



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

Annual Membership Meeting Minutes – June 5, 2021 – Community Center, Miltona, MN
(This is a draft copy to be approved in the June 2022 Annual Meeting)

Officers in Attendance: Steve DeSutter, President; Bob Larson, Treasurer; Gene Rose, Secretary

Board Members in Attendance: Jack Anderson, Ted Boehne, Tom and Cheryl Brauer, Shannon Burgad, John Fair, Patricia Ferguson, Jerry Fulton, Carol McCarthy, Randy Hansen, Skeeter Kingsberg, William Moeller, Wally Roberts, Vern Suhr, Tom Struthers, Dave Werpy

Call to Order: President Steve DeSutter called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Verification of Quorum: President Steve DeSutter confirmed that a quorum was present. Forty-four people attended the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: John Fair moved and Paul Shadle seconded that the draft of the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes be approved as published. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of Directors: President DeSutter said that the list of Directors as printed in our Spring Lake Miltona News with exception of Marc Bot agreed to serve on the Board of Directors for the Lake Miltona Association. An addition to the list is Paul Shadle for Area 2B. So, the final list of nominees for the coming year is as follows:

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|----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Area 1 | Lynn Glesne, Dave Werpy | Area 8 | Carol McCarthy & Gary Fuchs |
| Area 2 A | John Fair | Area 9&10 | Jerry Fulton |
| Area 2 B | Jack Anderson, Paul & Michelle Shadle | Area 11 | Pat Ferguson |
| Area 2 C | John Fay | Area 12 | Mike Wrobel & Warren Davis |
| Area 3A | Skeeter Kingsberg | Area 13 | Ted Boehne & Tom & Cheryl Brauer |
| Area 3 B | Vern Suhr | Area 14 | Tom Struthers |
| Area 3 C | Gene Rose | Area 15 | Wally Roberts |
| Area 4 | Steve Herth | Area 16 | Anne Rykken |
| Area 5 | Emily Yonke | Area 17 | Steve DeSutter & Bob Larson |
| Area 6 | Shannon Burgad | Area 18 | Randy Hanson |
| Area 7 | William Moeller | Area 19 | Don Henning |

Paul Shadle moved and John Fair seconded the motion that these nominees be elected to serve until the 2022 annual meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Speaker: Dave Rush, Director of Douglas County Land & Resources

Dave started his presentation by stating that his goal for the Douglas County Land & Resources is to help us understand how to comply with the various ordinances and to understand why they are in place. His preference is to work with lake people at the front end of a project rather than after it is started. For example, he urged us to call the Land & Resources office rather than to talk to a neighbor to decide when a permit is necessary before proceeding with a project on the lake.

Dave provided 5 handouts: (1) "A Quick Guide To Owing Lakeshore in Douglas County." (2) "Douglas County Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Map". (3) "Invasive Species" identification card. (4) "Douglas County Resolution No. 21-64", which is resolution passed concerning the establishment of Otter Tail County Ditch 71 to lower the water level of Nelson Lake. (5) "Douglas County Shoreland Ordinance Revisions" The last two items were discussed in detail in his subsequent presentation and copies of each are included with the minutes.

Dave started his presentation with a quick overview of the Douglas County aqueous invasive species (AIS) program. Two features he mentioned are the extra inspection hours for AIS at launch sites and the new Aqua Weed Stick self-service cleaning tool. Our lake association contracts for the extra inspection hours. An example of the importance of maintaining our inspection vigilance is the Lake Koronis starry stonewort infestation. The Aqua Weed Stick self-service cleaning tool can be used to clean a boat in about 10 minutes without damaging the boat. More information on this tool can be found in our Spring 2021 Newsletter.

In his second topic Dave explained why the Douglas County Commissioners passed Douglas County Resolution No. 21-64 concerning the proposed Otter Tail County Ditch 71 project. He explained that the reason for this ditch is to lower Nelson Lake because it is currently flooding property and Otter Tail County Road 6. However, as he pointed out, Nelson Lake is listed as impaired by the DNR. Nelson Lake contains high levels of phosphorus. Water from this ditch would eventually reach Lake Miliona via Dittberners Creek. Miliona is identified by the DNR as a high quality, unimpaired lake having a high sensitivity to become polluted by phosphorus. Therefore, this resolution requests that the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners suspend further action on the establishment of the Ditch 71 until a more thorough analysis of any and all alternatives to alleviate the high water issues of Nelson Lake is completed. Furthermore, the resolution requests that this issue be resolved by incorporating the proposed solution in the Long Prairie River One Watershed, One Plan.

Dave's third topic was a review of the proposed Douglas County Zoning Ordinance requirements for "*Additional Provisions within the Residential Shoreland District.*" Three areas are addressed in this ordinance revision: (1) Natural rock riprap. (2) Clearing, grading and draining. (3) Storm water management.

With respect to item #3 he reported that the pervious paver credit is being changed. Although the process worked well the DNR does not want the County to allow a 100% credit for its use.

With respect to riprap (item #1) Dave noted that it is a good tool to prevent erosion, however the banks often lose natural protection and habitat such as fallen trees, pencil reeds and other vegetation. Once in place it typically does not let natural vegetation come back and it also requires continual maintenance. He said that it should be used only where it is necessary and that Land & Resource personnel want to inspect the proposed use before it is put in place. And, yes, you need a permit.

For the clearing/draining issue (item # 2) Dave said there is currently no ordinance related to moving dirt around on a lake lot. BUT, he noted, more and more people move things around as they do development projects on their property. The Land & Resources department wants to have input before something happens, e.g., where does the water go after the dirt is moved, how does it affect the septic field, does it fill a wetland area, etc. The objective is to protect the lake. There is a new requirement to get plans reviewed before starting the project. There is no additional fee for this review.

Dave gave an update to the vacation rental by owners (VBRO) activity in Douglas County. He reported that there are 92 licensed units and perhaps 10-15 unlicensed. His office has only received two complaints so far. Therefore, the ordinance seems to be working. Dave encouraged folks to call this office if there were any issues with VBROs in their area.

In his last topic Dave reminded us of the water quality volunteering opportunities such as the “Starry Trek” search for starry stonewort in August. It is an invasive algae that was first found in Lake Koronis in 2015 and has since spread to 14 Minnesota lakes. (Notes added after the meeting: Here’s is the link to Starry Trek: <https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/ais-detectors/starrytrek> . Justin Swart told me the 2021 Starry Trek page will go live on July 2. Starry Trek will take place on Saturday, August 21st, 2021. Justin Swart also recommended the AIS Detectors Program for more volunteer opportunities. Here’s that link: <https://www.maisrc.umn.edu/ais-detectors>)

Dave then opened his presentation for questions. Several questions from the audience related to the proposed Nelson Lake drainage proposal. Some of the points that came forth in the discussion were as follows: (1) No final decision has been made by the Otter Tail Commissioners concerning what should be done about the flooding. (2) Draining the Nelson Lake would require a DNR permit. (3) We (Douglas County) do need to protect our resources. (4) Weed growth is only a subjective measure of phosphorus contamination. Other factors are also important to the growth of vegetation. In response to a zoning ordinance Dave emphasized the importance of contacting Land & Resources for advice concerning ordinances and permits. In response to a question concerning the Pilgrim Point Park development, Dave reviewed the unique features this provided Douglas County. A key feature is the public beach it provides. It also preserves unaltered shoreline and local heritage.

Business Meeting

Steve DeSutter opened the business meeting noting that as an organization we care about our Lake. We do inspections at our lake accesses to maintain our water quality. Involvement by our members, for example, in addressing the issues with the Nelson Lake project and encouraging our neighbors to call Land & Resources about ordinances and permits, also helps to protect it. The more members we have the more effective we will be at maintaining the quality of our lake.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Bob Larson said that we now have 458 members. Many members donated additional money at the time of their membership renewal. This money is designated to a variety of projects around the lake. Our general fund, walleye stocking fund and invasive species fund are in good shape. Any member wanting financial details can obtain this information by contact Bob.

Boat Parade: Randy Hansen reported that our annual boat parade is scheduled for noon, July 4th starting at Sandy Beach. The direction of the parade is planned to go clockwise around the east side of the lake. 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 14th 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 Miltona Association Area Directors during the summer.

Fish Stocking Report: Steve DeSutter reported that about 45,000 fingerlings were stocked last year. He said our 3-year contract with the Lake Ida Association had expired. They do not want to be part of a new 3-year plan so we are proceeding to negotiate our own. While Bob Larson indicated in his Treasurer's report that we have adequate funds to continue our stocking efforts, Steve and Bob noted that walleye stocking is a large annual expense and the support of our program by member donations and local organizations is greatly appreciated.

New Business and Open Forum:

- (1) A question was raised about the condition of the dam on the southwest end of our lake. Some erosion was noted on the east side of the dam. Is it in need of repair? Gene Rose reported that he had contacted Emily Siira about 2 weeks ago concerning the dam. She said that she checked it last fall and found it be in satisfactory condition. Gene volunteered to follow up on the current condition of the dam. A second question raised was whether the level of the dam could be raised. It was noted by several folks that this request has been an on-going issue, but the DNR, who controls the dam, has not consented to this in the past.
- (2) A unique picture of a loon on one of our platforms was shared with those in attendance. A copy of it is attached for you to enjoy.

Adjournment: Seeing no further business John Fair moved and Pat Ferguson seconded that we adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gene Rose, Secretary.