

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING ON July 30, 2022  
[minutes as amended at the Aug 27, 2022 meeting]  
In Person**

Board members present: President Patti Rogers, Treasurer Mary Ellen Parrott, Secretary Sharon Green, Trustees Brian Hassell, Betsy Miner-Swartz and Randy Stump.

The meeting was called to order by President, Patti Rogers on July 30, 2022, at 10:00 am; 22 people in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from June 25, 2022, were sent by email and posted on website. Discussion none. A motion was made to accept from Brooke Ehlen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Devereaux. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Mary Ellen Parrott reported. The treasurer's report as of 7/29/22 was \$21,400.67 Fish Fund, \$3,543.89 Neighborhood Watch, \$20,830.32 Fireworks Fund, \$33,931.16 General Fund, \$79,706.04 Total. Mary Ellen reported that we have 249 members to date. Some parcel owners have mentioned concern about the amount of money SLA has in the bank. We have big goals and a 5-year strategic plan for walleye stocking and fisheries habitat enhancements. That will cost \$100,000 over 5 years. We have worked very hard to raise the money for that and other projects, including fireworks, which cost more than \$10,000 annually. We also are being fiscally responsible to make sure we are financially ready for emergency spending, if needed. There was a motion to approve the Treasurer's report by Debbie Holloway and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hollie Hodge. Motion passed.

**Reports from Committees:**

- **Scholarship** – nothing to report.
- **Neighborhood Watch** – we sold the golf cart to an SLA member for \$6,600 because the patrol members were not using it. Bids were accepted from SLA members for one week. It went to the highest bidder.
- **Meet & greet** – nothing to report.
- **Fishing Committee Update** – Brian Hassell reported for Chris Hoelscher
  - Rough Fish Raffle Ticket Sales
    - \$1,356 dollars raised through ticket sales, which means the tournament raised \$356 dollars to be added to our fish fund and fish stocking efforts
  - 8/20 SLA Fishing Tournament
    - Hosted at Kenyon's Lakeside Resort
    - 7am-8am required check-in for participants

- \$10 entry fee for those 17 year and older
  - 16 and under can fish for free
- 8am start/3pm weigh-in
- \$275 in prize payouts are detailed in the flyer
- Habitat improvements -- the fishing committee has a meeting scheduled on 8/10 with Erick Elgin of MSU Extension and Eric Calabro of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to discuss adding woody shoreline structures to Sage Lake.
- This meeting will help the fishing committee develop site-specific plans for property owners who are interested in the project
  - Several of the property owners who own the largest stretches of undeveloped property have shown interest in the project already
- Once the site-specific plans are approved by the property owners, the fishing committee and the property owners can begin the permitting process for the installations
- If/when the permits are granted, fishing committee members will write a grant for a Fisheries Habitat Grant through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources
  - Depending on the scope of the installations and plans, this 20% matching grant could range from \$25,000 to \$75,000 to cover equipment, materials, and contractor expenses

#### Fall walleye stocking

- Fish distributors receive their stock from suppliers in late summer
- We should have a final quote and know the size of our walleye the first week of August
- Plan is still to stock 12,000 walleye this fall

#### Fundraising

- License plate frames are selling well, and we've covered our costs. Every license plate frame sold from here on means more money for walleye stocking
- The fishing committee is currently planning more fundraising opportunities and events for the fall and winter
- **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Sage Lake Firecracker 5K walk/run** - Betsy Miner-Swartz reported we had over 400 people registered, and it was our second highest year for registration. We had a great day and are already springing forward to the 10<sup>th</sup> annual walk/run. In the fall we will start working on sponsorships to make our 10-year awesome.
- **Sage Lake Gear and Raffle** - Betsy Miner-Swartz reported the funds we make on the race goes to gear buying. We have new mugs, t-shirts, new skinny koozie, and an insulated camp mug. The barn will be open today from noon to 2 for items to be sold.
- **Boat Parade** – we had 13 participants in the boat parade this year. The theme was Decades. 1<sup>st</sup> place went to the Saputo family who decorated their boat as the Roaring 20s, 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to the Brian Hassell family who decorated as the Civil War era or 1800's with shooting rifles and 3<sup>rd</sup> place was the John & Sandy Lamb

family who decorated the cave man era or as some referred to the Flintstone boat. Next year's theme will be movies or Hollywood.

- **Sage Lake Firework Display** – this was one of the best fireworks I have seen, it lasted over 30 minutes said our President, Patti Rogers. We thank the Stockton family and volunteers who cleaned up the morning after the fireworks. It was greatly appreciated.
- **Kids Fun Day** – Sharon Green reported. We would like to thank the many volunteers as without them, this could never happen...from Ron & Mary Kraatz who so graciously allow us to park in front of their barn, Mark & Vicky Reilly at Crusins for all they do, Kim Davis & Laurie Powless who help with all the young kids games, Dee & Robin for face painting and the list goes on. So much appreciation for ALL of them!! We had 65 children that attended and great weather so on to the planning for next year's event.
- **Boating Safety** – was held and we had 15 participants who attended. Pizza, water, and pop was available to all who attended. Next year the class will be held at Kenyon's on June 3, 2023.
- **Sage Lake Fishing Tournament** – a flyer was handed out at the meeting and put on the website. It is to be held Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at Kenyon's Lakeside Resort from 8 am to 3 pm. Registration is required and will be from 7-8 am. Official start time is 8 am and weigh in is at 3 pm.
- **Sage Lake Community Garage Sale** – is set for August 6<sup>th</sup>. Ads have been placed in local newspapers. Betsy is working on the official map. Copies will be available for anyone having a garage sale. Just send request to [sagelakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:sagelakeassociation@gmail.com). Maps will be given to Lovewell's, Crusins and Kenyon's. Someone had requested that we put up a sign at Nester's too so we will work on that one. Porta potty will be available at 683 Second Ave. Community Garage Sale signs will be placed at the end of each road where someone is having a sale. Posts will be made in local Facebook groups.
- **Lake Maintenance** – Brian Hassell reported that he has been on Sage Lake since the 1950's working at GM in the early 70's and coming up to the lake almost every weekend he could. I have been coming to Sage Lake from Florida every summer since 1974 and I cannot remember the lake having less invasive aquatic plants (weeds), than this year. I do remember hauling at least seventy to a hundred wheelbarrows full of weeds out every year. I have not taken one wheelbarrow of weeds out this year. This is the best management of the Invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil I have seen, and I think we are fortunate to have a very good company and partner to manage our lake with PLM. I have been able to be with them on each three-hour Lake Survey the last two years and it is a pleasure to work with them.

I wanted to share some information about the harmful effect of the Invasive Aquatic plants, and some of these could happen to Sage Lake without the correct Professional Management provide by PLM.

The following are estimates of damage and harmful effects in the United States in due to invasive aquatic plants, from a 2005 study by D. Pimentel, R. Zuniga, and D. Morrison.:

- \$120 billion – economic loss and ecological damages caused by invasive species.
- 42% of Endangered Species are listed partially because of invasive species.
- A harmful algae species, associated with an invasive plant species (hydrilla), has been implicated in the deaths of bald eagles and other waterfowl.
- Property values decreased 13 to 40% because of aquatic plant invasion.
- Harmful algae blooms cause taste and odor problems in drinking water, force beaches to close, and can result in human and animal sickness/death.
- Invasive macrophytes can form dense populations that alter invertebrate and fish communities and interactions.
- 4,600 acres of natural habitat are being lost to invasive species every day.

**Cassey Shoaff, PLM Lake Manager** was our guest speaker. He is the environmental biologist for our lake. He talked a little about the lake maintenance and other items. He said the main concern on the lake is Eurasian Milfoil and since we treated it has gone down immensely which equals a longer summer without weeds. Starry Stonewort is a bottom dwelling mat, and they cannot treat for that until after July due to EGLE requirements. They have been working to promote native plants in the lake as fish can't live without them, and they are trying to control the weeds in the boating areas. They won't take the algae out of the lake but control it as it is natural and a basic food chain for the fish. Also they have treated 80 acres of wild celery on shoreline as EGLE won't allow them to treat this in the middle of the lake; the goal is to stunt it as can't eradicate it. They are only allowed two treatments for wild celery per year due to EGLE requirements. There will be one more treatment for algae and starry stone wort this year.

Patti Rogers asked the question, are we putting agent orange into the lake? Cassey responded no it does not cause Agent Orange. The reason is Agent Orange has three main ingredients, water, 2,4-D, and 2,4,5-T. In Vietnam they also put kerosene and diesel in Agent Orange. 2,4,5-T is the main ingredient and carcinogen that caused so many problems. 2,4-D is an herbicide and defoliator which only seeks chlorophyll in plants, not humans.

- **Volunteer Appreciation Party** – is planned for August 20<sup>th</sup> from 4-8 pm at 683 Second Ave. The menu will be spinach salad with blueberries & strawberries, tossed salad, city chicken with gravy, chicken piccata with Marsala wine sauce, mashed potatoes, and green bean almondine. Darcy Martin is new to the lake and the company she works for (David's Cookies) is donating our desserts for that night of chocolate cake and Bananas Foster. This dinner is for all who volunteered to help make SLA the successful organization that it is. We will set up corn hole games on the lawn and have music. Please come out as it will be a fun party.
- **Group buy in's** – Forwards will offer propane for 2.29 gallon through March 31<sup>st</sup>. It was sent by email to all members. Sunrise Café gives 10% discount to current Sage Lake Association members. Must show your card.

- **Sage Lake Fire & Ice (winter event)** – nothing to report.
- **Sage Lake Special Assessment District (SAD)** – This is a tax assessment to control and/or eradicate aquatic plants and algae in Sage Lake. We now have 53% of the current parcel owners signed petitions. Hill Township will be given the petitions this week. The next step is for them to verify the signed petitions and then have two public hearings and then they will seek bids for companies. A question was asked by a member whether PLM would have someone there to answer questions at the hearings and Cassey confirmed there would be.
- **Election Year for 2022** – This is for board positions, and this is the last meeting to accept nominations if anyone wants to run for office. Bill Drangin is the chair of the nomination committee. The election will be held at the August meeting.
- **Shoreline Cleanup** – Three companies were contacted.
  - Huron Lakes Weed Control Pinckney MI - cost \$15,000 for a couple of days
  - Savin Lake Services – they are too busy to do this year but in 2023, the cost is \$60 per man hour
  - PLM – Two-man crew is \$75/hour with a minimum of 6 hours. They think it would take 225 hours, so cost is \$16,875

SLA has confirmed they are holding off for this year to see how we do without it. A member asked if we could at least get some of the floating islands (between the islands and such) cleaned up and Cassey said they would find the money and time to do the islands this year but not the shoreline.

### **New Business**

- No new business

50/50 Raffle winner was Bill Parrott who won \$20.00 Congrats to him!

Meeting adjourned: 10:54 am

Respectfully submitted Sharon Green