



# LAKE MILTONA ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING

## **Date & Location:**

OCTOBER 11, 2025. 9:00 am, LJ's Restaurant in Miltona, MN

## **Officers in Attendance:**

President – Steve DeSutter

Vice President – Shannon Burgad

Treasurer – Chad Koebnick

Secretary – Janet Guinn

## **Area Directors in Attendance:**

Section	Name
2B	Janet Zastrow
2C	John Fay
3A	Jeff Anderson
3B	Vern Suhr
3C	Gene Rose
9/10	Jay Sieling
13	Cheryl Brauer

Section	Name
13	Tom Brauer
13	Ted Boehne
14	Tom Struthers
15	Brad Roberts
16	Steve Labatt
17	Tim Katz
19	Don Henning

## **Others in Attendance:**

Lynn Glesne (section 1 homeowner, former LMA board member)

Wally Roberts (Smokey Timbers)

## **Call to Order:**

Steve DeSutter 9:12 am

## **Verification of Quorum:**

9:12 am – 18 directors in attendance.

## **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Jay Sieling made motion to approve the minutes for the July 12, 2025 meeting without changes, Gene Rose seconded, all in favor, minutes approved.

## **AGENDA**

### **Treasurers report:** (Chad Koebnick)

Chad presented details of all accounts. No questions or concerns arose. Worth noting:

- **Membership**

- 2025 membership has reached 468, achieving 97.5% of last year's membership of 480.
- Dues for 200 members were submitted on-line (43%).

- **Dittberner Creek Project Fund**

- Given the decision at the previous board meeting to allocate up to \$25,000 to this fund, Tom Brauer made the motion to immediately move \$13,000 from the general fund to the Dittberner Creek Project account, to reach a balance of \$25,000 and have the funds readily available at the start of project construction phase. Gene Rose seconded the motion. Janet Zastrow opposed due to concerns about unknown impact of the project to lake quality. All others in favor, motion passed.

- **Annual Fundraiser Results**

- Over 400 tickets were sold.
- Revenue exceeded last year's event.
- The fundraiser's net gain reached \$8,000; a milestone not achieved in recent history, if ever.

**Old Business:**

- **Fundraiser Banquet Review and Discussion**

- **Catering** (Ted)
  - There was some talk of moving the event to the 15<sup>th</sup> of August to avoid other planned events in the area. However, Clarissa ballroom has a conflict on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Since the food and service quality from Clarissa Ballroom Catering is always a highlight of our banquet, Tom Brauer made a motion to leave the event as planned, i.e. the second Saturday of August, August 8<sup>th</sup>, and continue using Clarissa Ballroom as the caterer. Ted Boehne seconded the motion, all in favor, motion passed.
- **Prizes** (Shannon, Cheryl, Ted)
  - There were significantly less prizes collected this year than last year (half as many).
  - Only a handful of directors collected prizes.
  - Many directors commented the vendors they were assigned were no longer viable sources.
  - Steve DeSutter announced we would spend time at the April meeting cleaning up the potential donor list, director assignments, and revise the process for soliciting prizes.
- **Ticket sales** (Chad)
  - Although ticket sales were still strong (409), the number is deceiving because Don Henning sold a third of the total tickets by himself!
- **Process for next year** (Comments collected from all directors)
  - We are soliciting late and need to start earlier. Sometimes the donor sends you through a corporate review process that can take over a month or longer.
  - We should expand our list of donors to include the hospitality sector, i.e. target hotels, etc. because many lake owners would like to invite family and friends to the area but don't have the room for additional boarding,
  - To help increase ticket sales, when we send out the membership dues letter in the spring, maybe we can include the ability to buy banquet tickets as well as raffle tickets for the fundraiser. Need to brainstorm a process for this.
  - Is there a way to sell tickets on-line? (Janet G to work with our website designer to investigate options.)
  - Some negative comments received: the venue is too loud, too crowded, and the continual raffle drawing announcement left no time for visiting.
    - More conversational and not just 2 hrs of announcing raffles. More breaks??
    - Expedite raffle drawings. Maybe use a monitor system for announcing winners?
    - Should we start considering larger (and/or better acoustics) venues? Should we setup tents outside (we own tents)?

- Per Steve, as mentioned earlier, significant time at the April meeting will be devoted to improving the game plan for the fundraiser.
- **Pricing for next year** (Steve/Chad)
  - We essentially break even on a banquet ticket attendee. We have not raised the price on the ticket in more than 5 years. Don Henning made a motion to raise the price of the banquet ticket to \$25. Janet Zalstow seconded, all in favor, the motion passed.
  - Cheryl Brauer made the motion to lower the definition to free admission for children to those age 12 and under (currently 16 and under). Gene Rose seconded the motion. 1 opposed, all others in favor, the motion passed.
- **Fish Stocking Update** (Steve)
  - 1000 lbs of walleye fingerlings (at a cost of \$19,000) is yet to be stocked. Per update from Stuart Klug, DNR permit approval is waiting on the electro-shock survey, which has been delayed due to rain and high waters. Approval and stocking is still expected this fall.
- **Dittberner Creek Culvert Replacement Project Update** (Gene)
  - The revised engineering plan is complete and has been reviewed. Since there has been no mention of major revisions, it is assumed the original plan of leaving the old culvert in place is still current.
  - Work still expected to start this fall but it has been delayed due to high water issues and Jerry Haggemiller's extended leave. DCS&W will continue to manage the project.
  - Worth noting, the DNR has now classified the road above the creek as a bridge and will be notifying Leaf Valley Township of the reclassification.
  - Janet Zalstow requested a copy of the grant. (Janet G sent)
- **Lake Miltona Apparel**
  - Revenue for on-line clothing sales were almost identical to last year. (Approx \$2,500)
  - Profits earned covered the cost of the director shirts.
  - It was noted there were many people inquiring about where to order shirts at the fundraiser. Next year we will plan to set-up QR code signs on all the tables, to improve convenience and boost sales.
  - It was noted we should open the store earlier, so directors can provide QR code handouts when they are out selling fundraiser tickers in early July. It was agreed the store will be open July 1 thru Aug 15.

#### **New Business:**

- **Fall Newsletter Article and Topics**
  - Blue-green Algae report & Arsenic in wells – Janet Z
  - Dittberner Creek Culvert Project – Gene
  - DCLA Update, Lake Stewardship – Jay
  - Fish Stalking & President's Letter – Steve D
- **Lake Map PDF**
  - Last meeting we approved purchasing a PDF of our lake map from the DNR, but we did not have a means to purchase it on-line. Steve noted we need a debit card to make this and similar on-line purchases, as well as other purchases where check writing is a hassle or not supported. Jay made a motion to request a debit card to be used only by those currently authorized on the LMA checking account (Steve D and Chad). Cheryl Bauer seconded, all in favor, motion passed.  
=> Once we get the debit card, Steve D to order the lake map.  
=> Janet G to put the lake map on the website.

- **Leaf Valley Township Fire Department** (Steve D)
  - The LVT fire department is starting to raise funds to purchase a new fire truck. They have asked for our support.
  - After discussions about half the lake being supported by this fire department, it was agreed its in our best interest to support this initiative. Steve L made a motion to comitt \$2,500 to the LVTFD, Don Henning seconded it. Chad amended the motion to state he would allocate the funds for this purpose. All in favor, motion passed.
- **Blue-Green Algae Report** (Janet Z)
  - Janet Zalstow reported we had a confirmed Blue-Green algae breakout in September. Samples tested positive and toxic. She also provided a map showing where the breakout was observed, as well as previous algae breakouts in recent years. Janet also noted the following concerns about the incident:
    - We had a meeting with DCS&W, but it was ineffective because 2 key resources (Jerry & Danielle) could not attend. Hoping to schedule another meeting soon to address many unanswered questions.
    - There's currently no process in the county to deal with this. (At first, no one was sure what to do with the sample taken.) There is no official procedure for reporting a suspected breakout or what to do when one is reported. There is also no notification process once a breakout is confirmed. This is especially concerning because certain levels of toxicity can be very dangerous, even fatal for our pets, and can also cause health issues in children. Furthermore, there is no procedure for determining when the breakout is over, and when its safe to go into the water again.
    - Lake Miltona is generally considered one of the best in the county for water quality. Therefore, having this dangerous algae bloom on a relatively healthy lake is particularity alarming.
  - Janet also provided a graph showing a disturbing upward trend of phosphorus levels in Lake Miltona over the past 7 years. Her next step is to put together a small work group to study this. (She hopes to report back to us in the upcoming board meetings on next steps.)
    - What is contributing to rising phosphorus levels?
    - Are there factors we can impact?
    - What environmental factors have we been delt we are forced to live with?
    - What processes are needed for monitoring, testing, notifying, prevention?
    - What other variables, other than phosphorus levels, can contribute to dangerous algae breakouts? (Such as alkaline levels, etc)
  - ⇒ If you would like to help Janet kick off this initiative, she is having a meeting at her home on **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm.**
- **Port-O-Potties** (Steve D)
  - LMA has been sponsoring the port-o-potties put out May-October at each of the 3 access points. The cost of renting these has tripled in recent years. Before voting on continuing to support this, Steve L has agreed to do some research on competitive pricing, and come back to use in January with options.

### **Adjourn:**

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

Adjourned 10:58 am