

Sugarbush Lakes Association 2017 Annual Meeting – Minutes

Welcome from the Board of Directors

Vice-Chairman Ted Amman welcomed the members and convened the meeting at 11:10, Saturday, June 17, 2017. The meeting was held in deluxe accommodations in the Amman Sugar shack. Tom Achtor and Jim Anderson had conflicts and were unable to attend. Mike Bohn and Ted introduced themselves, then the attendees introduced themselves and identified the location of their residence on the Sugarbush lakes.

Old Business

2016 Minutes - Rose Amman read the minutes from the 2016 annual meeting.

Motion was made to approve the minutes by Robin Schmidt, seconded by Rose Amman. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report

Ted Amman provided a brief recap of the organization, goals and history of the Sugarbush Lakes Association.

Treasurer's Report

Mike Bohn described the previous year's expenses and the current balance in the bank account. The operational expenses were \$140.47, covering Post Office Box fees, domain name registration and website hosting. No funds have been expended for water quality analyses to-date. Account balance as of June is \$783.53, which does not include 2017 dues paid and payable.

New Business - Committee Reports

Water Quality – Ted Amman developed and used a poster to illustrate existing water quality data for the Sugarbush lakes. Few water quality samples have been taken, so there are gaps in the data over the years. He was able to compare the data and trophic status of the Sugarbush lakes with other nearby lakes, some of which have a good history of sampling data. Ted described the importance of data collection to establish a baseline for lake water quality, to be able to identify if changes are taking place, and to identify the cause of changes. There was general discussion of water quality of the lakes. It was asked if the Sugarbush Lakes could experience possible problems from iron in lake water, like Dead Pike Lake. Ted expressed his opinion that this was unlikely.

Approval for funding water quality sampling analyses had been provided at a previous meeting. Ted described the sampling plan and estimated \$200/lake/year for analyses of total Phosphorus and Chlorophyll-A. Ted will start sampling and any volunteers who wish to be involved should contact him.

Aquatic Plants & Invasive Species – Ted Amman reported that last year we had a plant identification session on Lower Sugarbush with 10 people. He would be willing to set up a session for this year if there is sufficient interest.

The LDF Tribal Natural Resource Department did plant identification using plot sampling on Middle Sugarbush Lake last summer.

Invasive Species - The invasive wetland plant Purple Loosestrife was seen last summer and was removed. Lake users are urged to look for this plant. Purple loosestrife looks similar to some other non-invasive plants, so people should be careful before taking action.

It is not clear if any snails found in the lake are invasive species or are native.

Fisheries Report:

Fish Stocking: Brian Salzman discussed the fish stocking from last year. We discussed the option of stocking in open water which might provide a possible advantage of less predation. He also noted that the Walleye size limit changed for anglers, with 20-24 inch fish protected. Brian provided a printed report of the Tribal stocking each year since 2003. The new hatchery ponds operated by the LDF Tribe are now operational.

Tribal Spearing: The tribal spearing quota in spring 2016 was 100 fish per lake. For this spring the quota was 75 fish per lake. The actual take recorded was Upper – 33; Middle – 70; Lower – 6.

Fishery Improvements:

- Fish Cribs - The group discussed having an organized effort to build and install fish cribs but concluded that these lakes have so much structure already that fish cribs would add little benefit.
- Importing breeding walleye - A suggestion had been submitted through email that we could consider bringing in breeding walleyes from Green Bay, Lake Erie or other large water to improve the walleye fishery. Some of the points discussed include: Fishery professionals recommend against this practice; it may be illegal; Walleyes successfully adapted to large water would not be well adapted to the Sugarbush lakes; it is probable that habitat and intra-species competition are more important than a lack of genetic diversity in determining the walleye population. The group concluded that they would not pursue this course of action.
- Collaboration with LDF Tribe:
 - Hatchery Tour - Suggestion for improving fishery was to work with tribe as much as possible. Based on the social committee survey which gave a high rating for informational outings with the LDF Tribe, the group discussed possible Hatchery tours. Wednesdays are the official tour days, but Brian will ask about possibility of tours on other days of the week.
 - Fund-raiser for hatchery food: Asked how we might collaborate more with the tribe, Brian pointed out that the hatchery is always short of money for fish food. The hatchery purchases different sizes of food and minnows for the fry and fingerlings as they grow. Shortfalls of funding to buy fish food can become a bottleneck as the season progresses. Donating money for fish food would be an immediate way to help.
- A motion to initiate a Sugarbush Lakes Association Fish Food Fund Raising Campaign (Money for Minnows) was moved by Robin Schmidt, seconded by Brian Salzman, and unanimously approved. The fund raising campaign will have set time period, ending August 1, with a target goal of \$500. The Association will contribute \$100 to the

campaign. Contributions can be made to the Treasurer by check, with a note as the intended purpose. The Treasurer will send out an announcement and description of the campaign to the membership.

Social Activities

Robin Schmidt reported on the Progressive Pier Party which took place during the 2016 Labor Day weekend. Sites on Lower and Middle Sugarbush provided food and a chance to socialize.

In early June, Robin sent an online survey to the membership list to identify preferences for Association social activities. With an approximately 50% response rate, the results show a preference for presentations to learn more about the LDF tribe, followed by another Progressive Pier party, and lake cleanup group efforts.

After discussion, a motion was made to have the Social and Fisheries Chairs work together to set up a tour of the LDF fish hatchery, and to plan a Progressive Pier party for Labor Day weekend, with the expectation that this may become an annual event. Motion was made by Brian Salzmann. Seconded by Larry Rubeck, motion carried. Robin asked for volunteers to assist with party planning and implementation.

Election of Board Members

After discussion, a motion was made to re-elect the existing board members to continue for another term. Robin Schmidt moved, Janet Firkus seconded, motion carried.

Open discussion for any other business or questions

General discussion on beaver activity. Suggestion that people are interested in getting a work party together to remove beaver dams from channels. Questions as to the legality of dam removal, trapping and shooting were raised and clarification is needed. The presence of a new beaver Dam on the culvert draining into Upper Sugarbush Lake was noted. There was a suggestion to have call list and email list to be able to set up work parties in future.

Date of annual meeting – Discussion of the meeting date and potential for conflicts with the third Saturday in June. There was a suggestion for the board to send out an online email survey next April to see if there is a more popular date for the Annual Meeting.

Adjourn – a motion to adjourn was made by Robin Schmidt, seconded by Maren Lang, motion carried. At 12:36, the meeting was adjourned, followed by food, beverage and conversation.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Mike Bohn, June 26, 2017.