

SLPOA BOD Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2020
Dent Community Center

Members Present: GPM, GH, JK, TP, AS, RF & KR

Members Absent: None

Gary Miller called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

- (1) Gary introduced Kelsey Roth as a new director on the Star Lake Property Owners' Association board. The board welcomed Kelsey and thanked her for volunteering to be an active participant on the board. Kelsey will replace Dave Kaser. The SLPOA website will be updated to reflect this change.
- (2) The meeting minutes from June 11, 2020 were distributed and reviewed. GPM made a motion to approve the minutes and JK seconded the motion; all were in favor.
- (3) Treasurer's Report – JoLene reported that the balances in our accounts are as follows: \$6,116.90 in checking, and \$26,073.99 in the money market. The total of both accounts is \$32,190.89. The funds dedicated for the Lake Protection Fund reported on 6-11-20 was \$17,213.95. The current balance for the LPF was not captured in the minutes, but will be updated at the next board meeting.
- (4) Membership Update – Jolene and Gail reported that the total number of paid memberships for the 2020-2021 membership year is 97. There are 329 Star Lake Property Owners that are not currently paid members, and 138 of the 329 were paid members in 2019-2020. Discussion regarding options to solicit membership payments was held. Gary will prepare a letter that will be mailed to property owners that have not paid the 2020-2021 membership. Included in the letter will be a list of the SLPOA accomplishments, a membership form, and a reply envelope.
- (5) The 2020 SLPOA Directory distribution was discussed. To date, 60 directories have been delivered to members. There are 172 members remaining. If the directories are mailed, it will be approximately \$2.00 or \$2.20 for First Class postage depending on the final weight of the piece. Since most of the membership is at their lake property this time of year, we discussed utilizing the board to personally deliver the directories to the members' Star Lake property. We also decided to utilize a door-hanger type bag and include a letter and membership form for those that have not paid the current membership dues. The members that have already paid their dues will receive the directory along with the list of SLPOA accomplishments. The goal is to have directories delivered by the end of July.
- (6) Gary shared a letter the he received from Jim Wolters of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in response to our questions and concerns pertaining to Star Lake's Sunfish/Bluegill Fishery. A copy of this letter and graphs provided are attached to the minutes. The board discussed how to proceed and it was decided that we will survey the membership to get

feedback on options. Gary will craft the communication and distribute to the membership via email.

- (7) The Lake-scaping project for Lori Dunham Morton and Steve Kotzenmacher, 32688 401st St. was discussed. Gail shared pictures of the completed project for the board to review. JoLene issued a check for the second half (\$1,000) of the grant. Gail will deliver the final payment to the property owners. All of the documentation for this project was provided to JoLene for a permanent record of compliance for the disbursement.
- (8) Dick discussed a request from a member to consider requesting the State Highway Department to reduce the speed limit to 35 MPH on Highway 108 from CR41 to the Public Access. There have been safety concerns expressed by membership for this area due to the speed of vehicles, the increased number of driveways and roads, and incidents that have already occurred in this area. Dick will continue to work on formalizing this request and report back next month.
- (9) Gary shared an article that was printed in the Pelican Rapids Press on June 25th regarding the Star Lake Concerned Citizens Group disbanding and donating their funds to the SLPOA specifically for the Lake Protection Fund. It was a very positive article recognizing the work of the SLCCG and other groups for their support in the review process that concluded with the rescission of the proposed Star Lake Casino and Resort.
- (10) The annual picnic was discussed and it was decided that the picnic for 2020 would be cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns and safety of all potential attendees.
- (11) A recap of the Swamp Shark Tournament was shared by Gary (handout) and is attached. Overall feedback from surveys was positive and participants enjoyed the event. The board discussed the event and determined that we will plan to make this an annual event. JoLene also will work with her graphic designers on a fish ruler that will have the Swamp Shark logo.
- (12) Board member recruiting was discussed. We will have openings next year that will need to be filled.
- (13) Gary shared a letter that will be sent to Dave Kaser thanking him for his work on this board.
- (14) Recap of action items:
 - a. Order door hanger bags to be used for the Directories - JoLene
 - b. Work on design of fish ruler - JoLene
 - c. Prepare thank you notes and mail directories to advertisers - Gail
 - d. Continue work to draft communication to State of Minnesota regarding speed limit on Hwy 108 from CR 41 and Public Access - Dick
 - e. Prepare letter that will be sent to property owners to solicit membership payment - Gary
 - f. Mail letters using Non-Profit bulk mailing permit – Gail

- g. Prepare email communication to membership regarding Sunfish concerns - Gary
- h. Prepare email communication to update membership on cancelation of picnic and other pertinent information.
- i. Prepare letter to be included with Directory distribution - Gary
- j. Prepare labels for Directory distribution and indicate on labels if membership for 2020-2021 has not been paid. Assign delivery assignments to board. Gail
- k. Update website with board member change - Gary

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM. The next board meeting will be August 20th at 6:30 and will be held at the home of JoLene and Mark Kerr.

Gail Hagen
Secretary, SLPOA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Division of Fish and Wildlife

1509 1st Avenue North

Fergus Falls, MN 56537

(218) 671-7954

June 22, 2020

Gary Miller-SLPOA President

33023 380th St

Dent, MN 56528

Dear Gary and SLPOA Members,

Thank you for your interest in maintaining Star Lake's healthy Sunfish/Bluegill Fishery. This letter will try and address your questions and concerns addressed in your letter and numbered bulleted points.

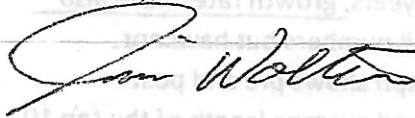
The first bullet point was **1) MNDNR Fisheries take on the state of the Sunfish population in Star Lake.** Attached are graphs of pre and post regulation data for Bluegill in Star Lake. These can be complicated to interpret but I will try and explain them. The first graph shows spring trap net data, summer trap net data and summer gill net data. Typically the best data to analyze sunfish is spring trap net data. Looking at the first graph the number of sunfish has increased since the implementation of the reduced 10 sunfish limit. This indicates that overall harvest has most likely been reduced. The Median Age Frequency graph shows that the median age has increased from 5 years to 6 years. This again supports that overall harvest has most likely been reduced as sunfish are not being removed from the lake as quickly so they have a chance to live another year longer. The last graph shows the average length at Age-6. This graph shows that even though numbers have increased and sunfish average age has increased from 5 to 6 years, growth rates have also been increasing. This is a positive sign as we have increased overall numbers but have not reduced growth rates due to intraspecific competition. The 2nd graph shows pre and post regulation data for largest fish sampled, average length sampled, and average length of the top 10 sunfish sampled. This graph supports what the Board mentioned about fewer 10 inch sunfish present. It does however show that overall size has increased slightly. What most likely is happening is that anglers are selecting for the 10 largest sunfish they can harvest during each trip. Overall, the sunfish population in Star Lake is still in very good shape. Star Lake supports quality sunfish and the reduced sunfish limit has been a popular regulation. It does appear that angling is having an effect on the largest sunfish present, however the overall size is still increasing. The MNDNR would support the idea of reducing the bag limit to a 5 sunfish limit as this should help reduce the harvest of the largest fish and should get those 10 inch fish back in the system.

2) How is enforcement handled in the winter in areas of fishermen concentrations. This is an Enforcement question and not a Fisheries question. Your local Conservation Officer for Star Lake is William (Bill) Landmark. MNDNR Fisheries will notify the local conservation officer about your concern. It is very difficult to enforce individuals that are "double bagging" during the winter season. Hopefully with a lit bit of presence from the local conservation officer the individuals that maybe harvesting more than their possession limit will think twice.

3) Feedback on the process to explore reducing the limit to (5) or instituting a size restriction within the ten sunfish limit (only one over ten inches as an example). If the Star Lake Properties Owner's Association would like to initiate the idea of reducing the current sunfish limit or explore the idea of size restriction for sunfish, MNDNR Fisheries requests that the Association send a letter of request to the Fergus Falls Area Fisheries Office, Attention Area Supervisor Jim Wolters. In the letter include the Associations concerns and what you would support in regards to sunfish regulations. Just so the Association knows: the MNDNR does have the option to reduce a 10 sunfish limit down to a 5 sunfish limit, however the size restriction that the Association is suggesting is not currently an option. MNDNR Fisheries is looking at some future sunfish size restrictions that would be experimental regulations but those aren't available at this time.

4) Information on if increased enforcement of AIS regulations at the public ramps has also helped the control of fishing limits during the summer or if on the water checks are more effective for that purpose. Increased enforcement of AIS regulations at the public ramps has little to no effect on control of fishing limits. AIS enforcement and fishing regulations are separate issues and individuals that monitor AIS at the public accesses are there to inspect, educate and enforce AIS regulations. They have no responsibility or authority in regards to fishing regulations. The local conservation officer is the responsible authority when it comes to fishing regulations. Again thank you for reaching out to us about your concerns and feel free to contact me with any further questions as I am happy to address any and all questions.

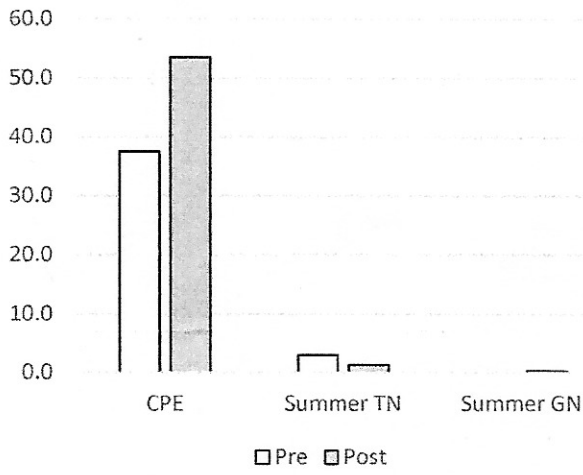
Sincerely,



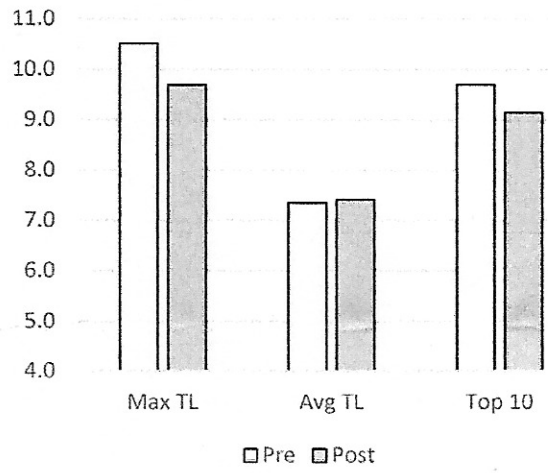
Jim Wolters
Area Fisheries Supervisor
Jim.Wolters@state.mn.us

Star Lake Bluegill Data

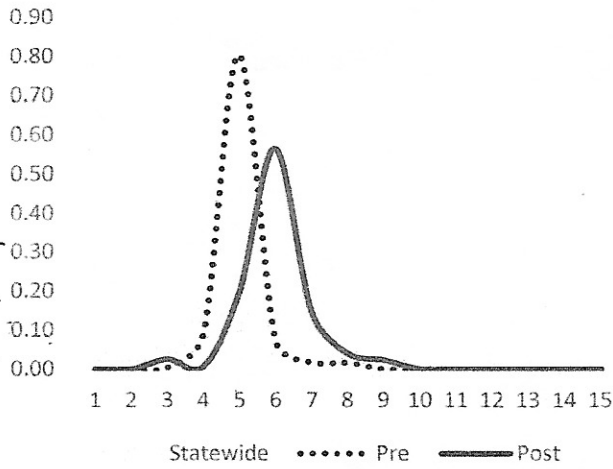
Median Catch Rate



Median Length Stats

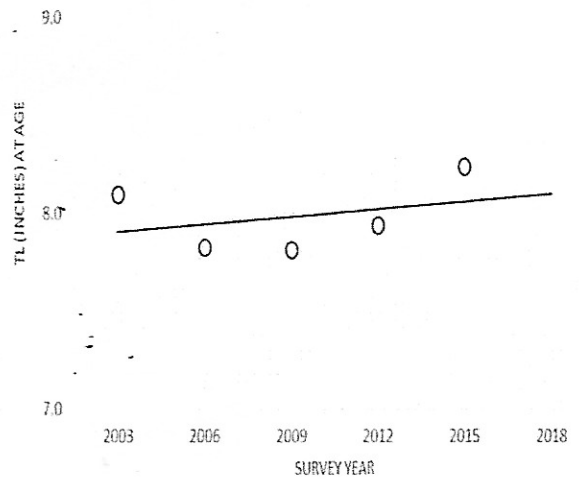


Median Age Frequency



Total Length at Age 6

R² = 0.1156



Swamp Shark Tournament Recap

(1) Registration Issues

- a. Teams not registered but thought they were.....issue a registration number to confirm team is in. Number must be validated at check-in.
- b. Require phone numbers and email addresses
- c. Better promote team name competition

(2) T Shirts

- a. Great logo!
- b. Great quality of the shirt!
- c. Need to order XXL sizes
- d. Be clear on where shirts can be picked up before the tournament
- e. 6 (M) 13 (L) 20 (XL) 16 (XXL) 2 (XXXL) 2 (XXXXL)

(3) Start

- a. 9:00 am anywhere vs all participant boats in Bell's Bay? (disadvantage to those with smaller motors)
- b. Start by number? (draw for start position)
- c. Starting Pontoon with 1-25 released every (30) seconds?

(4) Check-in

- a. Assign separate duties to each BOD member
- b. One to verify catch, help unload, and check for smallest (make sure we have a fish ruler)
- c. One to verify membership is paid and present prize awards
- d. One to get Team member photo

(5) General Considerations

- a. More teams requires permit
- b. Consider two day format with (25) team slots available each day.....what happens if they do not all fill? Tournament on Sunday could start and end earlier?
- c. Pay for 1-12 places. 100, 50, 50, 50, 50, 25, 25, 25, 25, 25, 25, 25, and 25 for the smallest fish (or any other combinations)
- d. Must check-in by boat?
- e. Give trophies to all teams with youth under 15 years of age?
- f. Give trophies to 1, 2, 3rd place teams?
- g. Make someone responsible for morning coffee and donuts for volunteers?
- h. Conduct an item raffle vs donation for the LPF request? (raffle off gun, kayak, fishing tackle, boat, or related item)