

**Sage Lake Association Meeting  
Sage Lake, Michigan**

**MINUTES OF MEETING ON May 29, 2021  
In Person and Zoom Video Conference**

Board members present: President Patti Rogers, Vice President Marvin Bartal, Treasurer Mary Ellen Parrott, Secretary Sharon Green, Trustee Brian Hassell, Trustee Betsy Miner-Swartz. Trustee Randy Stump was absent.

The meeting was called to order by President, Patti Rogers on May 29, 2021 at 10:01 am; 40 people in attendance and 17 on Zoom.

Pledge of Allegiance

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from August 29, 2020 were sent by email and posted on website. Discussion none. A motion was made to accept from Steve Wiseman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Debbie Holloway. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Mary Ellen Parrott had to email the treasurer's report. The treasurer's report as of 5-29-2021 was \$4,163.39 Fish Fund, \$2366.11 in 5K, \$1140.00 in Weed Control, \$5,150.37 in checking and \$3,541.42 in savings, \$3,522.82 Neighborhood Watch, \$4,051.31 Fireworks Fund, \$46,336.00 General Fund (of which \$35,000 of the money market fund belongs to the fireworks), \$70,271.42 Total. Mary Ellen reported that we have 144 members to date, above pace from last year at this time. There were a lot of donations being made to the fish fund and scholarship fund. Thank you to all for contributing.

**Reports from Committees:**

- **Meet & Greet** - We need a volunteer to host this event. This is an adult outdoor event where a person or couple agrees to host at their home. Each attendee brings a favorite wine, craft beer or appetizer to share and it gives folks an opportunity to meet their neighbors.
- **Predator Fishing Tournament** – Chris Lyttle reported for Chris Hoelscher. The Pica's Bait & Tackle Sage Lake Rough Fish tournament is set to take place June 11th-13th. Registration is already open and includes same-day registration at Pica's on the 11th and 12th. Tournament anglers will be using bow, spear, and hook and line to catch our targeted species: bowfin, gar, bullhead, carp, drum, and goldfish. There will be multiple weigh-ins at the launch over the course of the tournament. Anglers will receive cash payouts for the first, second, and third heaviest cumulative totals of rough fish weighed in. There is also a "big fish" buy-in. We've received cash, gift card, and merchandise donations from nineteen different sponsors, allowing us to increase cash payouts and create multiple raffle packages to raffle off. Sales of raffle tickets and presentations of the packages

will begin on the 11th of June and end on the 3rd of July. Winners will be drawn at 3:00pm that day. Proceeds from the raffle will go to the fish fund. All fish harvested from the tournament will be donated to the Wildlife Support Team, a wildlife rehabilitation center that specializes in the rehabilitation of birds of prey.

- **Fish Stocking** – Chris Lyttle reported. On 6/2/2021 Sage Lake will receive the next stocking of fish, scheduled to be delivered is 2000 Straight/Natural Bluegill and 1000 lbs of the fathead minnows. (That is corrected from the meeting, I accidentally said 2000 lbs). The plan had been to tag 100 of the 2000 bluegill for scientific study, collecting data such as length, weight and location caught so that we could monitor the activity and growth of the bluegills. Update- On Wednesday we were only able to accept 925 lbs of minnows as the supplier was short 75 lbs. A second shipment will be scheduled within the next few weeks to bring the remainder of the minnows to Sage Lake. The Bluegill however were not up to the quality standards that the supplier uses to verify overall health of the fish and therefore, it was decided that Sage Lake would not pay for or take delivery of the fish as there would be a unacceptable mortality rate of bluegill and that would not be beneficial for our current plan or fish population. If the fish can be brought within acceptable health quality standards for Harrietta, Sage Lake will accept the shipment later in the fall.

The DNR has provided paper copies of the fishing survey which was previously provided to the SLA membership and posted online. The SLA Fishing Team is currently working on an electronic version to collect this data. The data is important to help with our continued plan for stocking because the DNR does not do lake wide surveys every year, so this information about catch rates is important because it will supplement the data collected by the DNR. Once this is set up and accepted by the DNR, we will post a link to access this online data collection form. Additionally, over the winter the fishing team had been working with the DNR on our habitat restoration plan for Sage Lake. Unfortunately because we are working with two separate groups, EGLE and the DNR who have conflicting ideas about habitat, our initial proposal was denied. We had proposed too many below water structures in accordance with EGLE direction but not in accordance with what the DNR had suggested. Also, unfortunate for our push forward, the DNR biologist that had oversight of our area has relocated to another watershed and will no longer oversee Sage Lake and the surrounding watershed.

Regardless of these setbacks the Sage Lake Fishing team will be gathering again throughout the summer to plan our next steps in the betterment of the fish population of Sage Lake, this includes re-submitting our plan for habitat restoration and developing a multi-year stocking plan.

- **Kid's Fun Day** – Sharon Green reported that it will be held on June 26<sup>th</sup> @ Crusins from noon to 2 pm. If you would like to volunteer or donate prizes for the children on that day, please get in touch with Sharon @ 810-845-1313.

- **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Sage Lake Firecracker 5K walk/run and Gear Sales** – Betsy Miner –Swartz reported the race will be in person this year and there is still the option to do a virtual race. In-person race will start at the intersection of Maple & Kenyon Rd. Thank you again to Norma Valentine for letting us set up ground zero there. Cost is \$25 for adults and \$15 for kids. The Title Sponsor this year is Robert & Felicia Tokarczyk and the second sponsor is Scofield Realty – Lisa Scofield. Thank you so much to all of them for their generous donation. We need volunteers to fill coolers and such the night before at Patti Rogers’ pole barn. That would be Friday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you can help, let Betsy know. Betsy also asked if anyone was willing to take funds and purchase raffle items to raffle off and Deb Holloway volunteered. Thank you Deb! We have about 60 people registered so far, so please share the link to all your friends and family. A question was asked, does this race register people for other races? Betsy confirmed that it is a fun race only!
- **Sage Lake Gear and Raffle** – Betsy Miner-Swartz reported and started out by saying if no one has seen it on MLive, Sage Lake was voted #1 best inland lake in northern Michigan. The race pays for the gear that we purchase each year, in the past, the money from the sale of the gear has gone to the fireworks. We are covered at this time for 3 years. 2021 gear sales will go to the Fish Fund. Betsy reported that we have lots of new items!! We will have a raffle for 2021. We will be raffling off another beautiful Sage Lake Quilt made by Amy Jalics and a plane ride donated by Tom Green. The drawing will be done the last week of August with two tickets being drawn. The first ticket will choose between the two items and the 2nd ticket will get the other item. The ticket prices will be \$5.00 for 1 ticket, \$20 for 5 and \$50 for 20. The funds that we make on this raffle will also go to the Fish Fund.
- **Sage Lake Boat Parade** – Parade will be on Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm at the DNR boat launch and the theme is Board Games. Register at [sagelakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:sagelakeassociation@gmail.com). Registration is free. You will be assigned a number to put on your boat. Participants will meet at the boat launch and follow the others around the lake. The participating boats will be judged and prize money will be awarded to the best three decorated boats. First place will receive \$100, second place will receive \$75 and third place gets \$50. All viewers can vote for their favorite boat by using a ballot on SurveyMonkey. The ballot won’t be available until the parade starts. The winners will be announced on the following day. Please do NOT use water balloons on the boats, it isn’t good for the lake!
- **Sage Lake Firework Show** – is scheduled for Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:15 pm. Wolverine Fireworks Display Co. does a great job. The display is done on the Aukers’ property and hundreds of boats collect in the center of the lake to view it. The day after the fireworks, volunteers are needed to help with clean up at 10 am the morning following the display. If you can help, please show up @ 431 N. Gentry. It is usually done within 30 minutes. Tony Stockton is heading up that group.

- **Boating Safety** – Patti reported that we are scheduled for July 10<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 3 pm @ Hill Township Hall. Lunch will be provided to those who attend. Registration is free. Register at [Sagelakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:Sagelakeassociation@gmail.com).
- **Sage Lake Annual Fishing Tournament** – Ron Carpenter heads this up and is scheduled for July 24<sup>th</sup> @ 8 am. Will keep all posted when date is scheduled.
- **Sage Lake Community Garage Sale** – this is set for August 7<sup>th</sup> and will take place on Saturday 9 am – 4 pm. Participants can choose to add longer hours and more days to their own sales. To be included on the official map, email Betsy Miner-Swartz @ [betsmine@gmail.com](mailto:betsmine@gmail.com) your address, including whether you are in Lupton or Hale and the days and hours your sale will be open. When registering for the sale, please put Sage Lake Community Garage Sale in the subject line. Maps will be printed and distributed at Crusins and Lovewell's. Pick up copies of maps to distribute at your own sale at 683 Second Ave. on Thursday, Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>. A porta john will be available at 683 Second Ave. for shoppers. Community garage sales signs will be placed around the lake and the sale will be announced in local newspapers and on Facebook. In the past the sales have been very successful with lots of shoppers!!
- **Neighborhood Watch** – The committee met on May 15<sup>th</sup> at Hill Township Hall. SLA has several new patrol team members. Training was given to new members and patrols are taking place. Sheriff Brian Gilbert attended and he supports the program and offered ideas for improvement. The winter was quiet.
- **Lake Maintenance** – Brian Hassell reported. The scientists at Restorative Lake Sciences (RLS) conducted a whole-lake aquatic vegetation survey of Sage Lake on May 20, 2021. The survey consisted of numerous GPS points where aquatic vegetation species, relative abundance, and bio volume were collected at each sampling point. This data was used to create detailed polygon maps that show the distribution and bed size of all invasive aquatic vegetation. These maps are instrumental for the herbicide applicators for assuring that each treatment is targeted and thus herbicides are only used in those areas to reduce the overall use of chemicals. RLS is in the process of analyzing the native aquatic vegetation data and will be back on the lake in June to conduct extensive water quality sampling that will evaluate the overall health of Sage Lake. RLS will then analyze that data and compile a comprehensive lake and watershed management plan for the Sage Lake community. This plan will offer both short and long-term improvement methods and their associated costs. It will serve as a critical guide for the betterment of the lake over time. PLM has been in business for about 45 years, serving Northern Michigan. PLM manages many lakes around the Sage Lake area, including Long Lake, Houghton Lake, Higgins Lake, West Londo Lake, Rifle Lake and Loon Lake. Their office is in Evart, MI and houses a diverse staff of biologists, ecologists, and resource managers. Their number one goal in aquatic plant management is control of exotic/invasive species. On Sage specifically, that is the Starry Stonewort and Eurasian Water Milfoil. Their second goal is to manage the lake to promote positive native plant growth, but not to where residents are bombarded. Their biggest native to manage is Wild Celery. Their final goal is to keep property values up by making the lake

enticing/inviting. Rotating active ingredients is key in aquatic plant management. If you keep using the same product over and over again, plants can grow resistant and harder to kill (much like antibiotics). Contact herbicides kill only what is in the water column and systemic herbicides kill down to the roots. Their treatment on 5/26 targeted mainly EWM with systemic herbicides. They did a few acres of Starry Stonewort treatment in canals. They concentrated on large EWM beds which can act like a reinforcement area of exotic plants. Limited amounts of algae was sprayed in canals as well. PLM will be out again in a few weeks to check on growth and to make sure everything is looking good. The dates will be posted online and at the DNR launch for when they are treating. A question was asked if they are going to harvest the Celery Weed? They are hoping not to as when they do that, it spreads faster and makes quite a mess. They are planning on targeting some areas for harvesting though. We are hoping to have PLM at our next meeting to have questions answered. Another question was asked if members or non-members were allowed to go on the survey boat, only 3 people can fit on the boat and two of them are PLM so only one board member can be in the boat with them.

- **Volunteer Appreciation Party** – It is scheduled for August 21<sup>st</sup> from 4-8 pm at 683 Second Ave. Dinner and refreshments will be provided to all who have volunteered to help make SLA the successful organization it is.
- **Group Buy Ins** – Still waiting to hear what the propane rate will be for Sage Lake Members on propane. Patti Rogers did talk to Forwards and they will offer a discounted rate to SLA members. He said he should have this information by early June. SLA will send out info when it is available.
- **Sage Lake Fire & Ice** – Betsy reported that with Covid, they decided not to have the chili cook-off but still had 100 people or so show up and have libations and conversation. It is held right off the boat launch. Hoping to be back next year with the cook-off and giving away the coveted Sage Lake spoon!
- **Goose Round Up** – SLA is looking for someone that is passionate about the goose round up to take it on. Please contact Patti Rogers if interested. We need 70% of property owners to approve a goose reduction process. There are 433 lake front lots and we need 303 signatures to meet the 70%. Along with signatures, there has to be 75 geese to do a round up.
- **Scholarship Program** – Wendy Bartal reported that we received thank you's from the 2020 recipients. This was our third annual scholarship program. For 2021 we had 8 applicants, 5 from Hale High School and 3 from Ogemaw Heights High School. The two winners are Ella Ward from Ogemaw Heights HS and Claudia Cadwell from Hale HS. Ella will be going to school for social work. She said she would like to come back into this area to serve the community since she feels we have a need for that in our community. Claudia is going into nursing, hoping to become a nurse anesthetist or a nurse practitioner.
- **Hill Township Clean Up Days** – Large item disposal on June 19<sup>th</sup> and Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> from 7 am to noon at two locations: Hill Township Hall or the community building in Shady Shores Park. There is no longer a large item bin at Hill Township. They are now assigning stickers to attach to your windshield, instead of cards, when using the transfer site for your garbage. Stickers are issued by the

attendant after they look at your vehicle registration and verify your name on the list. Transfer station accepts household trash, recycling and metal. Please break down your boxes and clean your cans, bottles, and containers before putting them in the recycle bin.

### **New Business**

- SLA will work with Hill Township on a new petition to collect taxes to continue efforts to control and/or eradicate aquatic plants and algae in Sage Lake. The petition will be sent to Sage Lake Special Assessment District (SAD) property owners this summer. The current petition expires in December 2022. When 58% of SAD owners sign and return the petition, Hill Township will hold public hearings and request bids from potential service providers. A question was asked how long have we had SAD and it has been since 2004. Our current service provider is PLM. Another question was asked about how much money the SAD collects and it is around \$110,000.00 per year. Hill Township gets bids and then Hill Township holds two public meetings so vendors can answer questions. Yes the public can let Hill Township know their preference of vendor. SLA will share their preference with their SLA members and Hill Township.
- Jim Masterson asked if SLA has taken any precautions so that our dam doesn't have the same issue that happened with Sanford Lake. Patti responded that we would need someone to head that up and would he have an interest in doing that, he said yes so Jim will get with Patti on the next steps to get that started.
- There are a few extra directories from last year if anyone wants one, Wendy is at the back with them if you want one. A big thank you went out to Robin Miner-Swartz for the newsletter and all the work on it. Another thank you to Patti Rogers for all the work on getting advertisers for the newsletter which keeps our costs low.
- Mary Ellen Parrott said we have finally got ourselves into the 21<sup>st</sup> century where you can pay online with PayPal or credit card for SLA memberships, this is a two part process so please fill out the form first and click to go to PayPal or credit card. She is having people pay and not filling out a form so it is getting confusing for her.

50/50 Raffle winner is Butch Leix who won \$63.00 Congrats to him. We also drew two names for Sage Lake Gear and those were won by Sharon Green and Avery Sinckoff.

Meeting adjourned: 11:17 am

Respectfully submitted Sharon Green