



LAKE MILTONA ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING

Date & Location:

January 11, 2025. 9:00 am, LJ’s Restaurant in Miltona, MN

Officers in Attendance:

President – Steve DeSutter
Secretary – Janet Guinn

Area Directors in Attendance:

Section	Name	Section	Name
1	Mark Neidenfuer	13	Tom Brauer
2B	Janet Zastrow	13	Cheryl Brauer
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

Others in Attendance:

Guests in attendance: Wally Roberts – Smokey Timbers Camp

Call to Order:

Steve DeSutter 9:08 am

Verification of Quorum:

9:08 am – 17 directors in attendance.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Jay Sieling made motion to approve the minutes for the October 12, 2024 meeting without changes, Cheryl Brauer seconded, all in favor, minutes approved.



Agenda:

Treasurers report: (Chad Koebnick not in attendance, but sent update via text to Steve DeSutter)

- Yearend Annual Results
 - Overall assets increased by \$2,000, due mainly to the increase in the membership fee amount.
 - Current balance is \$143K.
- Walleye Fund
 - Current balance is \$8,000 (down \$1,000 from last year at this time)
 - There are donations (approx. \$15K) pending deposit from the Leaf Valley and Parker's Prairie Sportsmen Clubs.
 - Last quarter, \$19,000 was spent from this fund to pay for the stocking of 1000 lbs of fingerlings.
- AIS Fund
 - Current balance is \$33,000
- Dittberner Creek Project
 - Current balance is \$10,000. (Steve to follow up with Bob Larson to try to understand where this money came from. It was donated and set aside specifically for this project about 3 years ago.)
 - Need roughly \$33K for required 10% match of the DNR grant. Funds are not likely to be needed until project gets underway, which is targeted for fall 2025.
 - We are targeting the April meeting to identify and round up additional outside funding sources for the needed match. We will start with Leaf Valley Township for support, since the road is in that jurisdiction. If needed, we may work with the Soil & Water Conservation District Coordinator for help approaching the Douglas County Water Quality Legacy Fund for support.
=> Steve DeSutter to reach out to the Leaf Valley Township.
- General Fund
 - Current Balance is \$92,000.
- Tax Audit Schedule – tabled until April meeting
- CD Renewal
 - Interest earned on current CDs has been approx. \$1,200.
 - Don Henning made motion to renew the CDs in similar amounts and timeframes. Tom Brauer seconded, all in favor, motion approved.
- Dues Timing and Discussion
 - Membership letters will be sent in March.
 - The letter content will be changed to encourage members to pay dues on-line through the website.
 - We will also include a notice in the spring newsletter about membership dues and how to pay on-line.



Old Business:

Lake Access Monitoring

- Every year we spend \$2,500 from the Invasive Species Fund to augment the lake access monitoring the DNR does at the public access. The funds pay for monitoring boat traffic at peak times at the other 2 access points on the lake. Each year we get a report of the surveying done by the Douglas County Land & Resource's extra inspection hours. Last year's report has not yet been delivered, but when it is, we will post it on the website.
- Jay Sieling made motion to set aside the same amount of funds and continue the additional access monitoring in 2025. Gene Rose seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

4th of July Parade (FRIDAY, July 4, 2025)

- Randy graciously agreed to once again organize the parade project, but requested we find someone to help with Day-of registration.
=> Janet Guinn to work with Gene Rose to figure out how we can get the parade registration onto the website, to help reduce 'Day-of' registration volume. We will also include content in the spring newsletter and on the website to encourage people to pre-register.

Dittberner Creek Project Update (Steve)

- Steve circulated a copy of the DNR's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Legacy Grant for the project.
- The project is summarized as installing a new concrete box culvert in Dittberner creek which is an important Lake Miltona tributary. The intent is to improve fish passage and provide additional spawning habitat. It will also address ongoing erosion and reduce sediment load and silt build up in the spawning area.
- The grant outlines the cost of the project to be over \$340K, with a pledged 10% match amount of over \$32K.
- See Treasurers report above for LMA's ongoing plans for sourcing the pledged matching funds.

DCLA Update (Janet Z)

- DCLA recently donated to the Legacy Water Quality Fund. Worth noting is 4 of the 6 membered executive committee for DCLA live on Lake Miltona.
- DCLA receives a copy of the access monitoring reports and have been manually tabulating the results, looking for trends and any alarming rate of spread of invasive species. It should be noted the spread of curly leaf pond weed is on the rise.
- Lake Miltona is scheduled to be surveyed this year, but the county is yet to secure the contract to do so. Janet will give an update at the April meeting on securing the contract and scheduling the survey. She also noted some lake associations are surveying themselves and is something we might consider for other years.
- They are also starting to look at phosphorus levels. Janet suggests we get a new baseline phosphorus level done, as there hasn't been one in 10 years. She also recommends we start testing the inlets since phosphorus levels in Spring Lake and Irene are higher than what they are on Miltona



- Steve LaBatt motioned to initiate a stream monitoring project. Randy Hanson seconded, all in favor, motion passed. Janet Z volunteered to get quotes for the testing (baseline and regular inlet testing), as well as collecting samples at the inlets.

New Business:

Smokey Timbers (Wally Roberts)

- Wally attended the meeting to give an overview of the goings on at Smokey Timbers Camp. They had over 1800 visitors last year and a record number of reservations with no cancellations aside from 1 family emergency.
- Camp operations are funded mostly from camper fees. Special projects are funded by donations. Recent projects include upgrading the showers and the grounds irrigation system. New projects include replacing the decking on the screened in porch and updating the playground equipment.
- In the past LMA has made an annual donation of \$2,500 to Smokey Timbers Camp.
- Jay Sieling made motion to donate \$2,500 to Smokey Timers Camp for 2025, Tom Brauer seconded, all in favor, motion passed.
- Smokey Timbers also hosts a winter activities event sometime in February or March, 2025 date TBD (check their website for scheduling announcement). LMA usually helps by donating and serving grilled hotdogs at the event. Gene Rose made motion for LMA to continue contributing \$200-\$300 for hotdogs and supplies and volunteering at the event. Don Henning seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

Annual Meeting

- Date will be Saturday, June 7.
=>. Gene to update the website with the date.
- Suggested Speakers:
=> Gene to confirm Jerry Haggenmiller will provide an overview of the Dittberner Creek Project
=> Jay to ask Jeff Forester to come and speak about lake stewardship, etc

Fundraiser Event

- Ted confirmed the caterer is booked.
- Steve DeSutter to confirm booking with Leaf Valley Townhall

Spring Newsletter

- Pushed to April, so deadlines and content can be confirmed at the April Director's Meeting

DNR Roundup Update (Jay)

- Jay Sieling recently attended the DNR roundup conference. In addition to general session, Jay attended some of the breakouts. Jay noted the conference was very informative and shared the following highlights with us:
 - Muskie Breakout Session
With a healthy muskie ecosystem, Lake Miltona is still considered a premiere muskie lake in



Minnesota. Research, which included Lake Miltona surveys, shows a muskie's primary diet in shallow water is...Perch! Deep water muskies are presumably feasting on Ciscoes.

- Lake Revitalization Projects
Brady Swanson had a session on revitalization projects (dam and culvert replacements, etc) and how to manage them. Jay heard an overview on a project identical to the Dittberner Creek project, which may help us set proper expectations as our project progresses.
- Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Association
Jeff Forester is the Executive Direction of that association and is the primary lobbying source at the state capital for lakes and rivers initiatives. Jay suggested LMA join the association. In addition, we should encourage our LMA membership to become an individual member. The more members the MN Lakes and Rivers Association has, the more lobbying power Jeff would have at the state capital. As noted above, Jay will ask Jeff to speak at our annual meeting regarding the association and general lake stewardship.

Potential High-Level Donor

- LMA Director, Steve LaBatt, has a close contact who manages the Richard Schultz Foundation. Steve met with him and found out LMA does not qualify as a potential beneficiary of the Foundation. However, he was informed the Schultz family does make personal donations to causes they have interest in. Although Richard Schultz had not been on the lake in a decade, his family and friends actively use their lake property, and the family has no intention of selling it.
- Given this information, Steve's confident the family would entertain a donation request from LMA.
- Much discussion ensued regarding what type of donation LMA would ask for. A one-time (endowment) donation? A sponsorship of a specific project (such as the Dittberner Creek pledged amount)? An ongoing annual contribution, as a commitment to our LMA charter?
- In the end, it was decided Steve LaBatt and Steve DeSutter would visit Mike (Steve L's contact) in person at the Schultz foundation and provide an overview of our LMA charter and current initiatives and then ask for input on what might work for the family. Stay tuned for updates in April.

Misc:

The following events (not sponsored by LMA) were noted:

- Ribfest at the sandbar will take place on Friday, Jul 4, with Jul 5 as backup
- There's a Winter Blues and Jazz festival February 7-9 at Gathered Oaks Event Center

Next Quarterly Board Meeting:

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

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn by Brad Roberts, seconded by Tom Brauer, all in favor.

Adjourned 10:40 am