



Douglas County Lakes Association
Wednesday, February 8, 2012, 4:30 p.m.
Public Works Building
Alexandria, MN 56308

President Huettl called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with the following people present: Sue Engstrom – Darling, Jan Beliveau – Mary, Bob Reynolds – Devils/Little Chip, Gertie Wolf – Mary, Clarence Wolf – Mary, David Rush – Douglas County, Don Stallman – Irene, Don Clausen – Rachel, Tom Brunner – Red Rock, Karen Cook – Latoka, Steve Henry – L’ Homme Dieu, Jerry Haggemiller, Douglas SWCD, Emily Siira – Douglas SWCD, Jim Peterson – Ida, Bonnie Huettl – Lobster & Dorothy Klemann – Executive Secretary.

Dave Rush suggested an addition to the minutes as follows: Dave Rush presented information to the DCLA concerning shoreline stabilization and the use of rock rip rap. Rush informed the group that he believed DNR to be making a policy shift regarding rip rap such that it would not be considered the preferred method of stabilizing shorelines. Rush added that the LRM Dept. was preparing for an increase in the amount of stabilization that would occur on shorelines in the County after the high water and significant erosion from the summer of 2011. The County was considering a change in the ordinance that would require a permit for the installation of rip rap and would encourage the use of bioengineering techniques instead. Rush said that he was informing the group to solicit input, as this was just a consideration at this time. Rush went on to explain what bioengineering was and answered some questions related to shoreline stabilization. There was a motion by Jan Beliveau, second by Sue Engstrom to approve the January 2012 minutes with the above addition. Motion carried.

This meeting agenda stands as submitted.

Treasurer Jim Peterson distributed and reviewed copies of the financial reports. The checking account balance was \$3,677.22. There are bills to pay from Info-link \$25.00 and Country Secretary \$206.32. Motion by Jan Beliveau, second by Bob Reynolds to pay bills. Motion carried.

Emily Siira reported on behalf of Water Planning. She told the group that there is a need for lake level volunteers. She also reported receiving a \$30,000 grant for shoreland restoration on private or public properties. It is 75% cost share. They will try to utilize this grant in the most efficient way possible. On May 29 an intern from the Conservation Corps will start. The appointment will be paid for by the Conservation Corps. The Water Plan task force will meet on February 22. This year’s essay contest topic will be “How You Impact Your Watershed and How You Can Improve the Water Quality”. Dian Lopez of Lake Ida had contacted Emily to see if the District would co-sponsor or be the hiring agency for the DNR inspector grant. Ida Township has since offered to do this.

David Rush reported at this time on behalf of the County. He has received some clarification from the DNR. The hydrologist says that what was relayed last fall was not a change in policy. They are not changing their regulations. Rip rap will be permitted under a general permit. They have a sheet on how rip rap is to be installed. The DNR will be doing more to promote techniques other than rip rap. He read Stearns County Zoning ordinance: Bioengineered solutions, such as the use of natural vegetation, slope stabilization using mulch, biomass, or similar bioengineered means, shall be the preferred method of preventing or mitigating the risk of erosion. Rock riprap shall only be allowed when bioengineered solutions are demonstrated to be unfeasible. Riprap used for ornamental purposes or for terracing natural slopes shall be prohibited within the shore and bluff impact zone. Rock riprap permitted pursuant to this Section must be constructed in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide for rock riprap. For purposes of this Section, rock riprap shall mean coarse stones randomly and loosely placed along the shoreline.

Our ordinance currently states rip rap is to be used only when necessary. Last year through a citizen's committee the county board passed a resolution and provided some opportunities of funding for the county to purchase some equipment and some signage for aquatic invasive species. This year based on what the DNR is doing it would seem wise to pursue the purchase of another decontamination unit, also to apply for grant money to hire a level 2 and level 1 watercraft inspector. Dave explained the difference between the two levels of inspectors. He asked if the DCLA would serve as a partner organization with Douglas County. Bonnie clarified the DCLA's function would be to have volunteers serve as ambassadors and hand out pamphlets. We need to get our member lakes involved. Dave gave further details for the program. We would cooperate very closely with the DNR. The DNR will be offering inspector training in April or May. The grant must be submitted shortly. Douglas County is the only one with a decontamination unit so far. Douglas County will also be coordinating with the sheriff's office. Lake Ida is committing \$1500 and Lake Mary is offering volunteers. There was a motion by Bob Reynolds, second by Tom Brunner that the DCLA will serve as a partner organization with Douglas County in the Awareness Grant. Motion carried. Our individual lakes will be approached for both money and volunteers.

Dave told the group there is a bill being considered regarding vacation rental property. (House file #1523). If the bill is passed, you would have to allow rental use but you could potentially control aspects through licensing. There was considerable discussion.

Bonnie Huettl reported the cola is organized. They now have officers.

There was discussion of Day of the Lakes. It is scheduled for April 28th from 10 to 2 p.m. We could have 17 exhibitors here at the Public Works Building. Discussion followed.

Emily Siira asked if the DCLA is interested in sponsoring a booth at the Eco Fair on April 19 from 4-8 p.m. There was a motion by Steve Henry, second by Sue Engstrom to sponsor the booth at a cost of \$50. Motion carried. One person is needed to help Sue Engstrom at the booth.

Habitat Day is scheduled for Saturday, the 18th at the mall. Harry May and Karen Cook volunteered to help.

Our DNR grant request is for \$6300. This will help fund table tents, billboard, etc.

There was discussion of the DNR shoreland rules. We need to find someone to carry the bill.

President Huettl asked for some direction for the DCLA to take. Tom Brunner suggested sending out a survey to our membership with a questionnaire. We could do it in conjunction with our newsletter. We need input on what questions to ask.

Karen Cook reported for Carol Patterson Smith regarding Lake Brophy's lawsuit. The judge has recused herself and so it has been put off until April. Lake Brophy does need money.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Klemann
Executive Secretary
DCLA