

Douglas County Lakes Association

Wednesday, April 9th, 2014

Public Works Building

Alexandria, MN 56308

Vice President Dick Kuehn called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The following were present: Linda Dokken-McFann – Mary, Dick Kuehn – Miltona, Jim Peterson – Ida, Emily Siira – DNR, Dian Lopez – Ida, Harry May – Geneva, Don Clausen – Rachel, Don Stallman – Irene, Steve Henry – Le Homme Dieu, Bob Reynolds – Devils/Little Chippewa, Vern Lorsung – Latoka, Tim Sundby –Douglas County, Dave Rush- Douglas County,

Vern Lorsung made the motion to approve the agenda as written. Don Stallman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bob Reynolds made the motion to approve the February 12, 2014 meeting minutes as written. Steve Henry Sr. seconded the motion. Motion carried. Note there was no formal meeting in the month of March.

Dave Rush introduced Tim Sundby as the new employee with Douglas County Land & Resource Department. Mr. Sundby's primary work will include shoreline work permitted through the County and water quality issues. His previous experience was in Carver County in the area of impaired waters and streams, TMDL monitoring and improvement projects. Mr. Sundby will be the primary contact for shoreline alterations, stormwater, and water quality questions and concerns. Welcome Mr. Tim Sundby.

Mr. Rush reported that on April 8, 2014 the DC Board of Adjustments held a public hearing on the application for a new 996 animal unit feedlot south of Evansville. Prairie Lake Farm LLC (applicant) was seeking relief from the *required ½ mile (2640 feet) setback of an Agricultural River (Chippewa River) and a Recreational Development Lake (Long Lake)*. Approximately 60-80 residents were in attendance, 12 provided oral testimony and the County received around 35-40 letters. *Results of the hearing, the DC BOA denied the variance request.* The applicant can appeal this decision through the Court. The Court can uphold the County's decision or choose to send it back to the County if the decision was not clear or sound. The applicant can choose to reapply every year. Prairie Lake Farm currently have approx 200-300 head of cattle on various land parcels within Douglas County.

The County's goal is to have 10% of watersheds in perennial cover. This will help reduce the amount of fertilizer and sediment runoff into the streams and lakes. Feedlots and Manure application are regulated. *Fertilizer application for row crop farming and grazing operations are not regulated. Feedlots with 50 head of cattle or less are not regulated.* Per Dave Rush Douglas County has approximately 400 existing registered feedlots. Of that around 50-60% is in shoreland areas. With that said they are required to come into compliance with current ordinances and are inspected. Douglas County established Zoning Districts to address many of these concerns.

Mr. Rush advised us that on April 22, 2014 at 6:30 p.m., DC Planning Commission is holding a public hearing on some proposed Ordinance changes that may impact us. Under the Renewable Energy Ordinance solar will be permitted in all zoning districts if the guidelines are followed. Solar Farms will require a CUP (Conditional Use Permit). Short summary of solar states that ground mounts are treated as an accessory structure, needs approval and counts toward impervious surface numbers. A Solar Farm will require a CUP (Conditional Use Permit) approval.

Wind Energy Ordinance is more descriptive in that turbines are *not allowed* in Residential, Shoreline, General or Recreational Development Lakes. Natural Environmental areas small turbines will be permitted. To help site larger turbines areas the ordinance creates a Wind Energy Overlay District and a View Shed Protection Overlay District. View Shed Overlay District looks at areas that might be good for turbines but due to the nature of the area and it's attributes as an example the Runestone Park, turbines would not be permitted to spoil the scenic view.

Definition to Family Dwelling Ordinance will create a Boarding House use section that will require a CUP (Conditional Use Permit) approval. These include renting rooms to college students or guest workers. *Encourage everyone to attend this public hearing to learn additional details on these proposed ordinance changes.*

Douglas County received DNR grant for \$12,000.00 for AIS inspections this summer. The lower amount will affect the number of inspections and staff hours. Plan is to hire 4-5 inspectors. Hours and lake schedule to be determined. *A BILL has been introduced in the MN State Legislature (both House & Senate) to provide direct County aid to address AIS issues. Distribution is based on number of accesses and # of parking spots in which Douglas County's share would be around \$270,000.00. The proposed amount is 10 million taken out of the General Fund if this bill passes.*

Per Jim Peterson, DCLA Treasurer, as of this date the checking account balance is \$6121.27. There were no transactions in the month of March. Note R&B lab price per site is \$42.00.

Public Relations: - Harry May reported that Emily Siira with the DNR is the guest speaker this week on KXRA Radio. Lynn Nelson from Sauk River Watershed is scheduled for May.

Ms. Siira is with the MN Department of Natural Resources out of the Fergus Falls office. Her position is an Area Hydrologist. Ms. Siira reported that the DNR received 7 million for ground water management. Contaminated wells and water availability are the biggest drivers for this initiative. Ground water tends to be ignored because you don't see it. DNR have a statewide strategic plan on their website for review and comment. Their focus work is toward sustainability and guides how the DNR permit in the State. Farmers wishing to drill high capacity wells are permitted through the DNR. Compliance checks on permits are completed. Per Ms. Siira there are currently 3 Ground Water Management pilot programs in MN: White Bear, Straight River – Park Rapids area and the Bonanza Valley. Ground water is not a big issue in Douglas County except some areas by Hoffman and Parkers Prairie. There needs to be a balance between agriculture irrigation wells, ground water sustainability and water table levels. For further information you may contact Ms. Siira at Emily.siira@state.mn.us or (218) 739-7576 Ext. 232 or check out the DNR website.

Communications: Steve Henry Sr. reported that Eric Morkem is looking for material to maintain the Outdoor Page in the Echo Press. Fishing Opener, AIS or any articles related to lake matters or possible general interest pieces. You may send them directly to the Echo Press or to Steve Henry.

Douglas County Fair Booth: - Vern Lorsung made the motion not have a booth at the DC Fair due to the professional liability insurance requirement. Seconded by Harry May. Motion carried.

Calendar Contest: - Linda Dokken-McFann reported that she has three price bids Insty-Prints order of 1000 at 5.99 each. Estenson – order of 1000 at 5.98 each. Office Max: 8.99 no quantity required. She is waiting for another lead on a company that may beat all of these. Next step is to approach area merchants to sell advertisement to help offset the cost. 12 lake pictures will be picked by a committee. Each month will have a 1 by 11 inch advertisement at the bottom. Lake Associations will be asked to donate monies to cover the remaining cost. Calendars will be distributed throughout the Alexandria area free. If we choose to sell the calendars, any profits will be earmarked for the kids education fund projects. If anyone is interested in helping on this committee contact Linda Dokken-McFann.

Solar Power light at Lake Accesses: Steve Henry Sr. reported that the Lake LHD Assoc. voted to purchase the floating solar powered lights that will be placed at each access on LHD to aid nighttime boaters to find the access. According to Mr. Henry the County will put it in/out each season when they do the docks. No permit is required through the DNR. The unit cost is approx. \$325.00 – \$350.00. Any lake association that is interested may contact Steve Henry Sr. at 320-815-9606 for more details.

Zoning Committee: - no report this month.

Development Review Team : - no report this month.

Website Update : Per Don Clausen nothing new to report this month.

Kids Day – the date given is July 5th, 2014 from 10:00 – 2:00 p.m. at Fleet Farm.

Water Planning Update – Mr. Steve Henry Jr. was not available this month to give an update.

Lake Winona – MPCA has finally gotten the site specific standards request together and it is being sent to EPA on April 8th, 2014. Jan B. will continue to track the progress.

Water Conference: Jan Beliveau and Linda Dokken-McFann will be attending the *2014 State of Water Conference* May 1 & 2, 2014 to be held in Brainerd, MN. Linda presented the five tracks offered. A general consensus from the membership was Track 4 & 5 being the most beneficial. Track 4 Local Impact: Ideas for Getting Things Done and Track 5 focuses on Ground Water, Nutrient Management and Run-off.

Vern Lorsung made the motion to adjourn at 5:45 p.m. Linda Dokken-McFann seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes Recorded & Prepared by Linda Dokken-McFann