

## **Agenda 2021**

### **Meeting Called to Attention**

Introductions:

Dan Hodorff                      President

Paul Andersen                      Treasurer

Cheryl Pennington                      Secretary

Annette Bymann

Todd Strom

### **Reading of the minutes from 2020 Annual Meeting**

Call for Corrections

### **Treasurer's report**

Call for approval

### **Dues**

Call for corrections

Reinstated for the current year, stocking dollars are appreciated by those who sent in.

### **Contact Listing**

Please reach out to Dan Hodorff or Paul Anderson if any of your contact information has changed.

Also, please ask your neighbors to contact Dan at [fishinguy@gmail.com](mailto:fishinguy@gmail.com), if they would like to be added to mailing lists from the Lake Association, or join the Association.

### **Our Landing**

Was definitely in rough shape early this year. The extremely dry weather has helped it greatly. We did contact Dion Turgeon early this year, he is well aware of the boils that are created in the Spring each spring, and the do their best to fill them as they appear.

Porta Potty has returned, from HPS Rental.

### **Water Levels**

Been a very dry spring for us, lake levels are already low, but as we've seen can change quickly should rains come. Be aware of areas where a rock never being an issue, could become one.

Please consider watering needs should lake levels continue to fall rapidly.

## Loons and Chippewa

Speaker: Amy Westmark, Minnesota DNR, Nongame Wildlife Specialist

Very nice presentation, more information to follow in the upcoming Newsletter. The board will investigate becoming part of the Loon Watcher program.

## Fish Stocking Report

As reported last year, we have a summary of the DNR's fall electrofishing catch rates of young-of-year walleyes on BigChippewa. Catches in 2016, 2017, and 2019 were disappointing. Fortunately, the combination of natural reproduction and fry stocking was comparatively good in 2018. The numbers of young of the year for 2020 were relatively good, a rate of 39 per hour.

The DNR staff were not authorized to take walleye eggs or operate the walleye hatchery last spring, there was no walleye fry to stock in 2020. We last year hoped Chippewa Lake's walleye population could pull of a strong natural year class. The numbers of young of the year walleye had a catch rate of 39 per hour. This is not a great number, but definitely much better than the rates of 2016 and 2017.

We were not able to attain stocking from private fisheries last year.

Given our inability to stock last year, the DNR will certainly entertain stocking permits if the Association wishes to purchase and stock fingerlings this fall. The only caveat would be our desire to complete the annual fall electrofishing survey in advance of that stocking so we can gain estimates of young walleye numbers from natural reproduction.

Year	Catch Rate	Stocking	Numbers
2010	34.3	Y	1,190,804
2011	5.4	N	
2012	47	Y	1,178,220
2013	68.6	Y	1,175,000
2014	66.1	Y	1,300,000
2015	57	N	
2016	7.1	Y	1,294,122
2017	4	N	
2018	47	Y	826,500
2019	7	N	
2020	39	N	
Mean CPE		36.8	
Median		65.5	
25th Percentile Quartile		13.0	
Ave. Stocked Years		48.3	
Ave. Non-stocked Years		23.4	

## August Fishery Sampling

The DNR will execute a survey on our lake, August 9<sup>th</sup> of this year. The Survey will include the use of gill nets, trap nets and electrofishing. This information will be used to update the Minnesota DNR's Lake Finder website: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/index.html>

This sampling will directly impact our ability to stock fingerlings late fall of 2021. We will work with the Brandon Sportsman's club to lobby the DNR to stock, if allowed. The Sportsman's club historically has assumed 50% of the cost of stocking the lake with us. Their support is greatly appreciated.

A question was asked about the numbers of fish killed in the above-mentioned survey process. The board will get early reporting on fish numbers. We will ask for the mortality numbers as well.

## Zebra Mussel Update

Chippewa Lake is in the exponential population growth phase, currently at year 3 or 4, this phase can last 8 years. There is growing documentation that zebra mussels can outcompete native zooplankton for green algae.

What we will be observing this year is probably a third spawn of adult zebra mussels. Those juvenile young zebra mussels will mature and in absence of controls, also reproduce and expand at a quick rate called the exponential population growth phase. From what the DNR has observed on the Alex Chain of Lakes, it may take up to 10 years for the zebra mussel population to reach biological carrying capacity. A study out of Mankato State University projected that zebra mussel population in Le Homme Dieu and Carlos reached peak levels in 2019. Once the population has exceeded biological carrying capacity, zebra mussel abundance should plateau at some lower level. We'll note younger mussels attached to dead shells of older zebra mussels.

We can anticipate that distribution within the lake can be expected to expand with more adults, continued spawning, and drift of veligers. (spawned young of zebra mussels) It is probable that wind direction can also influence drift and distribution of free-floating veligers. Therefore, some people are seeing more than others based on location of the lake, on their lifts and docks last fall.

### Answers to Questions we've received:

Zebra mussels do die when frozen. If they are on your lift/dock from last year, they will not come back to life. You can scrap them off, or leave them on. Just remember they have sharp edges, so wherever they lay, they can be sharp when stepped on, the larger ones especially.

Zebra mussels in two feet of water or so, do freeze out in the winter, as the ice meets the bottom of the lake. If they are deeper than where the ice comes in contact with them, they will survive year to year, and grow in size.

The same tiny ones you saw last year, are first year mussels. Those survivors from last year are spawners this year, along with the previous year's survivors. Hence the term exponential population growth

Purchase "water shoes" especially children if you have gravel in front of your swimming areas, in more than two feet of water. The zebra's that attach are sharp if walked across.

## **Filamentous Algae Update**

Last year it was asked about the higher-than-normal quantities of Filamentous Algae seen floating. The stuff that looks like green cotton candy. Temperature, phosphorous and zebra mussels all play a part in it. This year had a long period of water temperature in the optimal growing season of it. It will die out when the water temps get higher. We had an early ice out, followed by optimal temps for a longer period of time this year. Larger amounts of phosphorous (a fertilizer) in the shallower parts of the lake feed the algae bloom. Both from fertilizer run off, but also now from zebra mussels. Zebra mussels filter the entire lake, shore to shore. The zebra mussels however live in the shallower water. In effect, they are removing/filtering good algae from the entire lake, and redepositing phosphorus via their waste into shallow water feeding weed and algae growth.

## **New Business**

A question was asked if there was a way to net, or remove more carp from the lake.  
The board will begin initial investigation into possibilities.

A question was raised about the lakes tullibee population.  
The board will ask the DNR about their population, and specifically if they are planned to be surveyed this upcoming August.

Northern Pike limits were mentioned, and it was asked to remind all lake members that we are in the 10-pike catch limit. Please see local regulations for more detail.

A question came up regarding the old Carp Dam pilings and the plans for removal.  
The board will ask this question of the Minnesota DNR.

A motion was approved to donate \$200 to the Minnesota Division of Ecological and Water Resources. This was in response to the presentation given by Amy Westmark, mentioned above.

It was asked, and agreed upon, by those attending that during the Fourth of July water parade, balloons not be thrown. It's just not something that needs to end up in our lake.

A question was presented about cormorants appearing on our lake recently.  
They are a federally protected bird. However, a discussion with the DNR will be had to see if there is anyway to discourage them from nesting.

A motion was approved to donate \$100 to the Alexandria Technical College Nursing Program in the name of Mary "Lou" Starke, she and her husband Frank played a large part early on with the Lake Association, and because of this the membership felt it was appropriate to donate to her memorial.

## **Social events on the Lake**

**Boat Parade**, on the fourth of July at 2:00pm. We encourage people to attend and take a lap around the lake and wave to all your neighbors. We will be awarding first, second and third place prizes.

**Annual Picnic**, always scheduled for the last Saturday of August. All lakeshore owners and their guests are welcome to attend. This year would be August 28.

### **Election of Board of Directors**

Existing board members were approved to continue for another year.

### **Call meeting to adjourn**

