

Douglas County Lakes Association

February 11, 2015

Public Works Building

The meeting was called to order by President Jan Beliveau at 4:30 p.m. this date.

Present: Jan Beliveau - Mary, Linda Dokken-McFann - Mary, Steve Henry Jr. - SWDC, Bob Reynolds - Devils/Little Chippewa, Dennis Q. Miller - L'HommeDieu, Gary Waller - Red Rock, Vern Lorsung - Latoka, Jim Peterson - Ida, Mike Cleary - Stowe, Sue Engstrom - Darling, Emily Siira - DNR Area Hydrologist (guest speaker).

Linda Dokken-McFann moved, Bob Reynolds seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of Emily Siira as the guest speaker. Motion passed.

Bob Reynolds moved, Vern Lorsung seconded to approve the January 14, 2015 minutes as written. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report: Jim Peterson reported that the checking account balance as of 1/30/2015 was \$8791.10. There were no bills submitted. Treasurer report was read. There were no changes to report in the membership.

Zoning Committee: Sue Engstrom reported that Governor Dayton is on board with the 50 foot buffer zone requirement on lakes and ditches. Per Steve Henry Jr. - SWDC reported some Counties are being proactive - established a *compliance review plan* backed with County dollars and grant monies to access their lakes, rivers and ditches in their respective County. It is unknown where Douglas County stands on this issue.

Communications: Jan Beliveau made mention of Eric Morken's recent articles in the Echo Press in support of DCLA guest speakers topics.

Mike Cleary advised the membership of the 1st Annual Douglas County Bowfishing Challenge to be held June 13, 2015. Organized by Sportsmen Clubs from Alexandria, Brandon, Evansville, Millerville and Leaf Valley. Area lake association are requested to provide a minimum of \$100.00 financial support to a special prize pool. Volunteers will be needed on the day of the event to check in boats, weight fish etc. Entry fee is \$20.00 per person with a limit of 3 persons per boat. Contact Mike Cleary at 320-290-4490 or mcleary@gctel.net with your questions and offer to support the event. Liability Insurance was brought up. It was suggested that DC Land & Resource be contacted for any lakes with a water surface restriction with regards to lights at night. The DNR and Douglas County AIS contact person should also be notified of the event.

Per Steve Henry Jr. SWDC the 5th Grade poster contest will be held in March, 2015. The winning posters will be displayed at the Douglas County Fair. Dennis Miller moved, Linda Dokken-McFann seconded to approve \$500.00 donation for the purchase of science material to the winning classroom and five \$10.00 donation for individual poster winners for Stewardship Week Event. Motion passed.

Other events to be considered by DCLA:

Sue Engstrom will follow-up with Fleet Farm to see if they are interested in hosting a Kids Day Event this year.

Luther Crest also hosts a Kids Day Event. Date unknown.

4th Grade Ground Festival is the first Friday in May at the RCC.

*The DCLA will meet for a special meeting on February 19th, 2015 at 5 p.m. at the Travelers Inn. The focus of this meeting is to prioritize water quality concerns and decide DCLA involvement for the purpose of grant monies available. Need to bring to the forefront that "water quality" needs to be a high priority for all agencies in this County.*

*Guest speaker: Emily Siira, DNR Area Hydrologist*

Ms. Siira work area covers Douglas, Pope, Grant and Stevens Counties. An Area Hydrologists work falls mainly into the category of public water work permits and water appropriation permits. As funding changes so does their job focuses which now include clean water work and land use issues. In 1970 an inventory of lakes was completed in the State. Streams, ditches and wetlands were added. In 1977 the Shoreland Rules were enacted which broaden the work scope for an area hydrologist. Other jurisdictional boundary involves the Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL). For Lakes and wetlands, the OHWL is the highest elevation that has been maintained as to leave evidence on the landscape. It is commonly that point where the natural vegetation changes from predominantly aquatic to upland vegetation. *Look for the transition between cattails to canary grass is a good indicator of where the OHWL mark is.* DNR governs from the OHWL lakeward. Local zoning agencies govern from the OHWL upland.

Ms. Siira gave examples of activities that DNR Hydrologists oversees such as dam work, culverts installation due to flooding issues, rip rap projects, shoreline restoration, ice ridge issues, shoreline alterations, comments on PUD and other variance applications to name a few. DNR Permits are required the majority of the time. If in doubt, contact the area hydrologists *first* to avoid paying a permit after the fact which is double the cost or worse case scenario you are required to restore the shoreline back as it was. Also other governmental units federal, state, city, county, township, and watershed authority may require a permit for the portion of a

project within their jurisdiction, which usually involves work above the OHWL. Ms. Siira position as area hydrologists interfaces with the Us Army Corp of Engineers, Douglas County Soil & Water, Douglas County Land & Resource Department, Watershed Boards, Townships, and MN Department of Agriculture to list a few. She touched on One Watershed One Plan. There are 81 watersheds in MN. The Sauk River and the Long Prairie Watershed Plans are in progress and not completed yet.

Each lake association is encourage to have a gauge reader, water clarity monitor and water sample collection volunteer. Gauge reader and water clarity data is sent to Emily. The water collection samples are handled by Steve Henry Jr. with the SWDC department. Emily Siira, DNR Area Hydrologist can be contacted at 1509 1st Avenue North, Fergus Falls, MN. 56537, telephone number (218) 739-7576 Ext. 232 or [emily.siira@state.mn.us](mailto:emily.siira@state.mn.us). There is also very useful lake information on the DNR website under Lake Finder.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Linda Dokken-McFann