



LAKE MILTONA ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING

Date & Location:

April 12, 2025. 9:00 am, LJ's Restaurant in 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	13	Ted Boehne
2B	Janet Zastrow	14	Tom Struther
2C	John Fay	15	Brad Roberts
3B	Vern Suhr	16	Steve Labatt
3C	Gene Rose	17	Tim Kaatz
7	Bob Streasick	18	Randy Hansen
9 / 10	Jay Sieling	19	Don Henning

Call to Order:

Steve DeSutter 9:08 am

Verification of Quorum:

9:08 am – 19 directors in attendance.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Jay Sieling made motion to approve the minutes for the January 11, 2025 meeting without changes, Shannon Burgad seconded, all in favor, minutes approved.



Agenda:

Treasurers report: (Chad Koebnick)

- Chad provided an overview of each account. Worth noting:

- **CD Renewal**

- The 2 CDs are up for renewal, and as approved at the last meeting, will be renewed: one for 6 months and one for 12 months.

- **Walleye Fund**

- Assuming membership donations follow previous years, we are expected to fall short of funds needed to cover 1000 lbs of fingerling stocking in the fall, by \$7,000.
 - Steve D will emphasize in our spring newsletter and at the annual meeting - if we want to continue annual stocking at current or even higher (1500 lb fingerlings) levels, additional donations are needed.

- **Dittberner Creek Project**

- The LV Sportsman's donated to this project 3 years ago. Steve D to have another discussion with them regarding the use of this money. (It's believed they originally donated for creek mouth repairs. However, there's no such project on the horizon and we need it for the culvert project.)
 - No other potential funding sources for the culvert initiative were discussed at this time. We still need to figure out how to come up with our portion of the project cost. (approximately \$33K)

- **Tax Audit Schedule** – tabled until July Meeting

- **Dues Timing and Discussion**

- Last year's membership was 480. All lakeshore owners total 680. We'd like to increase membership to at least 500.
 - Most of the directors agreed they would like more information about the households in their section. It would be great to know who in their section are currently paid members, past members not yet paid, and homeowners who have never been members.
 - In past years, directors were giving a list of people in their section who've paid/not paid their dues. This information was distributed with fundraiser tickets, so directors would be armed with the info when they went out to sell the tickets. We'd like to get them this info this year.

⇒ **Janet G** to get homeowner database from **John Fair** and membership database from **Chad K**, and together, prepare lists for each section director by the June annual meeting.

- In addition to the mailing sent to all the homeowners addresses, it was suggested we send a mass email to all the emails we have collected in the database.

⇒ **Janet G** to get the collective lists of all email addresses from **John Fair** and figure out how to send a mass email.



Old Business:

- **Loon Nesting** (Randy Hansen)
 - Every year we put out 6 platforms as soon as the ice goes out for loon nesting. These will be put out as soon as the ice goes out (Apr 14-15). Locations are: 1) West of the East Landing, 2) East die of Tamarac Bay, 3) East side of Tamarac Bay, 4) Smokey Timbers, 5) West side of west (Lucky Acres) bay, and 6) East side of the sandbar.
 - Randy also verified these platforms have been registered with the Sheriff dept (done every three years), so there should be no problem with continuing this initiative.
- **AIS & DCLA Update** (Janet Zastrow)
 - The AIS survey coordinated by the county will take place on Lake Miltona in June. The money to support this comes from the state of MN AIS Prevention Aid program which, in the Governor's current budget, has been recommended to be phased out by 2029. Should this budget cut be approved, the local program in Douglas County will be impacted. The Douglas County Lakes Association is working to identify opportunities that could offset the budget decrease and plan to make a recommendation to County Commissions in the coming months. The decrease could increase expenditures for the Miltona Lake Assn if we need to begin paying for surveys and access inspections.
- **4th of July Parade (FRIDAY, July 4, 2025)**
 - Randy graciously agreed to once again organize the parade project. He needs help with Day of registration. Janet G will ask new director, Heath Hinsch if he can help.
=> **Janet G** to work with **Gene** to figure out how we can get the parade registration onto the website, to help reduce 'Day-of' registration volume.
- **Dittberner Creek Project Update** (Gene)
 - Status is we are waiting on final plan. It seems the current plan calls for leaving the old culvert in place. In hindsight, that needs to be changed to remove the old culvert. However, before modifying the plan, the DNR needs to approve the removal of the old culvert. We are waiting on the DNR approval before finalizing plans.
- **Nelson Lake Update** (Gene)
 - Ottertail county approved a project (\$79K) to proceed with an environmental assessment worksheet with the intent of reconstructing and raising the road around Nelson Lake. This would alleviate their overflow problem and stop talk of diverting overflow into Dittberner's creek. Good news!
 - The Parker's Prairie newspaper reported on the project. The article mentions in addition to raising the road, the plan includes "rerouting the offtake ditch in a different direction". This is of some concern, as we do NOT want them routing anything on our direction! We need to figure out how to get more details on their plans.



- **Potential High-level Donors**

Schultz Family

- Steve L will follow up with his contact at the Schultz foundation about how best to approach the family members separately about a donation. In preparation, Chad will find out who is paying the lake association dues for the Schultz's (foundation or individual family members).

Minnesouri Club

- Jeff A. mentioned he knows someone who is part of the Minnesouri club association. He will reach out and ask for an introduction to the director of their association. If we can meet the right contact, we can make a pitch them about a potential "legacy" level donation, similar to what we hope to do with the Schultz family.

New Business:

- **Annual Meeting**

- Date will be Saturday, June 7.
- Speakers have been confirmed
 - => Jerry Haggenmiller will provide an overview of the Dittberner Creek Project (10 min)
 - => Sami Selter, from MN Lakes & Rivers, to come and speak about lake stewardship, etc (30 min)
- Janet Guinn will also show a brief overview of the new website, and how it can be used to view the newsletter, pay dues, make donations, update contact information, register for the boat parade, etc.

- **Spring Newsletter**

- The following articles and assignments were established.
Please send your content to Mike Wrobel by **MAY 1**.
 - Presidents letter & walleye stocking fund goals - Steve D
 - DCLA update and lake stewardship program - Jay
 - Q&A on new DNR officer, Jake Holman - Steve L
 - AIS survey update - Janet Z
 - Nelson Lake update - Gene
 - Treasurer report - Chad
 - Loon article with photos & boat parade - Randy

- **East Sign Repair**

- The sign at the east access blew over and needs about \$250-300 worth of repairs. A motion was made by Jay to move forward, seconded by Gene. All in favor, motion passed. Donnie & Jim will fix it.

- **Annual Meeting**

- The annual meeting will be Saturday, August 9th at Leaf Valley Townhall.
=> **Chad** to send deposit
- Ticket prices will remain the same. (\$20 per person)
- Menu will remain the same, chicken & meatballs (Our cost will be \$14 per person)



- **Misc:**

- There is an Ottertail Lake Stewardship Symposium, May 31 at Thumper Pond Resort. More information can be found here: <https://ottertailcountycola.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Flyer-250312.pdf>
- Lake Region Energy Service is planning on (eventually) building natural gas lines around the lake. Donnie will ask them to send us their plans. Maybe we can include it in the newsletter to inform people what may be coming their way in the future.

Next Quarterly Board Meeting:

Saturday, July 12, 2025. 9:00 am, LJ's Restaurant in Miltona, MN

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn by made by Donnie, seconded by Tom, all in favor.

Adjourned 10:30 am