

**EMILY LAKES AND RIVER ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS
August 10, 2024**

The 2024 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 9:02 am.

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

Board members absent – None

Paid members present – 21 properties were represented.

Non-paid members present – We had one non-paid property member attending for a total of 22 properties present.

GUEST SPEAKER

Jarrett Drileck, Shoreline Technician, Crow Wing County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Jarrett presented on conservation practices to Association members in the Pine River Watershed. He emphasized the importance of preserving lake and shoreline health through use of core logs or willow plantings to prevent erosion of shorelines, and shoreline buffers of planted native grasses, flowers, or shrubs to reduce stormwater runoff, stabilize soil, filter nutrient (especially phosphorus) input into waterways, and support pollinators. Property owners are encouraged to contact his department if they are interested in having their shorelines evaluated and to discuss cost-sharing opportunities.

REPORTS TO MEMBERSHIP

Secretary's Report: Mark Seifert presented the Secretary's report from the August 12, 2023 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. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Secretary's report as published. Motion was carried.

Treasurer Audit Committee Report: The Audit Committee members, Jean McLeod and Mark Seifert, 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. The committee thanked Randy for his conscientious care and work with the finances.

Treasurer's Report: Randy Manlick presented the Treasurer's report through July 31, 2024. There is \$20,367.58 in our savings account and \$5,667.89 in the checking account. A question was raised regarding membership dues to WAPOA, LARA, and MNLAR Advocates and benefits to our Association. WAPOA (Whitefish Area Property Owner's Association) is one of the largest lake associations in Minnesota. Among its many interests, it has established a strong shoreline restoration program, is committed to preventing AIS infestation in area lakes, funds water quality testing on 48 area lakes, including Emily and Mary, uses the data collected to monitor water quality and spurs community efforts as needed. LARA is Crow Wing County's coalition of lake and river associations and advocates on their behalf to local, state, and federal lawmakers. They also host educational webinars that some of our officers attend. MLAR (Minnesota Lakes and Rivers) Advocates is a statewide association dedicated to preventing AIS infestation in our lakes and using technology (like CD3 mobile stations at lake accesses) to preserve our waterways for future generations of lake-lovers. They provide information about legislative outcomes, policy work, and scientific developments they

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are advancing and regularly visit other lake associations to learn about efforts and issues they are contending with. They also provide other services, such as website hosting that we might take advantage of. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion was carried.

AIS Report – Lake Survey Summary: Russ Boverhuis reported on AIS activities. PLM and Freshwater Scientific, which performs our lakes surveys, recommended that based on our not having treatable amounts of Eurasian Watermilfoil the past three years that we delay this year's survey until mid-August to see if we might have a better chance of finding it. They are scheduled to conduct their survey next week and results will be reported to membership in a future newsletter. The reason for our previous success at minimizing infestation of this species was likely due to a change in chemical used in 2020. This new chemical is effective in controlling milfoil for 3-5 years. Russ Boverhuis also reported on veliger testing for zebra mussels. We collected water samples two weeks ago, which were sent to Crow Wing County for analysis. We do not have the results back yet. We have not had any zebra mussels in our lakes to-date. The DNR checks the lakes 2-3 times each year and has not identified any infestation. Russ encouraged property owners to carefully check their docks, lifts, and watercraft when they are taken off the lake in the fall for zebra mussels or anything else that looks suspicious. Let us or the DNR know. Starry Stonewort is an insidious invasive species of algae that has recently been discovered in Cullen Lake. So far it is refractory to existing elimination methods. Because of this, we will likely involve ourselves in a program to monitor and test for this species next year.

This past year we have submitted and have been awarded grants toward survey and treatment expenses for AIS. Currently, we have \$8,238 in grants that can be applied toward milfoil. Survey costs alone will be \$3,000. We have also accrued money over the past few years in anticipation of additional expenditures should there be a sudden increase in infestation. The last time we treated milfoil on Mary and Emily cost \$17,000.

Fish Stocking Report: Last year, based on our budget and membership donations, we were able to spend \$2,800 to stock walleye fingerlings (about 140 lbs) in Lake Mary. We will be able to spend about \$2,500 this year on fingerlings. Next year will be our off year as per DNR requirements. We plan to release these into Mary this fall. The DNR releases walleye fry into Lake Emily yearly. This year they also put in 361 lbs of fingerlings (about 6,000 fish). A question was raised recommending that the Association seek ways to encourage anglers to release walleyes over a certain size to help with restocking efforts and nurturing a larger, healthier fish population.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

2025 ELRA Budget: The 2025 ELRA budget was handed out at sign-in and presented by Randy Manlick. Randy discussed the revenues and expenditures in 2024, which provided a framework for anticipated revenues and expenditures in 2025. Expenditures for AIS control and lakes surveys for 2024 were covered through grants and funds received from the DNR, Crow Wing County, and the City of Emily. Currently, we have 96 members in the Association. In conversations with other lakes

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associations, approximately 50% of property owners are members of their respective associations. A newly created brochure advertising our Association will be placed in local businesses to increase our public exposure of activities and membership recruitment efforts. A motion was made and seconded to approve the budget as presented. 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. Questions/issues to be addressed included:

1. Lake water levels. There is not much the Association can do regarding water levels. This is largely dictated by rainfall amounts and flow over the dam. The hole in the dam was repaired by the city last fall. Tori Ell, one of our Board members, records the water level at the dam weekly or following significant rainfalls and sends that data to the DNR. Presently, the water level is 1249.3 ft; about 6 inches over the spillway of the dam. The highest reading this year was 1250 ft. at the end of June. There are many entities involved concerning the dam, the roadbed over it, and control of water level. Because of this, historically, the Association has viewed issues related to the dam and water levels outside of its primary mission of water quality and invasive species control.

2. Wake boat activity. Jarrett touched a bit on wake boats in his presentation. The best thing we can do is encourage everyone to be respectful on the lake. There are no laws regulating their activity and it is recommended that they operate 200 ft from shorelines. Minnesota, along with several other states, are studying wake boat impact on shoreline erosion and disruption of lake bottoms due to large waves and downward prop wash, often extending to 20 ft deep. The Roosevelt and Lawrence Lake Association (RALALA) commissioned a study and came up with a wake boat map and recommendations for their lakes. They recommend that wake boats operate at least 600 ft from shorelines and not enter sensitive areas where birds might be nesting. Lake maps contain outlines of travel lanes boats are to follow to minimize impacts. They will monitor this issue as it evolves. Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded for ELRA to seek study data from RALALA and explore costs and details and to report back to membership. Motion was carried. In addition, a suggestion was made for us to create an informational flyer for resort and campground guests and other vacationers that describes and reminds readers of safety and stewardship practices that will, hopefully, foster responsible and respectful navigation on our waters.

3. No wake zone signs. A request was made that another No Wake buoy be placed in Pug's Hole, the widened area of the Little Pine River near its exit from Lake Mary. The Association is facilitating this process. There are four such buoys; one at each lake end of the channel and two on the channel. A No Wake sign also means travel at no more than 5 mph. Originally, permits were given by the DNR to a couple of local property owners concerned over wave action on shorelines and vegetation along the channel. They took responsibility for placing them in the channel in the spring and removing them in the fall. Several of them are in poor condition. Board member, Randy Holz, has been in contact with Jacob Fry, a DNR hydrologist, concerning this matter. Randy is waiting to learn what, if any, costs will be involved or if they will be provided to us by the DNR. A generous attendee indicated that he could make the signs and wouldn't charge the Association. We propose that one of the old ones be placed in Pug's Hole so we don't have to go through another permitting process.

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4. Wild rice encroachment. Several property owners on the north side of Lake Mary report being impacted by wild rice growth along their shoreline and challenges with motoring off their boat lifts. This encroachment may have been the consequence of overseeding activities on Duck Lake by Ducks Unlimited. ELRA will do more research on this topic to determine what actions property owners can consider.

5. Loon nest boxes. Doug Tarasar reported on loon nest boxes that have been placed on several area lakes and solicited interest level for placing a couple nest boxes somewhere on our waterways. There was interest in pursuing this project. A motion was made and seconded for ELRA to explore material costs, permitting, and feasibility for placing two loon nest platforms. Motion was carried.

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Russ Boverhuis brought the election process forward for three positions this election cycle. Randy Manlick is running for re-election as Treasurer. Two other Board members, Jason Herfel and Randy Holz, are cycling off the Board. Russ Boverhuis opened the floor for nominations. Ray Wagman and Doug Humphrey were nominated from the floor. Nominations were closed and Randy, Ray, and Doug were elected by acclamation.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Seifert