

#  LAKE MILTONA ASSOCIATION

## 790 East Sandy Beach Road NE, MILTONA, MN 56354

#### Annual Membership Meeting Minutes – Draft (To be approved in the 2019 Annual Meeting)

#### June 9, 2018 – Community Center, Miltona, MN

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

**Board Members in Attendance:** Jack Anderson, Ted Boehne, Tom Brauer, John Fair, John Fay, Pat Ferguson, Jerry Fulton, Lynn Glesne, Randy Hansen, Don Henning, Steve Herth, Skeeter Kingsberg, Wally Roberts, Vern Suhr, Mike Wrobel, Emily Yonke

**Call to Order:** President Steve DeSutter called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Jerry Fulton moved and Marc Bot seconded that the minutes from the 2017 Lake Miltona Association Membership Annual Meeting be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

**Election of Directors:** President DeSutter said that the current officers and the following slate of Directors have agreed to serve the Lake Miltona Association for the following year:

Area 1 Lynn Glesne Area 2 A John Fair

Area 2 B Jack Anderson

Area 2 C John Fay

Area 3A Levern Kingsberg

Area 3 B Vern Suhr

Area 3 C Gene Rose

Area 4 Steve Herth

Area 5 Emily Yonke

Area 6 Wendie VanKirk

Area 7 William Moeller

Area 8 Carol Goodin & Gary Fuchs

Area 9&10 Jerry Fulton

Area 11 Pat Ferguson

Area 12 Mike Wrobel & Warren Davis

Area 13 Ted Boehne & Tom Brauer

Area 14 Steve DeSutter

Area 15 Wally Roberts

Area 16 Anne Rykken

Area 17 Marc Bot & Bob Larson

Area 18 Darrell Olson & Randy Hanson Area 19 Don Henning

John Fair moved and Randy Hansen seconded that the above nominees and current officers be elected to serve until the follow annual meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

**Speakers:**

**Dave Rush, Director Douglas County Land and Resources**

The first topic that Dave covered in his presentation was a review of the status of the use of private homes for vacation rental in Douglas County. He noted that this has become a growing concern during the past 10 years. He suggested that this increased interest was due to several factors including the disappearance of many smaller resorts and the obvious interest in using rent income to cover the property taxes of the properties. There are currently between 80 to 100 of these rentals listed in Douglas County for 2018. Because of this growing number of rentals and the issues related to them a diverse work group was formed in 2017 to see what action should be taken. Issues to address included noise and parking due to large numbers of guests, trespass issues of people and dogs, security issues, suitability of the rental for guests and who to contact concerning concerns or issues. The work group recommended that a set of standards be established for the operation of vacation rentals that included a process for licensing. On March 5, 2018 the Douglas County Commissioners adopted an ordinance for this licensing program. It is for homes rented out for less than 30 days. Verizon Public Health will be caring out the licensing. They will inspect the homes to be certain they meet certain safety and use guidelines, e.g., proper egress, fire alarms, property boundaries, parking [not on roads], dumpsters, and septic system that are in compliance. The size of the property places a limit on the number of guests and some of the guidelines. For example, the number of guests is limited to 3 per bedroom and no more than 12 per home. Also the number of extra guests on the property is limited to prevent the rental from becoming an “event center”. Dave noted that the county acknowledged reservations for this summer have been made prior to the ordinance being adopted and for this reason the county will not be enforcing the overnight guest limitation until after October fist of this year. A good neighbor brochure guide for the rental and a contact person for the neighbors will be provided through the licensing agent. Dave said that information on this new policy has been sent to all of the owners and he hopes that all the rentals will be licensed by the end of this summer. In response to a question, Dave noted that a rental could be shut down if it does not comply with the ordinance. Verizon Public Health has been given authority to enforce the ordinance. A continued non-compliance would result in a misdemeanor. In response to a question concerning the regulations and fees, Dave referred us to the web page for the application. Here’s a link to the application form: <https://www.douglascountynv.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1578/Vacation-Home-Rental-VHRP-Application->

In the discussion following this part of the presentation on private home vacation rentals Dave noted the following: The licensing for this use is an annual process. Neighbors cannot prevent this use of the property – it is a permitted use regulated by the ordinance. No information will be available outside the house to indicate the property is licensed. If the property is rented for more than 30 days it is no longer regulated by this ordinance, but is considered a residential use.

In his second topic Dave reviewed a guide to better management of lakeshore land. He emphasized that the greatest impact on the lake water quality is from the land 50 to 100 feet back from the shore. Some sort of buffer is recommended to limit unwanted runoff into the lake.

In his third topic Dave reported that a permanent decontamination station has been completed at the Krueger Creek access site on Lake Le Homme Dieu. This site was chosen because it is the second most busiest access site in Douglas County. He noted that the Lake Miltona East access is the third busiest access site and the City of Osakis access site is the busiest in Douglas County. He said the county plans to build additional permanent decontamination sites because they are more economical than the temporary units. Finding people to staff the units has been more difficult this year. In response to a question, Dave told us that the decontamination units would clean boats before a trip, but boats about to launch in one of our lakes would have priority for the cleaning.

Dave then reviewed lakeshore owner’s property rights. He stated that people in boats do not have the right to access the owner’s land above the ordinary high water mark. But boaters have the right to be on anything naturally out in the lake, e.g., a sandbar, but not to owner’s docks. He suggested posting the property with no trespassing signs to shorelines is trespassing has been a problem. If the land is posted and trespassing occurs those trespassing can be prosecuted. One does not need to post their dock. A question was raised concerning owners being blocked by boats in front of their dock. Dave said this is a gray area. Good navigation courtesy should prevent this, but it would be difficult to enforce.

Dave’s final topic concerned ice heaving. Dave said shoreline damage must be fixed during the year it happens. A permit is required. If it is not fixed in the year it happens the owner is stuck with it.

**Steve DeSutter and Paul Anderson - “Score Your Shore” Update:**

Steve and Paul reminded the meeting about our program designed to help our members achieve the best practices for management of lakeshore land that was mentioned in Dave Rush’s presentation. Paul brought our scoring forms to the meeting if any one would like to be part of the program. He also said that we still have the water quality dedication signs to give to those who complete the “Score Your Shore” evaluation sheet. Steve told us that this is not a pass/fail exam but a way to help all of us think about how best to manage our shorelines to minimize negative impact on our water quality. He also reminded us that this survey is part of the Parkers Prairie biology class program that we have been sponsoring in the fall. (Note added during preparation of the minutes: More information on this “Score Your Shore” program can be found in our Lake Miltona News, May 2016, page 3.)

**Randy Hansen – Loon Project:**

Randy provided an update on our program to encourage loon nesting on Lake Miltona by building nesting platforms for them. He reminded us that in 2017 two platforms were constructed and placed in Tamarac Bay. Loons nested in one of these two platforms. These two were placed in Tamarac Bay again this year. Students at Parkers Prairie constructed two platforms one of which was place by Smokey Timbers. Jerry Fulton et al. constructed one that was placed on the west end of Lake Miltona. The final two locations were one on Lake Miltona close to the entrance to Mork Pond and the other one off the point between Tamarac Bay and the NE landing. As of the time of this meeting Randy said that only two of the six Lake Miltona platforms had active nests. Randy also worked with a crew from Lake Vermont to build one that was placed on their lake. At the time of our meeting this one did not have an active nest, however, Randy said that Lake Vermont did have one natural nesting this spring. In response to a question about how the platform locations were chosen Randy said that sites were located in openings in cattails or reeds with a depth of water about 2 to 3 feet. Randy said that care should be taken not to get too close to the platforms during the nesting time because the nesting loon will leave the nest. Maintaining a distance of 200 yards from the nest was recommended and that 50 yards is too close. There was general agreement that more nesting platforms could be placed on the lake. People interested in building and taking care of the platform should contact Randy. In addition to building the platforms they need to be put in early in the spring (right after ice out this spring) and removed after the nesting is completed.

**Business Meeting:**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Bob Larson said that we now have 422 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. No questions or concerns were raised. Any member wanting financial details should contact Bob.

**Boat Parade:** Randy Hansen reported that our annual boat parade is scheduled for noon, July 4th starting at Sandy Beach. In case of rain the parade will be held on the following Saturday. The categories for the parade will be the same as last year. One needs to register to be eligible for a prize. Randy suggested that 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 11th from 5 to 10 p.m. at the Miltona Community Center. 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 provided a review of our stocking efforts. He noted that we have not been able to stock fingerlings for two years due to the lack of available fish. Some of this may be due to the DNR demand. The DNR is no longer growing their own fish, but are buying them from private stockers. He said that in order to insure that we have fish for our stocking we have negotiated a joint contract with Lake Ida for 1000 pounds of fingerlings (6-8 inches, 30 per pound) to be stocked each fall for three years.

Several questions were raised:

(1) Would this contract buy the walleye fingerling from a local supplier? Yes.

(2) Does the DNR stock walleyes in Lake Miltona? Steve said that the DNR still stocks fry, but they do not stock fingerlings. He noted that the DNR is also still maintaining a stocking program for muskies in Lake Miltona. For the details he said one should contact the fisheries section of the DNR web site.

(3) Will we be able to stock additional walleyes above that specified by the contract? Steve replied yes, if they become available and we can obtain the permit to do so.

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

**Run Off Projects:** Steve DeSutter reported that the Sandy Beach project was finished last fall. An earthen dam was built to prevent road washout. We are looking for additional projects.

**Old Business, New Business and Open Forum:**

1. A thank you was offered to the Lake Miltona Association and those who volunteered for the Miltona Science Magnet Elementary School winter ice fishing activity we sponsored.
2. The problem of hazardous conditions on North Miltona Lake Drive due to speeding on this road was brought to the attention of the meeting. Steve said that unfortunately this is a county issue and not something that the Lake Miltona Association can control. He noted that homeowners along other roads with similar concerns have put up personal signs along the road to remind drivers of the speed limit.
3. A comment was made that the “Electrical Shock Drowning” article in our Spring 2018 *Lake Miltona Newsletter* was “wonderful.

**Adjournment:** Seeing no further business John Fair moved we adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gene Rose, Secretary.