

## **Minutes of LIPPC meeting from 3/26/15**

**Attendees and volunteer hours for month:** Marty-27, Gene-50, Tom Hughes-10, Eddie-18, Diane-18, Anna Romer-4, Jay Hunter-5, Steve Lewis-2, Tim-0

5:35 Meeting called to order

**Secretary's Report-** Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

### **New Business**

**Milfoil Summit.** Gene attended the Summit and was invited to participate in a VLMP discussion group at the invitation of Roberta Hill. The topic was 'Should infested lakes be closed to public access?' The group included representatives from DEP, DIFW, and other stakeholders. Peter Lowell of LEA was moderator. Discussion involved legal, ethical and practical considerations for closing of lakes. Gene asked of DEP why they cannot close Arrowhead to tournaments? DEP responded that that would constitute a surface use restriction and they could not or would not do it. From the audience someone asked 'Could problem be solved by asking bass clubs to avoid lakes with invasives?' Gene is discussing this topic with a member of DIF&W and also Arrowhead officials going forward. Gene feels that this may have merit as a means of minimizing potential infestation.

**Legislation and implications for LIPPC.** Eddie spent significant time and effort to research legislation which could impact LIPPC and others' efforts to control IAP's. Much of his research was on the topic of closing lakes which are known to have invasives. In his opinion, Eddie believes that state does not have right to close surface access. (A discussion ensued on whether the south ramp at Messalonskee Lake is closed for example. The group was not sure whether it was closed unless an inspector is available or whether it is just closed. ) There was some discussion of how other states deal with boats spreading invasives. For example, in Wyoming a boat found to have invasives will be impounded until authorities deem it to be 'clean.' In conclusion Eddie believes we are doing all we can to protect Kezar watershed. He recommends that we continue to focus locally.

John Patrick from Rumford is our State Senator. Several members agreed that it would be a good idea to invite John to come to a LIPPC meeting. In general the group is committing to improving communication with our state legislators in order to voice our concerns regarding invasives.

**Candidates for Board or Committees.** Diane is asking for all members to bring one candidate for our committee or board. Tim has given Diane Ben & Brenda Rich as prospects. Tom has asked Mike Cohen from Lower Bay. Gene has asked someone twice but they are reluctant to commit. Diane is asking Ellen Smith. All agreed to bring more information for next meeting.

## **Standing Committee Reports**

**Courtesy Boat Inspection.** Marty also attended Milfoil summit. The guest speaker was Chandler Woodcock, Head of IF & W on CBI and invasive fish. One statistic that Marty found interesting is that 96% of all wild brook trout are in Maine and that 'Smelt are biggest issue for brookies.' John McPhedran talked about herbicides use for eradication. The DEP spent \$80,000 in plant eradication in 2014, hopes to spend \$120,000 this year and \$250,000 in 2016. These increases are due to funding change that gives DEP 80% of milfoil sticker money. The IF&W is looking for \$250K for eradication in 2016.

Marty states that there were over 80,000 inspections at 160 waterbodies in state. Marty's team did over 3% of all inspections in state. Annabessacook Lake found milfoil through a CBI inspector who saw milfoil plant floating. VLMP and DEP rapid response were involved. A recommendation was made that people should review key legislative updates that are relevant to LIPPC and invasives and 'write their congressman to address key legislative bills to influence.' Legislators typically receive only 4-5 letters on a topic. If this is the case, then 10-12 letters can make a big difference in influencing legislation. The three recommendations for a letter were to: 'Keep it short, make 1 or 2 points, be polite.' Grant is in for CBI. Marty is working on staffing for coming season. At the conference, Marty heard from an Arrowhead resident that was on the round table discussion panel that claimed that his property valuation declined 30% due to infestation over the last two valuation adjustments.

**Marketing and Fundraising.** Jay does not know how many of our mailers get rejected but is confident that we are receiving a decent return on our investment on mailers. Sign removal has been re-scheduled for May 23rd. He is looking for volunteers on this date at north end. The Annual Appeal generated 100 donations totaling \$7855 through April 14. The CBI mailing is scheduled to be dropped on Friday May 1.

The Post Office does not return bulk mail to the sender. The printer/mailing house does however scrub the mailing list against a Post Office address change database. This assures a fairly accurate list. Next year prior to the Annual Appeal we plan to get all new mailing lists from each of the towns.

**Communications and Liaison** Steve is following up on legislative bills and will keep us informed. One bill, LD 713, proposes to decrease Phosphorus fertilizer runoff and improve erosion control by requiring a 50 foot vegetative buffer of native plants be established between existing structures and water bodies. Also, it seeks to increase set back to 112 from 100 feet for new structures. It also requires the establishment of Stakeholder groups to review the compliance to the existing shoreland zoning requirements statewide and recommend possible actions. A separate bill, LD-70, is attempting emergency funding for invasives eradication; \$900k for DEP and \$225 for IFW. Steve is also currently working on article for Land Lakes and Us on what the self inspection kiosks in the watershed are for.

**Cushman Pond IAP Eradication:** According to Gene, LIPPC is asking for \$6,840 from DEP for milfoil eradication this year. The Cushman funds that were kept by the KLWA are now handled by the town of Lovell and are in a unique account at the town. There will be 6 dives this year. Gene has volunteered to make markers for plants at Cushman.

**Education:** Quick keys are ordered. No other updates.

**Stewardship.** Tom asked if field guides and quick keys are available. The answer was that there are over 600 ordered for coming year.

**Volunteer Coordinator.** We are committing to approaching all road Associations regarding LIPPC mission. Our goal is to have associations commit to 'Adopt a Day' at the ramp for volunteer days and/or commit to donations for LIPPC. We also want to maintain good relations with those who regularly commit to helping out to make sure they continue.

**Surveyors.** Tom reviewed notes from the 3/20/15 VLMP IPP Leaders Workshop held at the Auburn Library.

New Quick Keys "before the season starts, by the end of May" Same for the revised Field Guide. The mobil Quick Keys app is proving difficult to develop. Plan to have that by the end of the year.

An IPP workshop is tentatively scheduled for Lovell/Waterford depending on committee attendees. There were 63 active IPP teams in 2014.

3 lakes were removed from the infested list: Great East Lake, Middle Rang Pond and Salmon Lake.

Money is a big issue for most groups, few get town funding.

Look into "Maggie Shannon's Boat" re educational boat rides.

Use numbered milk jugs to delineate water body segments to be surveyed.

Belgrade has started to use 1/2 of their boat registration funds for CBI.

Belgrade Stewards inspect their assigned shoreline once each week.

Belgrade is building a "light boat" like LEA's.

Take cell phone pics through a jeweler's loupe.

Get students involved w/ CBI via seventh grade teachers.

During a side conversation w/ Paul Gregory, DEP Biologist: Good way to influence State of ME direction is to actively write/call local State Senators and Representatives. IF&W is struggling since the redistribution of "Sticker Fund" money. IF&W uses most of it's share of the funds to focus on invasive fish/mussels.