

Douglas County Lakes Association

April 8, 2015

Public Works Building

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. this date by Vice-Chairman Dick Kuehn. Attendees were Linda Dokken-McFann - Mary, Chris Risbrudt - Stowe, Bob Reynolds - Devils/Little Chippewa, Dian Lopez - Ida, Juanita Bolinger - Mary, Steve Krogler - Lobster, Don Stallman - Irene, Gary Waller - Red Rock, Sue Engstrom - Darling, Steve Henry, Jr. - SWDC, Jim Peterson - Ida, Dick Kuehn - Miltona. A quorum was present.

Vice Chairman Dick Kuehn suggested DCLA choose an alternate vice chair to facilitate the meeting in his absence. No decision made at this time.

Bob Reynolds moved, Don Stallman seconded to approve the March 11, 2015 minutes as written. Motion carried.

Jim Peterson provided a financial review. Website bill for \$75.00 submitted for payment. After review of the meeting notes, no motion was made to pay. Refer item over to 5/2015 meeting. Checking balance reported as \$8641.10. In April, DCLA will send out membership renewal notices along with R&B lab fees for the year. Rates appear to remain the same as last year. Any difference, Jim Peterson will notify the membership.

1. Per Mr. Henry, SWDC cooler pick up day is May 5, 2015 at the SWDC office located at 900 Robert Street, Suite 102. Pat Sherman from R&B Labs will be available from 1130 a.m. - 1 p.m. for questions on water sample collection. Mr. Henry will be available all day.
2. DCLA Public Relations - Special committee met last month to brain storm ideas how to get the word out about DCLA. Items suggested were continue monthly speakers, create an editorial board to submit articles to Echo Press monthly, members attend County meetings to bring items from the floor on lake issues. No decision made at this time - item tabled for next month.
3. Zoning & Environment update provided by Sue Engstrom - Diane Lopez discussed set back requirement on a property on Lake Ida along with the suggestion of a rain garden to address the gully running to the lake.

Discussion on Governor Dayton's Buffer Initiative. Copy attached to the minutes titled Fact Sheet. There was a general consensus that a flat 50 foot buffer zone maybe over restrictive on some properties but not restrictive enough on other properties. Goal is to keep nutrients and sediment on the crop land and not running into our lakes. At this time Douglas County does not have an accurate inventory of culverts, tile drainage location on all the bodies of water &

streams and agriculture practices next to the ditches. There is a mapping system that can be implemented. Funding for manpower would be needed to complete this. Pasture and hay land are considered buffers. Feedlot and row crop are not.

Existing Douglas County Shoreland Ordinance: Special Provision for Agricultural Uses. Agricultural uses within shoreland existing at time of adoption of this Ordinance many continue provided the following standards are met: General cultivation farming, grazing, nurseries, horticulture, truck farming, sod farming and wild crop harvesting are permitted uses if steep slopes and shore and bluff impact zones are maintained in permanent vegetation or operated under an approved conservation plan consistent with the field office technical guides of the local soil and water districts as provided by a qualified individual or agency. The shore impact zone parcels with permitted agricultural land uses is equal to a line parallel to and 50 feet from the ordinary high water level. Per Dave Rush, DC Land & Resource Department Director, his department has no "enforcement "responsibility of this Shoreland Ordinance.

It appears that Douglas County has no mandates for buffer zone on agriculture lands that butt up to water bodies. There is a law on the books that gives non conformity protection if land farmed prior to ordinance. One can assume that Douglas County does not regulate agricultures sediment and nutrient run off into public waters.

H570 - a bill submitted to add language for Counties to opt out of AIS program and allow monies returned to the State to be redistributed to Counties involved with AIS programs. DCLA will keep members posted as this bill moves through the legislature.

4. Website Update - No report for this month.

5. Communications - Echo Press/Outdoor Page. It was suggested that the DCLA create an editorial board that would submit a monthly article to the Echo Press on topics related to lakes. Item tabled until next month.

6. 2015 UPCOMING KIDS EDUCATIONAL DAYS

Steve Henry, Jr. SWDC, provided a write up on Kids Educational Days for 2015. Copy attached to the minutes.

Earth Day/Urban Forestry Day is April 22, 2015

Kids Groundwater Festival is May 1, 2015 at the Runestone Center

1st Annual Bow Fishing Challenge is June 13, 2015

Kids Fishing Day is July 11, 2015 at Fleet Farm 1100a.m - 3:00 p.m. Justin Swart, DC AIS Shoreland Tech will provide AIS samples for education tool.

Youth Activity Day - August 30th, 2015 is at Alexandria Trap Range.

7. Per Chris Risbrudt - 1st Annual Douglas County Bow Fishing Challenge update.

Date for event June 13, 2015. Boats can be registered beginning at 3-7 p.m. at a location to be determined. The challenge starts at 8 p.m. Saturday night. Any lake in Douglas County can be fished. Event organizers request that lake associations have volunteers at their public access from 8 - 10 p.m. on the 13th, 2015. Volunteers are also needed on Sunday, June 14th, 2015 at a location to be determined to assist in weigh-in and boat inspections from the hours of 7 - 9 a.m.. Prize monies for the biggest and the most rough fish will be awarded. Event organizers have made arrangements for disposal of the fish brought in. The final flyer for the event will be distributed in the near future.

8. Water Use Permit: A water use permit from DNR waters is required for all users withdrawing more than 10,000 gallons of water per day or 1 million gallons per year. Irrigation, non-crop (including lawn watering). A well-maintained lawn in Minnesota uses approximately one inch of water per week, regardless of whether this comes from rainfall or lawn watering. As a rule of thumb, an irrigated lawn greater than 1.4 acres in size will likely meet the threshold for requiring a DNR permit during a dry year. ***Check the DNR website under water appropriation permit for additional information.***

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Linda Dokken-McFann