**67th MLRA Annual Meeting June 24, 2023**

**Call to Order:** President Jamie Verity called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

BOD members present were Gary Thibodeaux, Mark Rousseau, Gary Brown, Dick Jagger, Glenn Baxter, Rich Eagleston, Jill Folsom, Dave Landry, Amy Chartrain and Roger Guntner.

Dick Jagger led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Jamie Verity called Denis Roberge to speak about invasive plant Swollen Bladderwort found in Mousam Lake:

The plant Utricularia inflate (swollen bladderwort) was found in Ash Cove on June 10. A survey by Laurie Callahan found several infestations around the lake including Ash Cove, Ham Cove, Hubbard’s Cove and 33rd Street. On June 12, representatives from Maine DEP and Lake Stewards of Maine were notified of the survey findings. The DEP performed a survey on June 15. Denis and the MLRA Dive team began harvesting the invasive plant. The MLRA BOD is very appreciative of the efforts by Denis Roberge in identifying this issue.

**BOD Introductions:** Jamie Verity introduced the BOD to the membership.

**Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes:** The Minutes were approved by the membership.

**Treasurer’s Report**- Rich Eagleston acknowledged Jamie Verity’s contributions to the MLRA. Rich gave the treasurer's report. The MLRA is a 501C3 Non-profit organization. The MLRA currently had $81,000 in asses at the time of the Annual Meeting. Please see the detailed Treasurer’s Report. We are trying to reduce costs.

The MLRA started the Water Quality fund 11 years ago to provide for Rapid Response to any issues arising on Mousam Lake. We spent $3100 for dive equipment for the MLRA Dive Team.

The MLRA has a dive trailer as a new fixed asset for 2023.

Membership approved the Treasurer’s Report

**Invasive Species Update-** Dave Landry acknowledged the efforts of Denis Roberge and Jill Folsom. There are 38 lakes in Maine with invasive plants. Maine receives $3.5 billion in annual revenue from its lakes. Swollen Bladderwort is reported as a newly invasive plant. There is hope for managing this plant since it free floating and not rooted. Maine has six native bladderworts and one invasive bladderwort. Not all of the bladderworts that have a yellow flower are invasive.

Chinese Mystery Snails: keep removing from the lake and disposing of them at the transfer station.

We have laid the foundations for detection and combat invasive species. We must keep our guard up! Learn to identify and remove invasive species. Attend an invasive plant patrol workshop. Encourage all guests to have boat inspected for plant fragments. Thank You for your care in maintaining all our lakes!

Guest Speaker: Wayne Sylvester talked about invasive plants found in Milton 3 Ponds. 8 weeks for a suction barge cost $39,000. Cost to mitigate spiny naiad was $90,000.

Question: How far away from lake to wash boat?

Answer: Far enough away to keep anything from getting back to the lake.

Comment from G. Baxter: A couple of hours to pull three ½ buckets of bladderwort out of lake. Try not to pull native plants out.

Comment from R. Eagleston: Good experience to learn about mitigation.

Question: Should we be boating in the areas identified?

Answer: Try to avoid weeds and keep speed down

Question: Should I bring a new wit me on my kayak?

Answer: Yes, it works well but go slow.

**MLRA Dive Team-** Gary Brown gave the update for the Dive Team. He acknowledged Ann Brown and the Dive Team Committee for their efforts. He read the Statement of Purpose. The dive team has harvested over 200 pounds of Chinese Mystery snails. The dive trailer has new graphics. Stop by and take a look.

The dive team started out as a way to remove snails from the lake and has morphed to include invasive plant control as well.

Upcoming events are 6/25 at 33rd street to remove swollen bladderwort and 7/8 snail dive.

Question: How do you dispose of snails?

Answer: Put them in the garbage.

Question: What do you do if you see them? Throw them on shore?

Answer: Not sure

Question: Are floating snails dead or alive?

Answer: Can be either.

Comment: If you see a bunch of snails, contact the dive team

Question: Are the tiny snails native?

Answer: Not sure but see samples

Question: Can we add a line to donation letter for a dive team donation?

Answer: The MLRA is trying to get away from that. Make your donation to the general fund. A donation to the water quality fund is restrictive.

**Lake Dweller’s Handbook-** Jill Folsom and Kristi Borst presented the Mousam Lake Dweller’s Handbook. This will be a great resource, especially to those who rent on Mousam. Thank You to Jill and Kristi for your work!

Question: Is it for sale?

Answer: It is free but donations are accepted.

**Water Quality/ Boater Safety-** Dick Jagger talked about water quality. The lake dwellers handbook has boater safety and water quality information. Dick discussed how to check water quality with SECCI disks and dissolved oxygen meters.

Dick talked about boater safety. Starting in 2024, Maine will require anyone born in or after 1999 to take a boater safety course to operate a boat. See the ME IFW website for more information. Dick also talked about the boater safety courses that he gives for the MLRA. The next course is on 7/15 at the Acton Congregational Church.

Question: When to slow down boat?

Answer: Within 200 feet of shore

Question: Can Hubbard’s Cove be changed to a no wake zone?

Answer: Any volunteers to ask the state?

**Beach Report-** Roger Guntner gave the beach report. The MLRA has owned the beach since 2007. We provide maintenance and a restroom. Roger cleans up the beach weekly. The MLRA has put in a ramp and landscaping. The MLRA has also put in swim buoys.

Thank You to James Gilbert for performing the camp inspections.

**319 Grant Update-** Dave Landry gave an update on the 319 grant. In 2019, we got $95,000 for site improvements. This year, eight projects were paid in part with grant money. We are trying to get Goose Pond ramp work. There has been some position turnover so projects are not getting done as fast as they could.

**ASYCC Update-** John Chamberlain talked about the ASYCC. The ASYCC has two parts, the Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI) and the Environment Control Project (ECP). John acknowledged Dave Burns, the manager for the ECP. The ASYCC had trouble finding workers; they only had six people this year. They carried out 15 projects this year. The fee was waived for projects in Acton and Shapleigh. This is the last year for the 319 grant.

The CBI team looks for everything. If they are not sure about something, they bag it and send it to be ID’d. The CBIs performed 8300 boat inspections this year.

Comment: D. Landry- Mousam Lake had 8% of boats inspected in entire state of Maine. Please volunteer for the CBI.

Please sign up for the ASYCC Gold Tournament.

The ASYCC needs donation to support their budget of $90,000.

The ASYCC pamphlet is old. See John for updates.

**Guest Speaker**- Roland Legere- Town of Shapleigh. Mr. Legere talked about the dam. In 2014 started Mousam Watershed Dam Coalition. Funded 50% by Sanford, 25% by Acton and 25% by Shapleigh. The dam is considered High Hazard due to the downstream area. The budget for the dam is $26-50,000 depending on plans. Spent $16,000 to remove plants and tree roots. The dam was built in 1889. The dam coalition does not control water levels.

**Guest Speaker-** Sherry Dunning- Three Rivers Land Trust. Ms. Dunning talked about the Three Rivers Land Trust and new projects.

**Nominations to the BOD**- Jamie Verity presented nominations to the BOD. All nominations were approved.

**New Business-** Glenn B. asked about a landscape person for the beach.

**Summer Schedule-** Jamie Verity presented the summer schedule.

Boat Parade- 7/4

Kids Fishing Derby- 7/15

ASYCC Golf Tournament- 8/4

50/50 raffle winner was selected.

Meeting Adjourned by Jamie Verity at 11:03am.