



**LAKE MILTONA ASSOCIATION**  
790 East Sandy Beach Road NE, MILTONA, MN 56354

**Annual Membership Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2019 – Community Center, Miltona, MN**  
**Draft (To be approved in the 2020 Annual Meeting)**

**Officers in Attendance:** Steve DeSutter, President; Marc Bot, Vice President; Bob Larson, Treasurer; Gene Rose, Secretary

**Board Members in Attendance:** Jack Anderson, Ted Boehne, Cheryl Brauer, John Fair, John Fay, Pat Ferguson, Jerry Fulton, Carol Goodin, Lynn Glesne, Don Henning, Steve Herth, Skeeter Kingsberg, William Moeller, Anne Rykken, Wally Roberts, Wendie VanKirk, Mike Wrobel, Emily Yonke

**Call to Order:** President Steve DeSutter called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**Verification of Quorum:** President Steve DeSutter confirmed that a quorum was present. About 50 people attended the meeting.

**Election of Directors:** President DeSutter said that the slate of Directors as printed in our Spring Lake Miltona News agreed to serve the Lake Miltona Association for the following year. The list is included here for the record:

Area 1	Lynn Glesne, Dave Werpy	Area 8	Carol Goodin & Gary Fuchs
Area 2 A	John Fair	Area 9&10	Jerry Fulton
Area 2 B	Jack Anderson	Area 11	Pat Ferguson
Area 2 C	John Fay	Area 12	Mike Wrobel & Warren Davis
Area 3A	Levern Kingsberg	Area 13	Ted Boehne & Tom Brauer
Area 3 B	Vern Suhr	Area 14	Steve DeSutter
Area 3 C	Gene Rose	Area 15	Wally Roberts
Area 4	Steve Herth	Area 16	Anne Rykken
Area 5	Emily Yonke	Area 17	Marc Bot & Bob Larson
Area 6	Wendie VanKirk	Area 18	Darrell Olson & Randy Hanson
Area 7	William Moeller	Area 19	Don Henning

Roger Malm moved and Steve Zins seconded the motion that these nominees be elected to serve until the 2020 annual meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**Speaker: Rob Jost, Klug’s Fish Farm, 6500 Pleasant Grove Rd, Garfield, MN 56332**

The walleyes stocked in Lake Miltona are obtained from Klug’s Fish Farms. Rob Jost presented an overview of our stocking arrangement and answered questions concerning the raising and stocking of fish. He started out by telling us that they stock fish as far away as the East coast and south to Missouri. Last fall they stocked 1000 pounds of walleye 5 to 8 inches in size into both Lake Ida and Lake Miltona. He

said that walleye hatch from their eggs in 21-28 days. Their eggs are harvested from their own male and female walleyes. This is important since in some cases the DNR requires them to stock specific walleye strains. Lake Milona does not have that requirement. These fry are stocked into ponds where they grow to about 5 to 8 inches for a September harvesting and stocking into lakes. All of their fry are raised in ponds locally. He noted that cormorants are a major problem for them. As an example he cited the case of finding 42 4-inch walleye in one bird. They have permission from the DNR to do bird control. The fry eat zooplankton until they are about 1 to 1-1/2 inches long when they begin feeding on little minnows that they provide. The survival rate upon stocking is highly variable – perhaps 50% is a reasonable average. In response to the question of the effect of muskies on the stocked walleyes Rob replied that muskies and walleyes both need to eat meat so “if I’m hungry and you fit into my mouth I’ll eat you”. Under the best conditions a fingerling could grow to 15 inches by the next spring, but more typically it would take 3 to 4 years. Some questions were raised concerning carrying capacity for our lake, fish shocking survey data and zooplankton level in our lake. These all relate to determining the stocking level for our lake. Steve DeSutter noted that the DNR also stocks fingerlings. Our stocking is supplemental and our level of stocking is coordinated by the DNR through a permitting process that is related to the stocking plan for the lake. Historical population data are available on the DNR web site; however, the true test about the condition of our population is seen by what folks are catching. No change in our current stocking plan is expected.

## **Business Meeting**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Bob Larson said that we now have 447 members. Most members donate additional money at the time of their membership renewal that goes to a variety of projects around the lake. Our general fund, walleye stocking fund and invasive species fund are in good shape. A question was raised concerning more detailed financial information. The answer to this question is that it is our Lake Association policy to not make this information public. Since both this meeting and our Newsletter are available to the public specific details are not provided either at this meeting, our Board meetings or in our Newsletter. Any member wanting financial details can obtain this information by contact Bob.

Two additional stocking questions were raised. The first was concerning the value of stocking other species in addition to walleyes. Steve DeSutter answered this question by explaining that it was raised during the discussion of our stocking arrangement with Klug’s Fish Farm and the conclusion was that this approach did not provide any advantage to our lake fish population. The second question concerned the stocking site. Steve reported that the fish were stocked at our Lucky Acres and Sandy Beach sites, but others might be used in the future.

**Boat Parade:** Steve DeSutter reported that our annual boat parade is scheduled for noon, July 4<sup>th</sup> starting at Sandy Beach. The direction of the parade will be determined by the wind direction. Details will be the same as last year: There are three categories for judging: pontoons, boats and jet skis. One needs to register to be eligible for a prize. Folks should plan to arrive at about 11:00 a.m. to register.

**Fundraiser:** Steve DeSutter reported that our annual fundraiser takes place on August 10<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 10 p.m. at the Leaf Valley Town Hall. Tickets for this event will be available at the door and from the Lake Milona Association Area Directors during the summer.

**Fish Stocking Report:** Steve DeSutter reported that we plan to continue our stocking efforts this fall as part of our joint program with Lake Ida.

**Smokey Timbers:** Jack Anderson reported Smokey Timbers would be holding its annual fish fry fundraiser on August 4<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 to 2:30. A free will offering to Smokey Timbers will be appreciated.

**Bog Removal:** Steve DeSutter reviewed the “Once-in-a- Lifetime Bog” removal project that was reported on the front page of the Wednesday, May 15, 2019 issue of the Echo Press. Video pictures of the bog were shown at the meeting. Details of the removal can be found in the Echo Press. Steve noted that it is a policy of the Lake Miltona Association that bog issues are the responsibility of individual property owners and not the Lake Association. However, in consulting with the DNR the conclusion was reached that this bog could not be anchored nor readily moved. Due to its size this loose bog presented a real and potential damage to multiple properties around the lake. Therefore, the DNR granted special permission to remove the bog. Because it was important to act quickly the Lake Association hired a contractor to remove it. Lake Association member volunteers helped in the removal. Permission was granted by the Carlos Sportsmen to use their access for the removal. The removal took almost 3 10-hour days and 150 truckloads to remove it. Unfortunately, the removal operation did produce bog debris that remained in the lake. Charles Angus reported that a number of lake owners did have some of this initial debris removed from their area by the same contractor who removed the main bog and that they appreciate the support of the Lake Association to cover the cost for this follow-up cleanup. Steve reported that the residual debris is no longer threatening and it will be the responsibility of individual property owners to deal with it. A person at the meeting noted that Alex Rubbish & Recycling, the garbage service they used, would take this bog refuse with no cost at the Demolition Site on MN 29. Another person at the meeting reported anchoring a second 100 x 40 foot bog near their property. Steve noted that due to the high lake level more floating bogs might be expected.

In response to the question about the future bog policy Steve reiterated that the Lake Miltona Association does not have any responsibility for bog removal or continued cleanup. Any action concerning bog removal needs to be approved by the DNR. Decisions concerning future actions would be based on recommendations from the DNR as was done in this bog removal case.

**New Business and Open Forum:**

- (1) A question was raised about spraying for control of northern milfoil. No commitment was made at the meeting. Steve suggested those concerned should contact the DNR to get approval and bring a plan to the Board.
- (2) A question was raised about spraying for forest tent caterpillars. The person asking the question had heard that spraying was going to be done in the Lake Miltona area. Steve DeSutter reported while some spraying is done around Lake Miltona, the Lake Association’s policy is that any spraying is the responsibility of local landowners.

**Adjournment:** Seeing no further business Marc Bot moved and Jerry Fulton seconded that we adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gene Rose, Secretary.