



LAKE MILTONA ASSOCIATION 2025 MEMBER MEETING

Date & Location:

JUNE 7 2025. 9:00 am, Miltona City Hall, Miltona, MN

Officers in Attendance:

President – Steve DeSutter

Vice President – Shannan Burgad

Treasurer – Chad Koebnick

Secretary – Janet Guinn

Area Directors in Attendance:

| Section | Name | Section | Name |
|---------|-----------------|---------|---------------|
| 1 | Mark Neidenfuer | 9 / 10 | Jay Sieling |
| 2A | John Fair | 12 | Mike Wrobel |
| 3B | Vern Suhr | 13 | Tom Brauer |
| 3C | Gene Rose | 13 | Cheryl Brauer |
| 4 | Steve Herth | 15 | Brad Roberts |
| 5 | Heath Hinsch | 16 | Steve Labatt |
| 7 | Mark Jacobs | | |

Call to Order, Welcome, Verification of Quorum:

Steve DeSutter 9:08 am

Approval of 2024 Meeting Minutes:

John Fair made motion to approve the minutes for the 2024 Annual Member Meeting minutes without changes, Jay Sieling seconded, all in favor, minutes approved.

Election of Directors:

Mike Wrobel made motion to approve the current board of directors with the new change that Mark Jacob will take over for Bob Streasick in area 7. Gene Rose seconded, all in favor, directors approved and retained.

Guest Speaker – Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and Lake Stewardship

Sami Selter, Associate Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers (ML&R).

- Sami gave a presentation (will be posted on LMA website) about the purpose of MN Lakes and Rivers. She stated ML&R has Lobbyists at the state capital to support policies that help lake associations manage aquatic invasive species, protect natural shorelines, and preserve Minnesota's lake heritage. Other topics she highlighted included:
 - A Lake Steward program - Lake owners can take a quiz and get input on steps they can take to improve their shorelines and habits for better lake health.



- Wake boating – impacts on our lakes, the new guidelines for operating wake boats in at least 20 ft of water, and at least 500 feet from shore. Lake associations can purchase a lake map that shows where it's safe and healthy to wake board on their specific lake.
- ML&R Membership – She encouraged everyone to join ML&R (minimum recommended contribution of \$25). Doing so helps support the research and education efforts and also makes a stronger lobbying voice at the state capital.

Guest Speaker – Dittberner's Creek Improvement Project Update

Jerome (Jerry) Hagenmiller is our district coordinator for the Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District.

- Jerry's presentation provided an overview of the project and included these updates:
 - The purpose of the project is to improve fish passage and provide additional spawning habitat for Lake Miltona's fish community. It will also address ongoing erosion issues that have increased the sediment load into Lake Miltona and is causing silt to be deposited in the spawning area.
 - The project scope includes installing a new culvert under Dittberner Rd. The final engineering design is being completed now. The engineers will determine if the old culvert should be removed or if rerouting the creek to the mouth of the new culvert is sufficient. Once the final design is complete, the project will go out for bids. Construction is targeted to start late summer/early fall.
 - The cost of the project is roughly \$325,000. Jerry, and Douglas Soil & Water, were instrumental in helping secure a grant from the DNR for the project. As part of the grant agreement, a 10% match from the local community is required. LMA will be setting aside the matching funds, and will be looking for donations and support from other local entities to help defer the cost
 - It was noted the bottom of the creek is heavily damaged from all the sediment built up over the years. Jerry believes the creek will restore itself to a healthy (rocky/gravelly) bottom once the culvert is fixed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Treasurers report: (Chad Koebnick)

- To date we have 255 members for 2025. Last year's membership was 478.
- Chad announced current balances of the general fund, walleye fund, AIS fund, and the Dittberner's Creek project fund.
 - Members asked why the LMA financials are not published. LMA President, Steve DeSutter, explained the board made a conscious decision to remove the financials from public view (newsletters and website) due to the volume of scams we were getting bombarded with.
 - As stated on the website, any LMA member is welcome to examine the financials personally, upon request. Although this is always an option, during the meeting, the LMA officers agreed to provide a copy of the financials at next year's annual meeting.



Walleye Stocking (Steve DeSutter)

- LMA will be stocking 1,000 lbs of walleye fingerlings this fall. Fingerlings are walleye fish that are about 6-8 inches long.
- Based on historical annual donations, which come from members and local Sportsman's clubs (Leaf Valley, Parker's Prairie, and bi-annually Carlos), we are confident we can raise the money to commit to 1,000 lbs each year. Whatever money comes into the fund, gets spent on stocking the following year. A couple years ago, we were able to stock \$1500 lbs of fingerlings.
- The DNR stocks walleye fry in Lake Miltona every other year. Fry are tiny walleye hatchlings. Although they stock several tons, these have less than 1% survival rate.
- The goal of the LMA is to increase the stocking levels to 1,500 lbs every other year (off years from when the DNR stocks fry). However, to achieve this goal, we will need significantly more donations (50% more than what is normally donated).
- We will try to promote this initiative so we might raise the funds to stock 1,500 Lbs in the fall of 2026.

Annual Fundraiser Dinner (Steve DeSutter)

- The annual fundraiser will take place on Saturday, August 9th at Leaf Valley Township Hall.
 - o Dinner from 5-7 pm
 - o Tickets are \$20 per adult (includes dinner, beer/wine, and chance to \$100 or \$50 in the attendance raffle)
 - o Area directors will be coming around selling tickets over the next couple of months. Please buy a pair even if you can't attend, We appreciate the donation.

Website Overview (Janet Guinn)

- The new website design is finished and can be found by simply googling "Lake Miltona Association", or by going to this URL: <https://lake-miltona.org> . You can find the following on the website:
 - o The ability to make payments on-line.
 - Pay dues
 - Make donations
 - Become a new member
 - o Update address information
 - Update mailing addresses, email addresses, and other contact information
 - Tell us if you are not receiving mailings (newsletters, directory, membership renewal reminder)
 - Tell us if you want to go paperless, and read everything on-line
 - o Register for the boat parade. (Please pre-register on-line)
 - Parade will be held on Friday, July 4th at Noon.
 - o Find out how to report suspected AIS invasions
 - o Read and download the newsletters and annual meeting minutes on-line
 - o Learn about lake stewardship risks of new AIS.
 - o Find your area director contact information
 - o Read important dates and reminders, and much much more...



NEW BUSINESS

Open forum

- Jay Sieling, president of the Douglas County Lakes Association and LMA director, announced the "Starry Trek" event on August 9, 2025. This is a DNR sponsored event where volunteers search for Starry Stonewart, the newest AIS threat in MN, in our area lakes. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jay or your LMA area director.
- **Q** – Is the DNR going to repair the dam anytime soon?
A – dam repair has not moved up in priority. Bery little hope this will gain momentum with the DNR anytime soon. Feel free to lobby them individually.

Adjourn:

Adjourned 10:57 am