Little Rice Lake Association (LRLA) Newsletter

June 2019

LRLA Lake Management Plan and General Meeting Update

On June 1, 2019 we had our first general meeting for the year. There were approximately 25 members in attendance. The focus of the meeting was for Tiffney Kieczewski, from Flambeau Engineering to present the Little Rice Lake Comprehensive Lake Management Plan. Tom Carlson, Wild Life Biologist was also there to answer questions from members.

The purpose of the Lake Management Plan

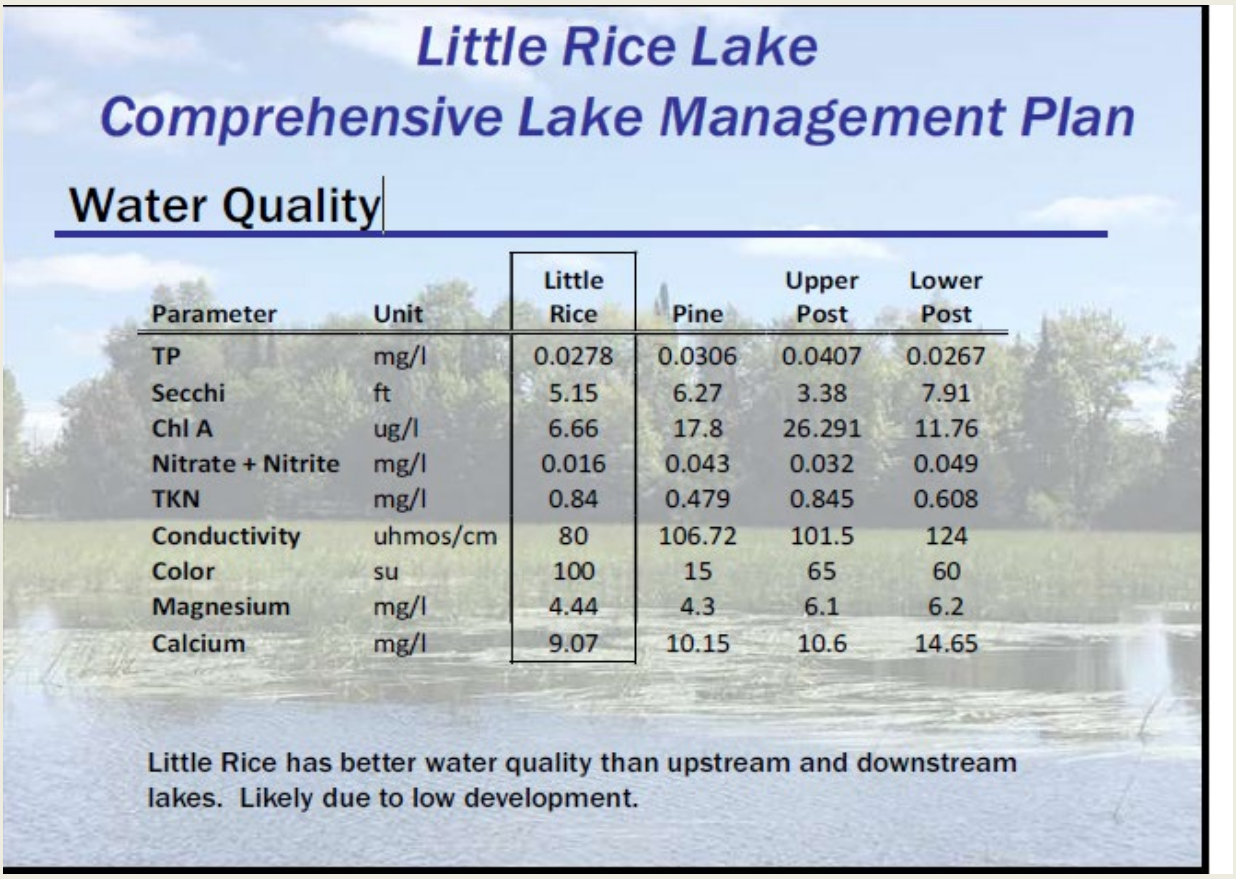
- Improve fishery by reduce/ eliminate winter kill
- Manage aquatic plants to allow access to open water

Goals

- Manage aquatic plants
  - Complete PI survey
  - Determine best management strategy for access
- Improve fishery
- Protect habitat
  - Shore land assessment
  - Map wild rice and rare plants

- Lake user survey
    - Aquatic plant management, water quality, lake use, shore land conditions, fishery

WATER QUALITY:

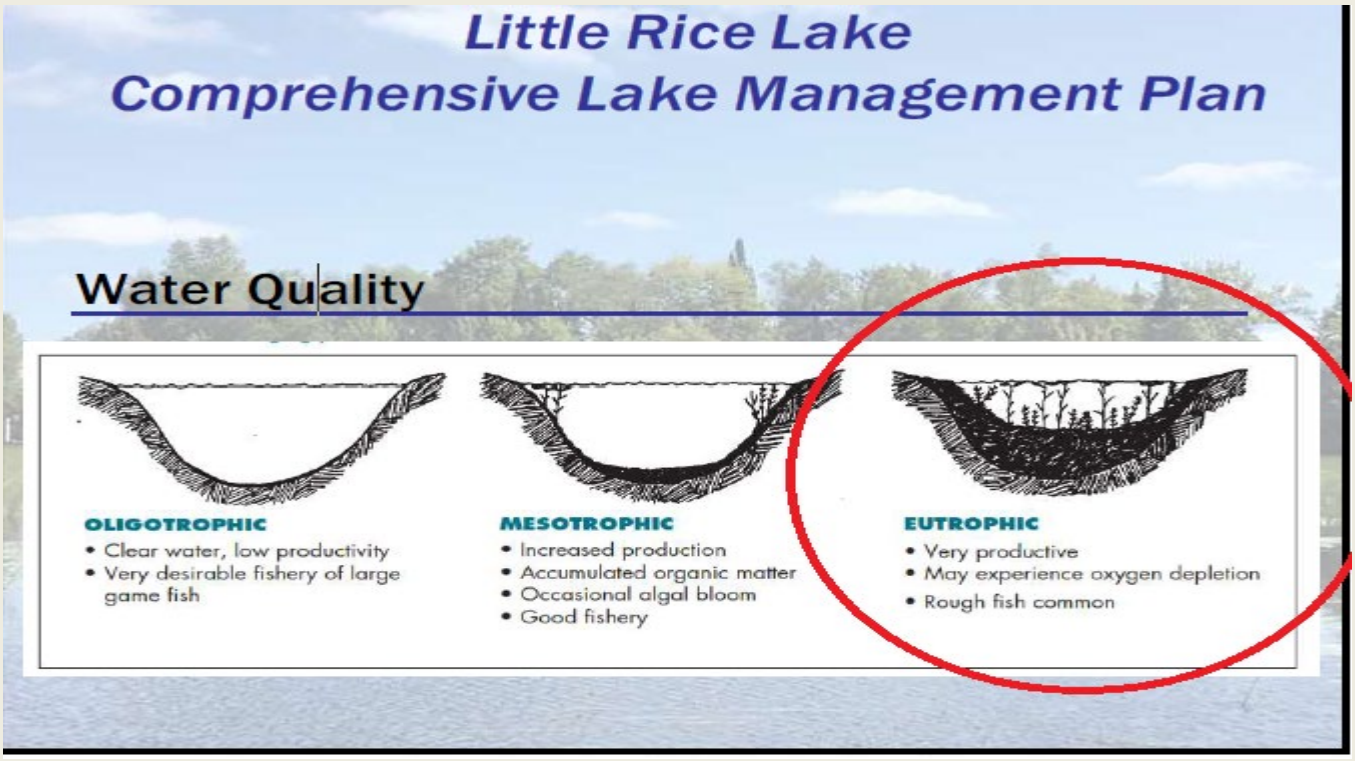


Parameter	Unit	Little Rice	Pine	Upper Post	Lower Post
TP	mg/l	0.0278	0.0306	0.0407	0.0267
Secchi	ft	5.15	6.27	3.38	7.91
Chl A	ug/l	6.66	17.8	26.291	11.76
Nitrate + Nitrite	mg/l	0.016	0.043	0.032	0.049
TKN	mg/l	0.84	0.479	0.845	0.608
Conductivity	uhmos/cm	80	106.72	101.5	124
Color	su	100	15	65	60
Magnesium	mg/l	4.44	4.3	6.1	6.2
Calcium	mg/l	9.07	10.15	10.6	14.65

Water Quality

Category	TSI	Lake Characteristics	Total P (ug/l)	Chlorophyll a (ug/l)	Water Clarity (feet)
Oligotrophic	1-40	Clear water; oxygen rich at all depths, except if close to mesotrophic border; then may have low or no oxygen; cold-water fish likely in deeper lakes.	< 12	<2.6	>13
Mesotrophic	41-50	Moderately clear; increasing probability of low to no oxygen in bottom waters.	12 to 24	2.6 to 7.3	13 to 6.5
Eutrophic	51-70	Decreased water clarity; probably no oxygen in bottom waters during summer; warm-water fisheries only; blue-green algae likely in summer in upper range; plants also excessive.	> 24	>7	<6.5
Little Rice Lake	53	Eutrophic	27.8	6.66	7.71

Eutrophic – Decreased water clarity; probably no oxygen in bottom waters during summery; warm-water fisheries only; blue green algae unlikely in summer in upper range; plants also excessive. Below is what a typical Eutrophic lake looks like

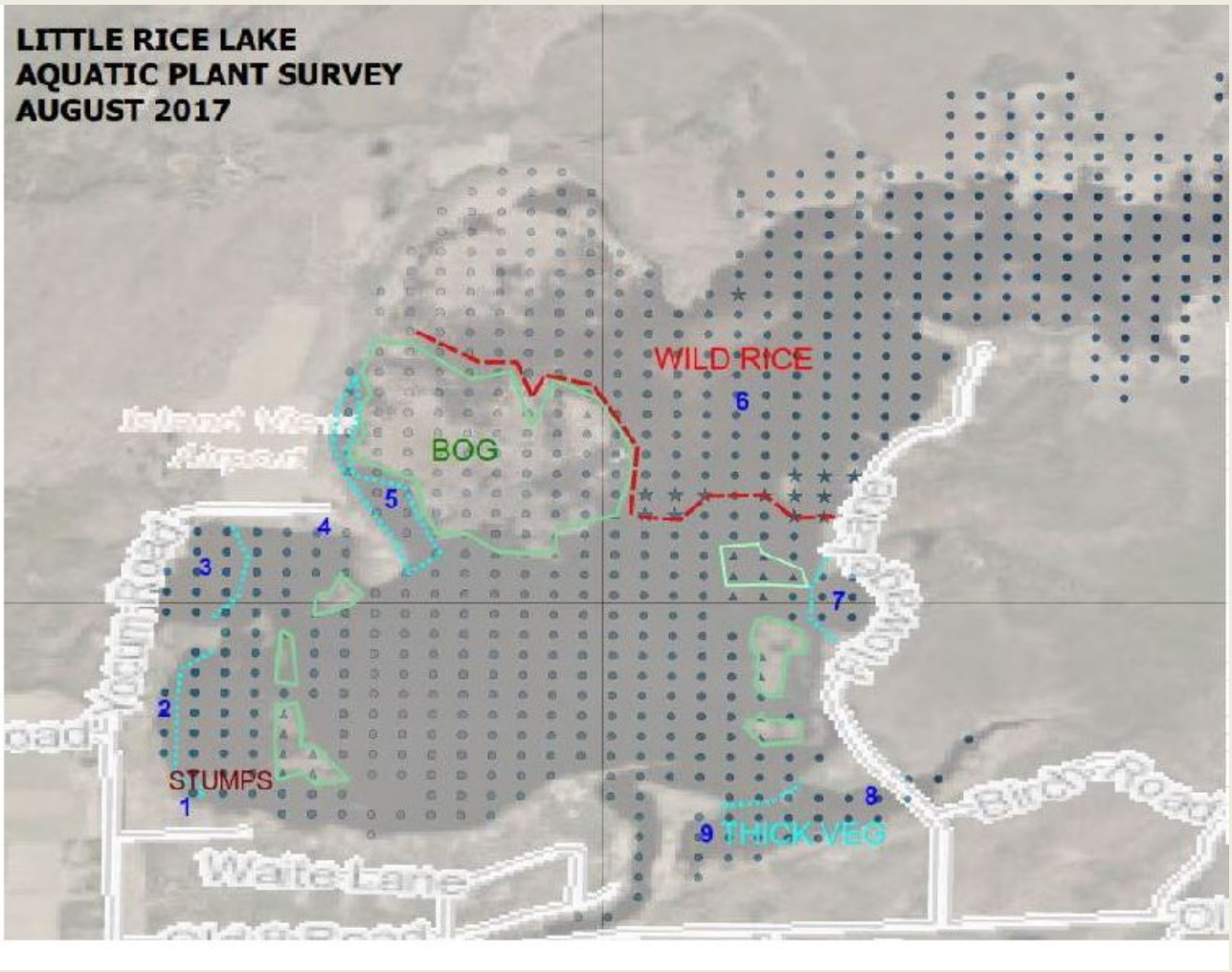


Aquatic Plants:

- No Invasive species found in Little Rice Lake during 2017 survey
- There are 24 species, all are native to the lake
- Good mix of submersed, floating leaf and emergent
- Very thick in bays and on north half of lake
- Most abundant – wild celery, northern milfoil, common waterweed
- Maximum depth of 8 feet

Wild Rice:

- Dominates north half of lake
- Native, beneficial plant, historic and naturally occurring in Wolf River system
- Habitat:
  - Prefers shallow, slow-moving water, muck bottom
  - 6" to 3', most dense in under 1-2'
  - Germinates April – May, floating leaf stage May – June, stalks – July (1.5 to 6+ feet high), seeds, August – September
  - Susceptible to uprooting/ water level change in floating leaf stage.

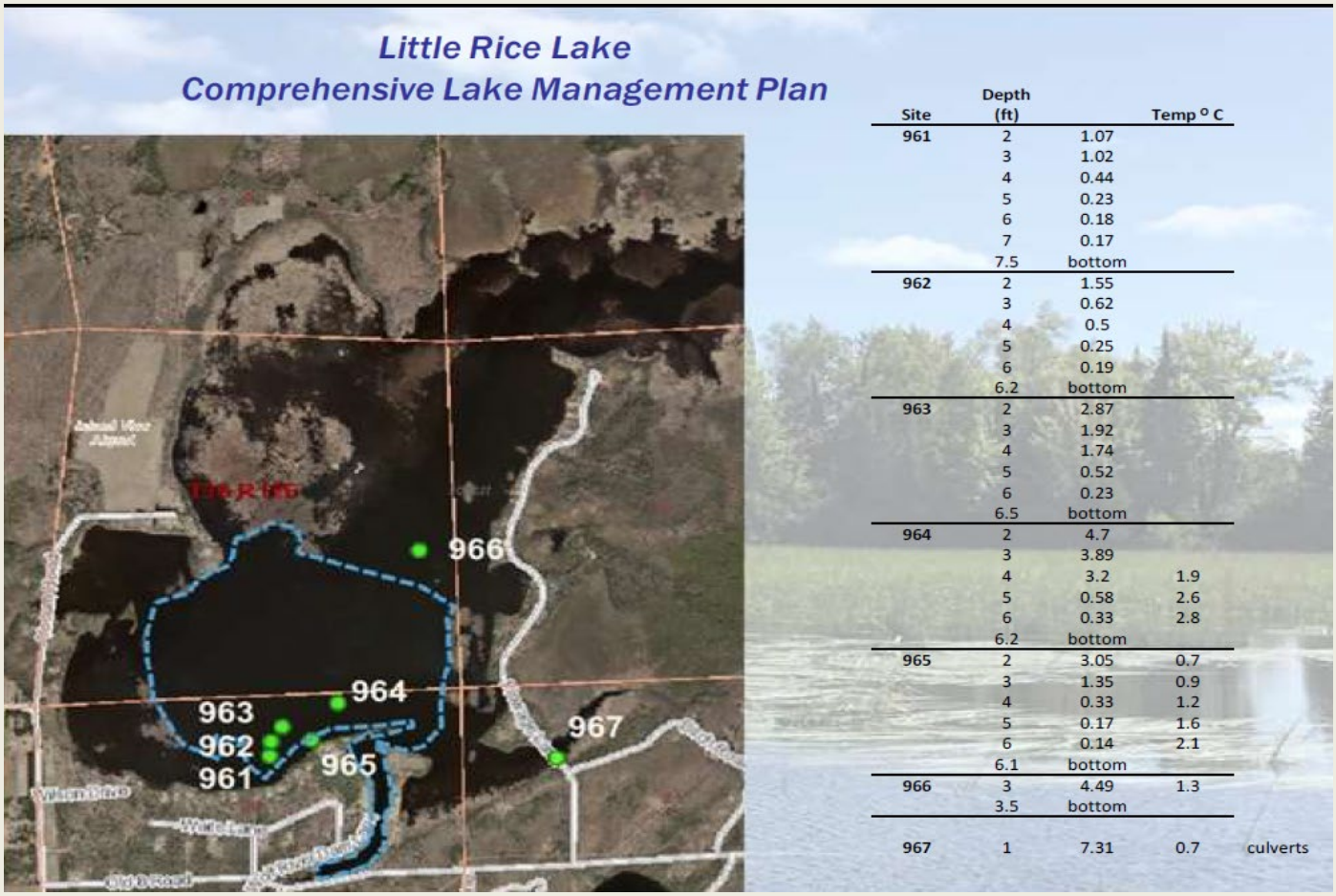


Area	Vegetation
1	Bur Reed Stumps
2	Bur Reed White Water Lily Pickerel Weed
3	Pickerel Weed White Water Lily Wild Rice Fern Pond Weed Yellow Water Lily
4	Bur Reed
5	White Water Lily Pickerel Weed Bog
6	Pickerel Weed Spatter Dock Bog
7	Bur Reed Pickerel Weed

8	Pickerel Weed Bur Reed Cattail Spatterdock
9	Cattail Rushes Wild Celery Bur Reed

Fishery

- Species Present
  - Largemouth bass, pan fish, northern pike
  - Largemouth bass stocked 1980 – 1990's
- Experience winter kill due to low oxygen
  - Records back to 1940's indicate winter fish kills
- Bluegill, largemouth bass, white perch, and yellow perch are considered warm water fish prefer DO above 5mg/l, avoid areas below 3mg/l, fatality below 2 mg/l
- Northern pike and fathead minnow above 1.5 mg/l
- **No DNR Stocking until aeration, no panfish**

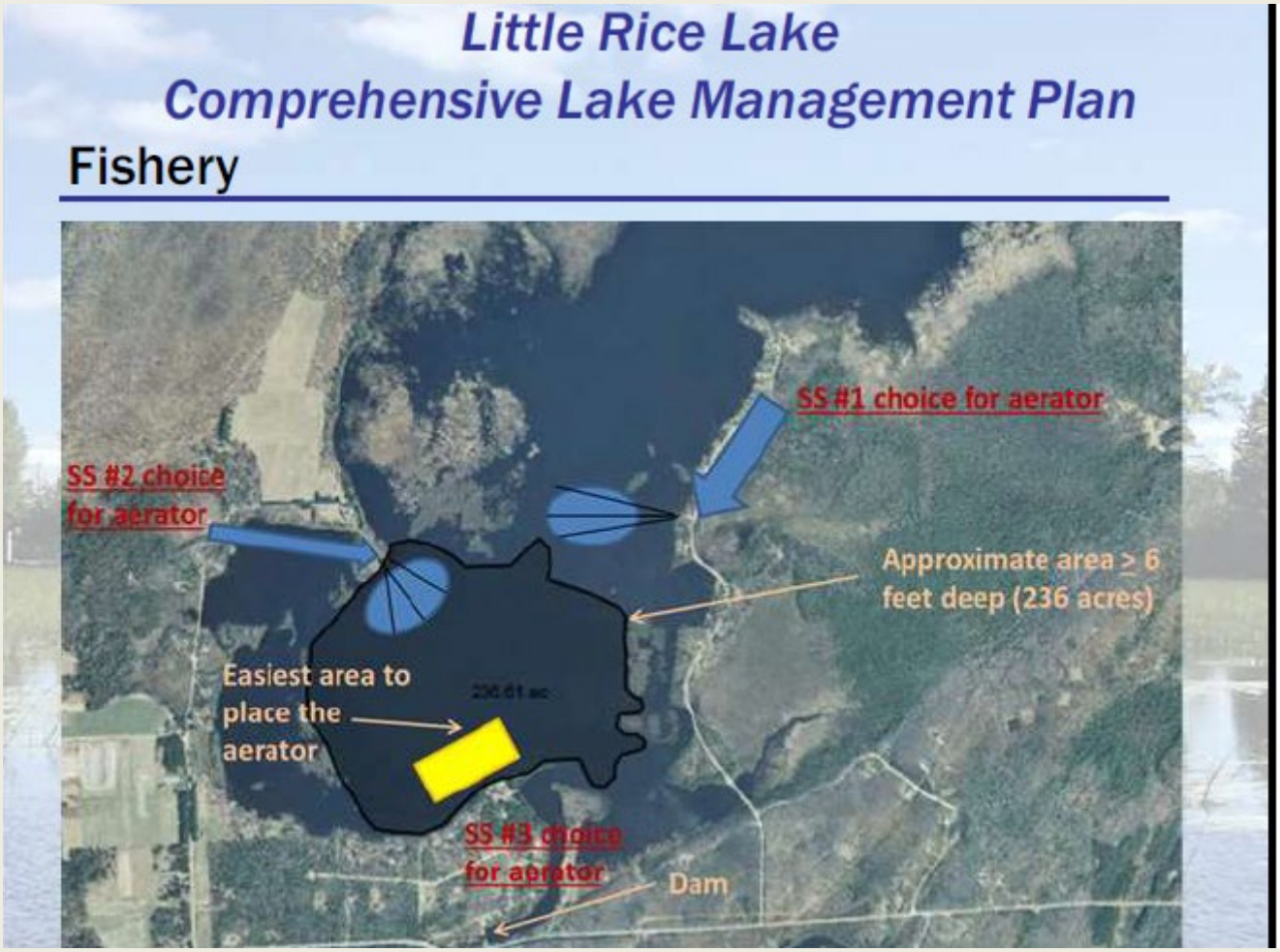


Site	Depth (ft)		Temp ° C	
961	2	1.07		
	3	1.02		
	4	0.44		
	5	0.23		
	6	0.18		
	7	0.17		
	7.5	bottom		
962	2	1.55		
	3	0.62		
	4	0.5		
	5	0.25		
	6	0.19		
	6.2	bottom		
963	2	2.87		
	3	1.92		
	4	1.74		
	5	0.52		
	6	0.23		
	6.5	bottom		
964	2	4.7		
	3	3.89		
	4	3.2	1.9	
	5	0.58	2.6	
	6	0.33	2.8	
	6.2	bottom		
965	2	3.05	0.7	
	3	1.35	0.9	
	4	0.33	1.2	
	5	0.17	1.6	
	6	0.14	2.1	
	6.1	bottom		
966	3	4.49	1.3	
	3.5	bottom		
967	1	7.31	0.7	culverts

RECOMMENDATION FOR LITTLE RICE LAKE

I. Fish Sticks- Fish Sticks" projects are intended to restore woody habitat in lakes by adding trees to the near-shore area. They are large woody habitat structures that use either single trees or trees grouped together. Fish sticks structures are anchored to the shore and are partially or fully submerged near the shoreline of a lake

II. Aerator



a. Three main consideration for location in aeration system are (from DNR guidelines)
   i. In or near the deepest part of the lake – utilizing warm bottom water to create large open water area
   ii. Centrally located – get good water circulation and easy for fish to migrate to
   iii. Near electricity
   iv. Funding under Implementation Grant possible

III. Main Navigation Lanes (50 feet) – harvesting or mechanical
   a. Contractor with harvester – once a year or more
   b. Mechanical – drag/ cutter behind boat

IV. Individual Navigation Lanes (30 feet)
   a. Manual pulling/ cutting
   b. Continued use early spring and fall

NOT RECOMMENDATION/ PLAN FOR LITTLE RICE LAKE

1. Dredging, herbicide
2. Drawdown

Next Steps

1. Choose management plan method
    a. Survey members regarding aerator
2. Prepare plan – map navigation lanes
3. Meet with fish biologist, wildlife biologist and lake specialist
4. Begin permitting process

Treasure Report

Year	Income	Expense	Cash on Hand
2018	$6,156.00	$3,840.92	$2,315.08
2019	$950.00	$75.00	$3,253.08

- Owe Tiffney $2,042 for lake plan
- 23K was for the whole plan, our share was for $7,800 and we were able to work off $4,600 to $5,000

Secretary Report

- Total Voting Members for 2018 – 73
- Total Voting Members in 2019 - 67

Fundraising

Does anyone have ideas or can help out with fundraising?
We are looking for members that can be creative and help start up a Web page, do Facebook Fundraising, create fundraising using Hashtags, Twitter. Help us leverage Social Media to get the word out about our cause to Save the Lake!

*****GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 29 has been CANCELED**

Next General Meeting will be held on September 28, 4:00 PM in the Auditorium at Crandon High School