 in favor of this donation. This is a new grant offered to local government units or “LGU’s”. The grant was implemented to assist LGU’s with hiring DNR certified boat inspectors. There were only 10 LGU’s that received this grant. The grant the City of Emily received covers the public access on Lakes Emily, Ruth and Roosevelt. The membership was advised of the following reasons the board decided to support the City:

- ✓ The board has applied twice for a matching grant and has been denied.
- ✓ The inspections are proactive and fight against AIS rather than being reactive.
- ✓ Although 24/7 inspections would be most effective, the board felt some coverage was better than none.
- ✓ The board hopes this will prompt boaters to check their boats even when an inspector is not present.
- ✓ The board feared if the City of Emily did not use the grant, the likelihood of another grant being approved was slim and possibly affect the chances of the area lakes association obtaining a grant.

The grant to the City of Emily did not include all expenses, and these expenses were not in the city budget. The council approached the 3 area lake associations for monetary assistance. Ruth and Roosevelt committed up to \$3000 each and ELRA committed up to \$1000. Although ELRA committed less, both Ruth and Roosevelt said they would share the inspector hours equally.

Jan Mosman from the Emily City Council attended the meeting to answer any questions by the membership. She advised 40% of the inspector wages are not covered in the grant. The grant covers DNR wages, mileage, and educational materials. She explained the DNR is spending a lot of money on the larger lakes and smaller communities to help us get the inspectors out there to watch the public boat landings. The DNR is doing what they can to deter or slow down the invasion of AIS.

Majority of feedback from membership was in favor of supporting boat inspections.

Jane added \$400 for in-water AIS inspections and \$170 for Constant Contact for the 2013 expenditures.

Motion to approve the treasurer’s report and budget (with the 2 additions) for 2013- Jan Pope made 1<sup>st</sup> motion to approve. Donny Gromek made 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Motion carried.

**Annual Meeting Member feedback:** Jane advised the members she attended the WAPOA annual breakfast meeting and said the board saw their membership attendance improve with the change to a breakfast meeting. The meeting/breakfast is done by late morning and people have the rest of their day left. She proposed this to the ELRA membership and from the feedback it appeared the ELRA membership was in favor of this change for the 2013 Annual Meeting.

**Volunteer Recognition:** Jane recognized and on behalf of the board thanked the following::

John Bergstrom- walleye stocking

Ron Dick and Bob Haarman- lake level reading on Lakes Emily and Lake Mary completed for the DNR

Mark Drewitz- ELRA website

# EMILY LAKES AND RIVER ASSOCIATION

## ANNUAL MEETING AND BOARD ELECTIONS

August 4, 2012

Paul & Bonnie Fairchild and Mike Peterson-water sampling on Lake Emily and Lake Mary. Testing done by WAPOA. Mike Peterson will now take over the responsibility from Paul and Bonnie.

Tim Hintz- smoking the turkeys for the picnics- you can find the recipe in the December 2007 newsletter on the website

Ken Scribner-newsletter and e-blasts

Thanks to the retiring board members-Tom Hintz, Chuck Prochek and Ken Scribner

Thank you to all the members- without their membership dues the association would be limited in the projects that can be done.

A list of accomplishments for 2012 and a “wish list” for 2013 were listed on back of the agenda.

Jane announced the signup sheet for volunteer opportunities related to the “wish list” was on the display table.

**Board Elections:** Kris Bergstrom, Mark Drewitz and Kristi McLain were submitted for election to replace the 3 outgoing board members. There were no additional nominations from the floor. Jan Pope made 1<sup>st</sup> motion to approve. Donny Gromek made 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Motion carried.

**Emily Dam:** Jane explained the history of the dam to the membership: “Lonnie Thomas is the DNR hydrologist who is responsible for Crow Wing County. In 1976 in an agreement between the City of Emily and the State of MN, ownership of the dam was deeded to the city. That transfer gave the city the responsibility to maintain the physical structure of the dam and to maintain the level of the dam set by the DNR. Over the past several years the DNR has received complaints of erosion and tree lose from the residents on Lake Mary as well as Lake Emily. On June 11, 2012 Lonnie sent an email to the City of Emily giving them notice that it was their responsibility to remove the unauthorized stop log. At the June 25, 2012 council meeting the council decided it was too dangerous at this time for the maintenance crew to attempt to remove the stop logs. In early July Lonnie made a onetime offer to the city-he was willing to send a DNR crew to remove the stop log. According to the council the letter from the DNR said litigation was possible if the city did not remove the board. The council accepted the DNR’s offer of assistance to remove the stop log. The stop log was removed by the DNR on July 18, 2012. The City of Emily had no choice but to remove the stop log or have the DNR do it.”

“The membership was advised if wanting to request a permit to increase the height of the concrete dam, if initiated by the citizens, would still have to be formally presented to the DNR by the City of Emily as owners of the dam. Any costs incurred in the pursuit of a permit are the responsibility of the petitioner. Some of the requirements include an environmental assessment, a hydraulic study and an assessment of every property to determine the possible effects to that property. If a permit was filed, the final decision regarding the height of the dam is the responsibility of the DNR. The DNR could deny the requested permit.”

Membership referred to DNR information regarding ‘water outlet dams’ on the display table or go to the DNR website.

Jane advised the membership the board feels we should act as an information resource only and offered assistance to the City of Emily or citizens in gathering available data if they choose to pursue a permit. All discussion regarding the permit process is being directed to the City of Emily and/or the DNR.

**EMILY LAKES AND RIVER ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL MEETING AND BOARD ELECTIONS**

**August 4, 2012**

**Door prizes:** Two free 2013 ELRA memberships were awarded to Tony Hinz and Bonnie Fairchild.

**Next Meeting:** New board members and existing board members are to meet at City Hall –Sunday September 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

**Meeting Adjourned:** Tom made 1<sup>st</sup> motion to adjourn meeting. Becky made 2<sup>nd</sup> motion.. Motion carried.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Becky Gromek*