



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

Annual Membership Meeting Minutes – Draft (To be approved in the 2017 Annual Meeting)
June 11, 2016 – Community Center, Miltona, MN

Officers in Attendance: Steve DeSutter, 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, Levern Kingsberg, William Moeller, Wally Roberts

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 60 people attended the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Randy Hansen moved and Jerry Fulton seconded that the minutes from the 2015 Lake Miliona 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 Miliona Association for the following year:

Area 1	Lynn Glesne	Area 8	Tim Lind & 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	Open	Area 17	Marc Bot & Bob Larson
Area 6	Todd Gease	Area 18	Darrell Olson & Randy Hanson
Area 7	William Moeller	Area 19	Don Henning

Mark Stenglein moved and Cheryl Brauer seconded that the above nominees and current officers be elected to serve until the follow annual meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Speakers:

Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen:

Senator Ingebrigtsen began his presentation by noting two items that illustrate his interest in lake water quality and other issues related to the quality of life at our lakes. First of all, he lives on Lake Ida and, secondly, his Senate district contains about 10% of all of the MN lakes. He noted that the activity of lake

associations has been very helpful addressing issues related to our lakes. He then provided an overview of some of the activities that the Minnesota legislature has been working on that affect our lakes.

His first topic was the status of the walleye fishing on Mille Lacs Lake. He said that the cause of the poor walleye fishery is still a mystery. He noted that Governor Dayton has proposed three million dollars to address this issue. Netting was suggested as one of the problems. Muskies were not thought to be the cause of the reduced walleye population. The muskie stocking in Minnesota lakes by the MN DNR is part of a 20-year program that the legislature is reviewing.

His second topic was aqueous invasive species (AIS). He noted that the MN legislature has funded the MN AIS center to address issues related to AIS. Flying carp would be a particularly devastating AIS. So far none of our lakes are affected. Zebra mussels are currently the most prevalent AIS problem in Douglas County. A study to evaluate the potential of treatment for zebra mussels with Zequanox has been funded, but no conclusions can be drawn from it yet. In the subsequent question/comment time Senator Ingebrigtsen was asked: Do zebra mussels die off? Senator Ingebrigtsen responded that he was aware of some evidence that this has happened in the Mississippi and in Wisconsin. However, he stated that preventing the spread of the zebra mussels by inspection and washing at landings is currently the best defense against their spread. This effort has been funded to a level of 14 million dollars. An ongoing issue of the inspection and washing is scheduling these activities at our many landings.

His third topic was the buffer zone issue. He noted that whereas the Governor's 50-foot buffer zone proposal seemed surprising, six Minnesota counties had instituted buffer zone ordinances by the time of his proposal. The buffer zones address the issue of direct runoff from fields, but tiling is also a potential problem that buffer zones do not address. Federal programs are available to help compensate farmers to address these issues. Counties were authorized to manage the buffer zone program in order to maximize local control.

For his final topic Senator Ingebrigtsen posed the question: "Was the Legislature's work done?" To which he answered: "No." He pointed out that the "bonding bill" was stopped by a last minute funding request that was added to it. Also, whereas it appeared that only last minute compromises were attempted to find an agreement on funding levels, work on finding compromise positions had actually been going on for 10 weeks before the end of the session. He said further meetings were still ongoing in an attempt to resolve the issues and come to some agreement.

Senator Ingebrigtsen then asked for questions and comments from the audience:

- (1) Comment: All of our lakes are in jeopardy if we do not understand what is happening at Mille Lacs. We need to continue to address this issue. Senator Ingebrigtsen agreed and noted that whereas the Mille Lacs walleye issue is a mystery the Red Lake walleye population did recover after its decline.
- (2) Question: Is there any possibility of a new sewer district being formed for Lake Miliona? Senator Ingebrigtsen had not heard any news of this proposal lately.
- (3) Question: Could you provide more information on the reaction to the buffer issue? Senator Ingebrigtsen noted that not all areas are against it. Part of the issue is that high corn and bean prices drove farmers to use every available acre. The new buffer law is the biggest movement to address the runoff issue of farming too close to drainage ditches. The issue is difficult because it is often seen as an issue of "it is our lakes" versus "it is my land".
- (4) Question: What are your thoughts about the SW Lake Ida runoff issue? Could the Legislature double the CRP benefit for farmers to put in runoff control near entrances to lakes? Senator Ingebrigtsen responded that perhaps we could spend more legacy money on this. He noted that an additional

challenge to the lakes is that they are becoming busier. Does this suggest that we need to revisit the sewer around the lake issue? Water quality is a continuing part of the conversation at the Legislature. He said that lakes are already regulated by statewide shore land management standards, such as the structure setback standards, so buffer regulations do not apply to lake beaches. With respect to runoff Senator Ingebrigtsen noted that natural collection ponds were effective in controlling runoff, but tiling negates this process. Again, he suggested that legacy money might be an avenue to address these tiling issues. He said: “Hopefully we can make an impact on the runoff issues. We do care about Minnesota – that’s why we are in St. Paul.” In a later follow up discussion on holding/settling ponds, Senator Ingebrigtsen pointed out that these ponds are a great opportunity for duck pond marsh development and he cited the example of such projects in the Red River Valley. He also said that some farmers are constructing holding ponds and suggested that this is an example of a program that could use some additional support, e.g., from the Soil and Water Conservation District.

- (5) During this pond discussion the question “Are geese a problem?” was raised. There was general agreement that geese were at least a nuisance and that led to the suggestion that perhaps there should be a special hunting season.

Paul Anderson - “Score Your Shore” Update:

Paul displayed the water quality dedication sign that our Lake Miliona Association is presenting to members who have completed a “Score Your Shore” shoreline evaluation sheet. These sheets were handed out last summer. Paul said he has received 60 evaluation forms to date, but would like to be able to reach the goal of 100. He has additional “score your Shore” sheets available if anyone needs them. They can be turned in to your area Director or at our LMA fundraiser. He emphasized that managing our shoreline is an effective way to preserve and improve our water quality. He noted that both the vegetation upland from the beach areas and those in the water are important for this preservation. (Note added during preparation of the minutes: More information on this program is presented in our Lake Miliona News, May 2016, page 3.)

Paul Anderson – Lake Shore Electrical Risks:

Paul provided a demonstration to illustrate the potential for electrical shock drowning resulting from electrical faults in lakeshore areas, particularly docks equipped with 120-volt outlets and attached equipment. His demonstration showed how a ground fault interrupter (GFI) outlet prevents a potentially paralyzing electrical shock to a person in the water near the dock. He noted that two people in Minnesota have died as a result of this effect. While this shock potential is typically only a problem within a couple of hundred feet for higher voltages this effect can even happen up ¼ mile away from the electrical fault.

He gave the following safety rule summary:

- (1) Always use grounded circuits.
- (2) Be sure the circuit has a GFI. See an electrician to be sure it is properly installed.
- (3) Be sure to test the GFI to be sure it is working. Small testers are available to do this.
- (4) Always turn off the electricity when you leave the dock area.
- (5) Never allow anyone to be in the water near the dock when the electricity is active. In the discussion it was noted that the GFI could be either an outlet or located in the breaker box for the circuit to the outlet on the dock area.

Business Meeting:

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Bob Larson provided a review of the Lake Miliona Association finances. Bob said we had about \$5000 in our walleye stocking fund and about \$3000 in our invasive species fund.

No questions or concerns were raised. He noted that any member wanting the financial details should contact him. He said that we currently have 418 members who have paid their dues for 2016. This is about the same number as last year. A question was raised: Does the Lake Miltona Association have a group membership category (e.g., for resorts or associations like the Miltona Bay Estates)? Bob answered that associations or businesses can have a membership, but it is not a category that would provide individual memberships to members of the association or business.

Boat Parade: Randy Hansen reported that our annual boat parade is scheduled for noon, July 4th starting at Sandy Beach. Randy will be there about 11:00 a.m. to register participants. He noted that this activity had about 30 participants last year.

Fundraiser: Steve DeSutter reported that our annual fundraiser takes place on August 13th 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. He noted that even if you cannot attend you are still eligible for a prize if you purchase a ticket.

Fish Stocking Report: Steve DeSutter reported that we received about \$5000 in membership donations for walleye socking this year. That amount covered the cost of about ½ of the 1100 pounds of fingerlings that we stocked this year. He stated that we plan to continue to stock about 1000 pounds of fingerlings each year. This is in addition to the socking of Lake Miltona by the DNR. The DNR usually stocks fry. The fingerlings are expected to be more successful in maturing than the fry. The fry are expected to suffer more loss because of competition from the zebra mussels.

Several questions were raised:

- (1) Does the DNR still stock muskies in Lake Miltona? Steve replied that they were still being stocked. He noted that a survey of our members showed that many members supported stocking muskies. (Note added during preparation of the minutes: An article in our November 2011 Lake Miltona News reported that 26% of the people who returned a “muskie survey” supported the DNR proposal to restore the muskie stocking rate in Lake Miltona from 800 to 1400 fingerling per year.) Steve noted so far we have been able to maintain a good walleye fishery.
- (2) What is the impact of tournament fishing? Jerry Haggemiller reported that tournament-fishing activities are listed on the DNR site. He said that the site currently lists one walleye tournament this summer and one muskie tournament in October. Tournaments need to pay a fee to the state for this activity. None of this money goes back to the lakes.

Smokey Timbers: Jack Anderson reported Smokey Timbers will be holding its annual fish fry fundraiser on August 6th fish fry from 11:30 to 2:30. A free will offering to Smokey Timbers will be appreciated.

Run Off Projects: Steve DeSutter reviewed our projects:

- (1) To solve the runoff problem behind Hidden Valley about 19 acres was seeded to CRP.
- (2) In the Sandy Beach area a quote is being obtained for a holding pond. We are soliciting support for this project from the US Fish & Wildlife department. Our Lake Miltona Association has also designated some money for support of this project.
- (3) The runoff project at Smokey Timbers has been completed and seems to be working fine. We still need a big rain to fully challenge this remediation project. It consists of a holding pond that drains through a sedimentation retention area to meter the runoff to the lake.

Questions/Comments were as follows:

- (1) Fish could not swim up Dittberner's Creek this spring. Could it be dredged to fix this problem? Steve said that this problem appeared to be due to the poor runoff from the melting snow and limited rainfall this spring. Jerry Haggenmiller added that the DNR was aware of the situation, but that they would not dredge the stream outlet.
- (2) The lake is low. Can we get more water from Lake Irene? Steve said that is not possible. The dams are controlled by the DNR.
- (3) How can we get a sewer system project started around our lake again? Steve did not know. No one else volunteered any response.

Old Business, New Business and Open Forum:

- (1) Would the Lake Miliona Association consider spraying for forest caterpillars? Steve DeSutter replied that this issue was reviewed several years ago by the Board and due to regulations related to spraying the whole lake they decided we should not take on this activity. The best approach is for interested parties to organize spraying for this problem locally.
- (2) Jerry Haggenmiller made two announcements:
 - a. The Parkers Prairie Sportsman Club is having its gun raffle/calendar fundraiser activity. (Note added in preparing the minutes: The Parkers Prairie Sportsman Club provides financial support for our walleye stocking in Lake Miliona.)
 - b. Nitrate well water survey test kits have been sent out to folks in nine townships in Douglas County. One of them is the Leaf Valley Township. Miliona Township was not included in this survey. These kits were sent to the home addresses of folks who owned summer homes in the township.
 - c. A density survey for zebra mussel villagers is being conducted on Lake Miliona this summer.
- (3) Jim Penkivech announced that there is a Miliona Lions fundraiser in Miliona tonight.
- (4) What can we do about zebra mussels attached to our docks and lifts? They can be scrubbed off mechanically or with a power wash or left on. (Note added during preparation of the minutes: More information on the answer to this question is presented in our Lake Miliona News, May 2015, page 3.)
- (5) Can the Lake Miliona Association take a stand to stop stocking Muskies? Steve DeSutter replied that this is not something we can do. He noted that the DNR uses the Lake Miliona fishing as a success story of stocking muskies and walleyes. As noted earlier, our response is to stock enough walleyes to maintain good walleye fishing through a vigorous stocking program of walleye fingerlings.
- (6) Tom Struthers made two announcements:
 - a) First, he wished to thank the Board members and officers for their service this last year.
 - b) Secondly, he described a program to support the nesting of loons on Lake Miliona. There was general agreement that our members might be interested in being part of this activity. An article in our Fall Lake Miliona News would be a good way to publicize this program.

Adjournment: Seeing no further business Steve DeSutter adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gene Rose, Secretary.