

**EAST BATTLE LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**  
**Board of Directors Meeting, August 6, 2018**  
**At Home of Carol Overvold**

**Call to Order** by President Kennedy at 7:03

**Members Present:** Barb Young, Dick Kennedy, Carol Overvold, Mary Robar, Bob Fritz, Keith Klett, Glenn Scott (7), Leonard Smith (at large), Eleanor Smith (3), Wayne Hilchen (2)

**Guest Speaker:** Jim Wolters, DNR (Fisheries)

**Fish Stocking Report:** Jim was welcomed to the meeting. Bob and Keith handle fish stocking on East Battle Lake. Jim presented the East Battle Lake Historical Net Catch Survey Results (will try to upload as attachment). The Dark black line is actual catch rate. The left side is the number of fish/gill net or trap nets. There are 12 gill nets and 12 trap nets set in the same locations each survey and as close as same dates. Nets are set over the course of a week. They use GPS coordinates to set the nets. The DNR is comfortable with data collected. The dash line is the average over the course of the surveys. The gray area is upper and lower range of similar lakes. Northern pike have always been high. The DNR tried an experiment to get bigger pike and it just didn't work so didn't pursue the efforts. We will continue to have consistent small pike on East Battle. New regulations took effect this opener. We are in the Northcentral zone. The 22 to 26-inch northern pike slot is protected. You can keep 2 over 26 inches now. The bag limit is 10. Yellow perch numbers have been low and continue to decrease despite stocking. Red lines show that in 2005, 2008, and 2017 EBLWA got permits to add fish and it doesn't seem to be working. The next survey will take place in 2021. Jim was not sure that we will be allowed to stock perch again since stocking is not solving our problem. Walleye fry are stocked every other year by the DNR (even years). EBLWA stocks yearlings on the off year.

The DNR is looking at options for future years. They started fry stocking because they didn't see an improvement with fingerlings. Fry are working in Clitheral Lake and West Battle Lake. DNR is now able to control hatches at the hatcheries now so the introduction process is more successful for fry stocking. The DNR may be able to switch to annual fry stocking in East Battle if it works in other lakes. This might start after 2021. It was recommended that we stock carry-over yearlings if they are available due to durability. The advantage of fry is that you will produce a much stronger year stock. The Lake Association could help with stocking by taking containers to different parts of the lake and we will keep this in mind for 2020. DNR stocks the first couple weeks of May. They do take people with them if requested.

Some East Battle Lake fishermen report seeing an improvement with the Northern size. There is good lake habitat in East Battle for spawning. Tullibee populations have been low. Summer gill nets don't sample well because they are suspended or down 40 feet. If the DNR wanted to get a good idea, they would go out in the fall when they spawn. Jim said to not be too concerned. Lakes are getting warmer and oxygen levels are sometimes limited which impact the Tullibeas.

**Weeds and Lake Issues:** Jim brought packets and applications for removing aquatic plants. Emergent weed removal requires a permit. Homeowners can remove 50 square ft or 2500 feet or ½ of lot width of submerged plants; a larger amount needs a permit. It is okay to maintain an in and out path for watercraft. Jim said we can take pictures of questionable weeds to email to him for identification. He also recommended we contact Jerry Wendlandt for further assistance with aquatic plant management. Mary will call Jerry to see if he will meet with Area 2. Jim gave us 3 Aquatic Plant Management Packets. Bob stated water levels have been higher due to a bog and beaver dam. He said it is virtually impossible to manage these due to regulations. East Battle Lake is a half-foot higher than West Battle. Bob would like DNR to keep the channel clear between the lakes due to water

quality. Jim will check on this, however, there has been consideration given to fish passage. Julie Odland is the hydrologist in charge of these issues. Jim also recommended contacting the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in Detroit Lakes. There are cases when associations have been granted permits for invasive weed control.

**Minutes** of the minutes were read, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and unanimously approved.

**Financial Report** was not presented.

**COLA:** Barb was not able to attend the last meeting. She has been researching and strongly recommends lake property owners to read minutes from the following websites: Otter Tail COLA, Minnesota COLA, MN Lakes and Rivers. The MN Lakes and Rivers organization is very active. We will have Jenny include these websites and recommended reading in the September Newsletter. The Ottertail County Commissioner Meeting minutes are linked through the Otter Tail COLA site. They are talking about water levels in the county right now.

Representatives and VP: John Dryer agreed to represent Area 6. Barb said Gary Holman will consider being the Area 1 representative when he returns in a year. We would like another representative from Areas 6 and 4. The vice president position is still open. This position needs to be filled!

**Watermelon Days:**

- Wayne and Dick will set up. Wayne will work 10-noon.
- Carol and Mary will cover 12-2 (Mary will be a bit late).
- Barb will cover 2-4 and take down.

Webster will have a cash box available at the table. New members should receive a floating key chain. The location of the booth is across from the church parking lot. Barb moved to have the Association buy a booth tent, second by Keith Klett, passed unanimously. Wayne will furnish a table. Dick has the sign for the table and a couple chairs. He will also see if he can recruit some more volunteers to help. There will be pamphlets available at the table. It was suggested that we have a booth at the Henning festival the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in July next year.

**Next Meeting:** The next EBLA Board meeting will be at 7pm at the home of Wayne Hilchen, 22015 Teepee Circle (off road 457).

Adjournment at 8:40 pm.

Mary Robar  
Secretary



