

EMILY LAKES AND RIVER ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS
August 12, 2023

The 2023 annual meeting was held at Emily City Hall. During the 30 minutes preceding the meeting, members registered with the ELRA Secretary and socialized with other ELRA board members.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Board President, Russ Boverhuis at 9:00 am.

Board members present – Russ Boverhuis, Jason Herfel, Randy Holz, Randy Manlick, Jean McLeod, and Mark Seifert.

Board members present – None

Paid members present – Fifteen properties were represented.

Non-paid members present – We had one non-paid property member attending for a total of 16 properties present.

REPORTS TO MEMBERSHIP

Secretary's Report: Mark Seifert presented the Secretary's report from the August 13, 2022 meeting, which was previously posted on the ELRA website. No member requested that the minutes be read nor did anyone have any questions or changes. Randy Manlick made a motion to approve the Secretary's report as published. Tom Henderson seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

Treasurer Audit Committee Report: The Audit Committee members, Jean McLeod and Steve Smith, presented their findings from the audit of the Treasurer's reports. No discrepancies or irregularities were found with the financial records and all funds were accounted for properly.

Treasurer's Report: Randy Manlick presented the Treasurer's report through July 31, 2023. There is \$18,319.94 in our savings account and \$5,837.17 in the checking account. There were no questions about his report. Steve Smith made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Doug Tarasar seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

AIS Report – Lake Survey Results: Russ Boverhuis reported the results of a lakes survey performed by Freshwater Scientific in July. No treatable amounts of Eurasian Watermilfoil were found. A total of three plants were identified; two in Lake Emily, one in Lake Mary. Our plan is to continue to survey our lakes each year. Russ Boverhuis also reported on zebra mussel surveys. The DNR checks the lakes 2-3 times each year. They have not identified any zebra mussel infestation in our waterways. We will continue to do our own veliger testing in addition to the testing performed by the DNR. Russ Boverhuis showed a water quality map for 2022 provided by WAPOA of area lakes with their individual TSI (trophic state index) values. Compared to 2021, our water quality has improved slightly, but we are still in the "red zone." Randy Manlick does our water quality testing each month and sends this information to WAPOA.

Fish Stocking Report: We stock walleye fingerlings in Lake Mary two out of three years per DNR requirements. For this year, based on our budget and membership donations, we will spend \$2,800 for about 150 lbs of walleye fingerlings. We plan to release these into Mary this fall. The DNR has already released walleye fry into Lake Emily this year. The DNR conducted fish surveys on Emily and Mary Lakes this summer. The last surveys were conducted in 2017 and 2012, respectively. No final reports are available yet, however, preliminary findings showed increased numbers of crappies and northern pike in both lakes compared to the earlier surveys. Emily walleye numbers were down a bit but were

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higher in Mary; yellow perch numbers increased in Emily and were down a little in Mary. A final report will be posted on the DNR website.

Dam Repair Report: Jason Herfel provided a report on the progress of repairs to the dam, which was advocated by ELRA and member volunteers. Through these efforts, the Emily City Council recently approved funding for the needed repairs, which should be completed this year.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

2024 ELRA Budget: The 2024 ELRA budget was handed out at sign-in and presented by Randy Manlick. Randy discussed the revenues and expenditures in 2023, which provided a framework for anticipated revenues and expenditures in 2024. Expenditures for AIS control and lakes surveys for 2023 were covered through grants and funds received from the DNR, Crow Wing County, and the City of Emily. There were no questions. Steve Smith made a motion to approve the budget as presented and this was seconded by Randy Holz. Motion was carried.

Q & A SESSION: Prior to the meeting, the ELRA monthly newsletter offered members the opportunity to email a question which would be addressed at the annual meeting. One question was received prior to the meeting, and it had to do with water levels on the lakes. Russ Boverhuis reported that the sill height of the dam is 1248.97 ft. The most recent (05/24/2023) lake level reading for Emily was 1249.55 ft. According to the DNR, the ordinary high-water level is 1249.9 ft. The lowest water level record for Emily was 1247.45 in 1939 (the year the dam was built) and the next lowest records were 1248.09 ft (Emily) and 1248.20 ft (Mary) in October 1956. High water levels records occurred in June 2012 when they were 1251.28 ft in Emily and 1251.78 ft in Mary. The trend line of lake levels was higher in the years prior to 2012 and have subsequently decreased about 6 inches/year thereafter. This area is currently in the third year of drought. Most of our precipitation has occurred in late spring/early summer and tapered off. Water levels in lakes, wetlands, streams, and groundwater fluctuate naturally in concert with precipitation. Levels will likely rise again naturally when precipitation patterns and levels return to normal. There are multiple factors that impact water levels and, in turn, property owners. ELRA must represent all its members and focus on efforts to keep the lakes healthy. Randy Manlick reported that water clarity (Secci depth readings) fluctuates more in Lake Emily over the course of the summer than in Mary, that is, it progressively decreases into August then improves in September. He noted that Lake Mary was very clear in May and June (latest readings) while Lake Emily was fairly clear. Russ Boverhuis also announced that the DNR was seeking volunteers to measure lake levels for Emily and Mary. Interested individuals should let him know and he will make the necessary contacts.

A second question was submitted the morning of the meeting requesting discussion of wake boats and wake boarding. There are concerns that the large waves produced by wake boats will cause shoreline erosion and disruption of the lake bottom. It is unknown what long-term effects there might

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be. Russ Boverhuis will take this issue back to the Board for research and discussion and will report back to membership in the newsletter.

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Russ Boverhuis brought the election process forward as we had two positions open for this election cycle: President and Board member. Russ is running for re-election as President (his third and final term) and Steve Smith will not be serving another term. Tori Ell volunteered to be elected to become a Board member. Russ Boverhuis then opened the floor for additional nominations. There were no additional nominations, so the motion was brought to the floor and by unanimous decision, Russ Boverhuis was re-elected as President and Tori Ell was elected as a new member for her first term. The motion was accepted by acclamation.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded. Motion was carried. Meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Seifert