

## 20-06-13 Sage Lake Association Fishing Team Meeting Notes

Opening of Meeting – Brian Hassel – 4:00 PM June 13<sup>th</sup> 2020

### **Attendees:**

Brian Hassell

Chris Hoelscher

James Secord

Betsy Miner Swartz

Eric McGregor

Ken Carpenter

Ron Carpenter

Chris Lyttle

### **History, DNR Surveys, Recommendations, Fish stocking and Tournament**

- Brian H. covered history of surveys
- Last survey was in 2007, prior to the study done in 2019
- Looking at the information provided the Condition of the fish caught went from Excellent to Poor from 2001 to 2007
- 4 of the DNR Reps say the lake is not suitable for walleye populations. As there have been many stockings of walleye in the past with no take, the last stockings done were 2007 and 2009 for walleye
- Brian H. handed out the Sage Lake Angler Diary from Addie with DNR –
- Address to return the forms is on the front.
- Brian H. covered the recommendations from Addie that were presented in the meeting.
- Question was posed if we could do the ice out survey by a third party and submit this information to the DNR
- Erik M. to follow up on this as main point of contact with Addie for the group.
- DEQ Information available from Brian if needed in the future.
- One of the recommendations from the DNR was to change the weed control
- This is going to be an ongoing issue as noted several times in the meeting as the SLA

Fishing Team does not have oversight of weed control, really the SLA has minimal control over weed control as well, which changed this year.

- Lake Ogemaw has been putting structures in for a few years.
- They are a private lake, they can do things that we may not be able to do although we can duplicate some of their success.
- Addie said that we have to get permission to put the structures in by the property owners
- According to Addie, Sage Lake is considered to be a reservoir so the lake should fall under riparian rights of ownership although she would like us to check with Ogemaw County for property rights in the Lake.

### **Purpose, Goals and Objectives for the Team.**

Chris Lyttle Presented the Purpose Goals and Objectives of the Team.

Purpose: Increase the game fish population in Sage Lake

Goal: Create better and more accessible fishing opportunities within the lake for property owners and patrons of sage lake.

Objectives :

- Understand the lake and all the current issues pertaining to the current fish population
- Learn and understand what the surrounding lakes have done
- What issues to they have
- What solutions
- Increase the fish population of the lake
- Stocking Fish of different species
- Feeder (Prey) fish – Introduce the fathead minnow
- Game (Prey fish) introduce such species as
- Hybrid Bluegill -
- A sunfish family – (Bluegill, Pumpkinseed)
- Perch – Larger to create an immediate Fishery

- Black Crappie
- Potential other game fish that could live in the lake.
- Decrease the Predatory, rough fish populations in the lake.
- Increase the habitat around the lake for fish
- Create and build fish cribs to be set on the ice and sunk in the spring when the ice melts.
- Create habitat put out by the property owners in front of the lake.
- Discuss the possibility of a mid lake rock reef
- If Weed control can be reasonably discussed and a proposal put forth to the SLA board we can work on this.
- Brian H. Suggested the Weevil Program. – Maybe something we could suggest at a later date.
- Brian H. – will send Township contact if people are interested in reaching out to voice concern or suggestions as the team does not have say in weed control issues.

Ideas and considerations for future proposal:

- Maybe we can look at someone getting an invertebrate study done by a local high school or College
- Suggestion to maybe look at the new satellite campus of LSSU in St. Helen as they have a great fisheries program in Sault Ste. Marie and are developing a campus in St. Helen. Maybe they are interested.
- We have a \$7,400 budget –
- We think this is allocated to fish stocking. – Other activities in the lake such as structure will be put together in a proposal and presented to the board with cost and timing for request of additional funds if needed.
- Ron C. – Says the West Londo lake put in Perch.
- Different Genetics adding into the lake is a good thing.
- Hybrid bluegill may not be the best idea, they live about 3 years and pass on without reproduction. Further investigation may be needed into type of panfish to plant in the lake.

- Stocking program
- Everyone agrees to investigate costs and sizes of three types of fish.
- Fathead minnow – for a cost benefit prey, if this is inexpensive it could be a low cost way to add a lot of forage base to the lake in comparison to adding perch.
- Perch – look at cost and size of the perch, we would rather see a larger size to the fish being stocked if the costs allow. – It was mentioned by Chris L. that he has noticed a lot of little perch this year which is a good sign, but maybe indication not to invest in smaller size perch but maybe larger but fewer perch to create a more immediate fishery on the lake.
- A Sunfish species – Bluegill or Pumpkinseed would be preferable, best to plant a fish that already exists in the lake as we are using this for a jump start and not to introduce any other species in the lake.
- Ron C. would like to know if upping the amount of the fishing tournament, suggestion would be to make a separate category for Adults and Minors, Increase the cost for adults, kids remain at \$10.
- Needs to be a side bar conversation as the SLA Fishing Task Force. – but can discuss Later, Ron is still in charge of the Tournament and if he needs help to please ask and we can send out an email and put a post on FB for assistance.

#### ACTION ITEMS :

- Brian H to contact the county and who “owns” the lake. So we know who to contact.
- Present to the board a rough fish fishing tournament – Chris H. and James S. to head up putting this together.
- Date – dates if multiple weekend run tournament.
- Rules
- Get with Addie First to understand what we are legally allowed to do with rough fish removed from the lake.
- Erik M. to be point of contact to Addie for the group so we do not have multiple people contacting her all at once.
- Ask about Rough fish tournament
- What we are allowed to do with those fish
- Regulations surrounding a tournament

- Ask about recommendations for man made habitat
- Size
- Shape
- Material
- Follow up with the DNR to see if third party Spring Ice Out Survey can be completed by a third Party
- Proposal – move the fishing tournament to the free fishing weekend in the spring next year.
- The SLA Fishing Team agreed in the meeting that was a good idea.
- This years SLA kids fishing tournament, dates?
- Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup> was the consensus.
- Brian H. to find out about the permits needed for Habitat
- Brian H. to reach out to Lake Ogemaw for the contact to the hatchery.
- Chris to contact the hatchery for pricing. - 2 other hatchery pricing for comparison.
- Fathead Minnow
- Perch
- Sunfish family
- Bluegill
- Pumpkinseed
- Other?
- Closing – Chris L. 6:08 PM