

Minutes of the Otter Lake Ratepayers' Association (OLRA) Board Meeting Tuesday, August 8, 2023

Attendees: Martin Chepesiuk, Brad Chittick, Rob Cribbie, Gerry Doyle, Brian Hindley, Nicole Mailloux, AJ Mueller, Kerry Mueller

Regrets: David Amy

1. Welcome: Kerry Mueller started the Zoom meeting at 8:04 am. Quorum was confirmed.

2. eDNA 2023 proposal: A Board discussion took place regarding finalizing the 2023 eDNA program details proposed by Brian Hindley. Comments included the following:

- Using the quadrant approach is good from a statistical and general perspective. This provides the ability to have a framework to look at all sampling programs (benthic, etc.) going forward.
- It's understood, that one or even pooled eDNA samples do not represent the entire quadrant. The eDNA results represent what was present in the sampling location in the last 72-hour windows. No sampling method is perfect e.g., gill netting, etc.
- Members approved the 2023 sampling. What is done going forward (regular sampling, take a break from sampling, etc.) will be decided later.
- The conditions under which sampling take place are important. For example, sampling after rain, after a sunny week, etc.
- The goal of the sampling is to document the lake's biodiversity. For example, repeat one sample from last year, sample the inflow from the wetland at 202 Blue Lake Road, deep water sampling, etc.
- The Association should look into purchasing the DO meter and Kemmerer sampler to collect water samples at specific depths. It has the money in its environmental fund. This could be a decision separate from the eDNA program. Details on exact costs for this equipment would need to be looked into.
- At the AGM, members approved \$5,200 for the eDNA program which is estimated to just pay for 6 eDNA samples and renting the Kemmerer sampler. This assumes 1) \$830.55 for each sample for an estimated total of \$4,983 and 2) \$200 for renting the Kemmerer sampler for an estimated grand total of \$5,183.
- There was discussion around what sampling location to drop.
- There was discussion relating to exploring where OLRA could get grants to fund this project.
- 2 eDNA kits, which have been provided free to OLRA by FOCA, to sample invasive plant species have been received. Sampling will take place later in August, early September at the launching ramp at the north end of Otter Lake.

Board Decision: In the end, everyone at the meeting agreed to 1) stay within the amount approved by members at the AGM by renting the Kemmerer sampler and dropping one

sample, 2) pool the Little Otter Lake proposed sampling locations into one sample, 3) sample the remaining 6 locations proposed in Brian Hindley's 2023 Sampling eDNA Program sent out to the Board on June 27, and 4) to sample in mid September, hopefully after the lake turnover but before October.

Actions: 1) Brian Hindley will look into the costs of a DO meter and Kemmerer, for discussion at a later Board meeting, 2) Brad Chittick agreed to help Brian Hindley and Nicole Mailloux with the eDNA sampling in September as required, 3) Gerry Doyle agreed to follow up with other lake associations to get details of any grants they got.

2. Other Business:

Otter Lake Fire: Brad Chittick updated the Board on the fire that occurred on the previous Thursday from the severe lightning storm. It's possible that a lightning strike on the hydro lines started the fire, just right across the bay from the marina. The fire burned for about 6 hours before it was put out. Had the fire occurred a few weeks ago, the fire would likely have been much more serious and bigger.

BBQ: Kerry Mueller indicated there would be 8 tables of 7, and that possibly 52 people were expected as of today.

Survey: Rob Cribbie indicated that 276 responses were received to date. A deadline for responses will be sent out.

3. Adjournment: Kerry Mueller called the meeting to a close at 9:00 am.

ADDENDUM A

Email Business and Resolutions from June 18, 2023 to August 8, 2023

Motion: To approve the minutes of the June 13th, 2023 meeting.

- Moved by Nicole Mailloux by email on June 22, 2023
- Seconded by Brian Hindley by email on June 22, 2023
- **Motion carried** by email on June 25, 2023

Acronyms

- AGM: Annual General Meeting
- ATV: All-Terrain Vehicle
- Cl: Chloride (salt)
- dB: decibel
- DC: Decibel Coalition

- DFO: Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- DO: Dissolved Oxygen
- EP: Environmental Protection
- FOCA: Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association
- FOI: Freedom of Information
- GBB: Georgian Bay Biosphere
- LPP: Lake Protection Program
- MECP: Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- MMAH: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)
- MNRF: Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- MZO: Ministerial Zoning Order
- OLRA: Otter Lake Ratepayers' Association
- OLT: Ontario Land Tribunal
- ONCA: Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act
- OP: Seguin Township Official Plan
- OPP: Ontario Provincial Police
- PCOC: Pleasure Craft Operator Card
- PFD: Personal Floatation Device
- PPS: Provincial Policy Statement
- PWC: Power Water Craft
- SAR: Species at Risk
- SQL: Safe Quiet Lakes
- SRA: Shoreline Allowance
- STA: Short Term Accommodation
- STR: Short Term Rental
- TC: Transport Canada
- WDALB: Where Does a Lake Begin