

Douglas County Lakes Association

May 13, 2015

Public Works Building

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

Attendees: Jan Beliveau - Mary, Jeff Johnson - Ida, Chris Risbrudt - Stowe, Sue Engstrom - Darling, Justin Swartz, DC Land & Resource Shoreland/AIS Tech., Steve Henry Jr. - SWDC, Dave Rush, DC Land & Resource Director, Gary Barber - Osakis, Don Clausen - Rachel, Stephen Henry Sr. - Le Homme Dieu, Don Stallman - Irene, Vernon Lorsung - Latoka, Juanita Bolinger - Mary, Linda Dokken-McFann - Mary, Dian Lopez - Ida. A quorum was present.

The following items were added to the agenda: Bowfishing Challenge update and outside professional organizations. Stephen Henry Sr. moved, Juanita Bolinger seconded to accept the agenda with these additions. Motion carried.

Jan Beliveau moved, Juanita Bolinger seconded to approve the April 8, 2015 meeting minutes with the following #4. delete "item tabled" insert "no report given". Motion passed.

1. *Public Relations*: President Jan Beliveau reported that Harry May has moved out of the area and will no longer serve as Public Relations contact for DCLA. Stephen Henry Sr. volunteered to take over this position.

2. *Zoning & Environment* No report given this month.

3. *Website Update*: Don Clausen reported that the DCLA website received approximately 15,700 hits yearly which is around 1300 per month. It was suggested that lake associations that do not have their own site could share with DCLA. It was asked if associations with their own website could be linked to DCLA website. Don will follow up.

4. *Water Planning Update*: Steve Henry, Jr. SWDC reported that the water collection coolers were picked up. First collection turn in date is May 18, 2015. He thanked the lake associations for all the work they do to support his agency. Mr. Henry reported that there will be an increase testing on creeks this year. The Conservation Corp Crew will be working on 2 sites on Cowdry and one rain garden site on Lake Mary this year.

5. *Bowfishing Challenge Update*: Chris Risbrudt reported that a planning meeting to finalize the Bowfishing Challenge is scheduled the first part of June. He suggested any lake associations that are interested to attend. An updated flyer was emailed to DCLA to share with others. Primary contact

person is Mike Cleary at mcleary@gctel.net or telephone number 320-290-4490. Dave Rush was given dates and times for this event and requested to have the decontamination units available.

6. *Professional Organizations:* Stephen Henry Sr. questioned if the professional organizations that DCLA is currently a member duplicate services? General consensus was that Conservation MN work is focused on engaging people at the local level in protecting the lakes and rivers and natural resources in the state. Whereas MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates monitor, advocate and update members on legislative bills that affect lakes and rivers in MN.

7. *AIS Plan Update:* Dave Rush reviewed the DC AIS Plan. The membership received a copy of the plan as it is written thus far. As of 2014 28 lakes were listed as infested with zebra mussels. General discussion held on the overall goals and objectives in the plan. Douglas County will take the lead on site prevention part of the plan. Hiring, training, and schedule inspections. Douglas County should have 3 decontamination units by the end of May 2015. There are 59 public accesses, however some are quite small in area. This limits the County where they can place the D-con units. Per Dave Rush, a lake association can purchase additional hours for inspections. Cost amount not determined as of yet. Per Rush, he will approach the school district to partner the educational part of the plan. DCLA has offered to take the lead in public relations area. General discussion held on marketing ideas, creating a logo or mascot, catchy phrase that everyone will remember. Outreach should have a positive and consistent message based on accurate information, to communicate why everyone should be aware of AIS and involved in efforts to stop the spread.

Summary of AIS Goals:

Preserve DC's aquatic recreational heritage by engaging positive approaches to address AIS that assist and educate tourists to reach 100% compliance.

Improve the efficiency of inspections so as to welcome boaters and expedite loading and launching, while enduring watercraft are free of AIS and boaters are imbued in prevention practices.

Implement sustainable AIS prevention practices across Douglas County through partnerships with water recreation-based businesses, individual lake associations, and local government units.

Collaborate to develop and/or deliver educational curriculum and public relations messaging that reaches the broadest audience with a consistent message about AIS and how everyone can efficiently stop the spread.

Identify and implement proven and/or innovative methods to manage existing AIS infestations that limit the potential for spreading and reduce impacts of AIS on lake ecology and recreational use.

8. *Vacation Properties:* General discussion was held on vacation rental properties in residential zoned areas within the County. Background history: In 2006 Douglas County took enforcement action against a property owner on Latoka Lake and lost. The County appealed the ruling and lost the appeal because the Court ruled that the County can not apply resort regulations to residential home. In 2009 the MN.

State Legislature took up the discussion, long story short, decided to drop the issue. Therefore, leaving individual Counties to address the issue if they feel that there is a problem in their area.

Per Dave Rush there is approximately 30 - 50 known properties within Douglas County currently utilizing their home in this fashion. Asked how many complaints and nature of complaints. Advised that approximately 3-4 complaints on same lake at the same property. Nature of complaints - loud noise and parking concerns. Questioned if the loud noise can be addressed through the Sheriff's Department and that parking in driveway, on a public road and a person's lawn is not currently illegal. DCLA did not give any mandate to Douglas County with regards to this subject matter. DCLA did request examples of other Counties ordinances and at this time is for or against an ordinance.

Steve Henry Sr. moved, Juanita Bolinger seconded to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Minutes recorded & prepared by Linda Dokken-McFann, DCLA Secretary