

DOUGLAS COUNTY LAKES ASSOCIATION

PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING

JUNE 10TH, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. on June 10, 2015 by President Jan Beliveau.

Attendees: Jan Beliveau - Mary, Jim Peterson - Ida, Bob Reynolds - Devils/Little Chippewa, Del DeBilzan - Victoria, Linda Dokken-McFann - Mary, Sue Engstrom - Darling, Vern Lorsung - Latoka, Gary Waller - Red Rock Lake, Don Stallman - Irene, Janet Eisele - Lake Carlos, Steve Henry Jr. - SWDC, Stephen G. Henry - Le Homme Dieu, Mike Cleary - Stowe, Dana Barfknecht - Brandon Fin & Feathers Club, Don Clausen - Rachel, Dian Lopez - Ida, Arland Hirman - Winona, Justin Swartz, DC Land & Resource Shoreland/AIS Tech. A quorum was present.

Sue Engstrom moved, Bob Reynolds seconded to approve the Agenda. Motion carried.

Bob Reynolds moved, Del DeBilzan seconded to approve the May 13, 2015 minutes with the correction that Bob Reynolds was present. Motion carried.

Jim Peterson provided the monthly financial update. The following bills were submitted for payment: Info Link \$19.25, Conservation MN. \$100.00, and Website \$75.00. Stephen Henry moved, Don Stallman seconded to pay the bills. Motion carried.

1. *Lake Events:*

Dana Barfknecht provided an update on the DC Bow Fishing Challenge to take place this weekend. Only public lakes with DNR accesses are eligible lakes. Four lakes opted in for the special prize pool which are Mary, Stowe, Ida and Little Chippewa. There will be two \$50.00 winners per lake in a random card draw. Bio Corp is buying the rough fish for turtle feed. All proceeds from this event will be split between three school districts for their Youth Archery Programs. It was brought to the organizers attention that the City of Alexandria views a bow as a firearm and is prohibited from use on any lake within the city limits. However, the DNR does not view a bow as a firearm and is allowed on lakes in MN. Douglas County Land & Resource will have two decontamination units at the DC Fairgrounds on Saturday and Sunday. All participating boats will be cleaned before and after the event. Registration begins at 3 p.m. with a Safety Meeting at 7 p.m. at the N/W corner of the Fairgrounds on June 13, 2015. Boats will be allowed to leave beginning at 8:00 p.m. Lake Association volunteers for the four lakes will need to be at their designated access between 8 - 10 p.m. on Saturday to greet arriving registered boats. They will receive one half of a playing card that they will keep. Lake volunteers will return the other half of the card to the event organizers. The cards can be turned in from 7 a.m. - 9 a.m. Sunday morning at the DC Fairgrounds. This is the first year for this event which the organizers hope will continue. There are 9 pre-registered boats thus far with one group from the Litchfield area participating.

There is a boat parade planned on Lake Latoka and Lake Victoria on July 4, 2015. There were concerns expressed about tournaments in general, lake events and spreading AIS. DCLA needs to do their due diligence to educate the public about the spread of AIS.

2. *Public Relations:* Stephen Henry reported that DCLA will be on Open Line once per month for now. Jan Beliveau and Dave Rush are the guests for June with the topic being AIS. Any topics or ideas you feel would be of interest for Open Line please contact Stephen Henry at henry5369@charter.net.

3. *Zoning:* Sue Engstrom reported that the Oleson variance requesting to put in a private septic system verses hooking up to a public sewer line on Lake Cowdry was denied. That led into a discussion on variances in general. There appears to be *inconsistent application* for approval or denial. Dave Rush, DC Land & Resource Director was not present to address members concerns and questions. Item tabled for next month.

4. *Website Update:* Don Clausen followed up from last month's question. He reported that there is a fee for a lake association to link into DCLA website. He felt lake associations could utilize other area resources that are free for announcements and/or event notices. Voice of Alexandria and the Gardonville website were two suggestions.

5. *Water Planning Update:* Shannon Wettstein, Water Planner from Todd County Soil & Water Conservation District is working with Douglas County to develop the TMDL and WRAP for the Long Prairie River Watershed. Once it is approved by the EPA they want to hold a couple of events, or attend an event that is already being held this fall to share the information the Pollution Control Agency and the local SWCD's found on water quality in the area. Per Steve Henry, SWDC the main lakes involved are Echo, Crooked, Jessie, Nelson and Twin. Jan Beliveau will contact Ms. Wettstein and offer to hold the event at a DCLA monthly meeting this fall.

6. Conservation MN sent a memo indicating they would like to meet with lake associations around MN and discuss their work. Jan Beliveau will contact Jaclyn Umess at Conservation MN to see if they can present at July's meeting. Bring your questions on how they can help us on a local level.

7. General consensus of those in attendance did not see any benefit for DCLA to be a member of the Chamber of Commerce. No further action needed.

8. *Lake Winona Update:* Section 303 of the Clean Water Act requires states to identify waters that are "impaired" due to violations of state water quality standards, that such waters must be listed, and that TMDL's must be developed to address the impairments. ALASD was aware that the lakes listed as impaired for excess chloride would require a TMDL be developed at some point. The water quality standard upon which a TMDL would be based was outdated and would need to be revised. Both MPCA and ALASD acknowledged this fact. This requirement has extended the entire process. There appears to be a dispute on the methodology used to determine the chloride number acceptable to be discharged into the lake. ALASD agrees that the data set is limited, at a minimum the difference between summer and fall and the December and January period could be addressed. It is ALASD's opinion that the data set is inadequate to reasonably perform a TMDL and additional monitoring is necessary to reasonably

address seasonality in the TMDL. It is felt the current allocation approach is unrealistic in that it does not allow the City of Alexandria to discharge any chloride, does not address the seasonality in the data set and seems to ignore sources of chloride other than the ALASD's and the fact that the standard is currently in flux, ALASD does not believe that a chloride TMDL should be included in the Long Prairie TMDL. It is suggested that another approach would be to develop a simple mass balance for the lake on a monthly, or at a minimum, seasonal basis. This approach is applied in a spreadsheet approach using the current flow balance developed for the lakes. Cost considerations amounts have been disputed between the MPCA and ALASD. It is felt that ALASD having a centralized softening alone will not result in meeting the ALASD's current effluent limit for chloride. In 2010 Brown and Caldwell estimated the cost of chloride removal at the ALASD treatment facility by reverse osmosis at a capital cost of \$40 million and \$3 million annual recurring cost. DCLA has tracked the issues with Lake Winona for a number of years and will wait until the MPCA presents their findings before any opinion can be formed. ALASD appears to have requested a 14 day review period of the MPCA TMDL findings on Lake Winona before it is opened up for public comment period.

9. A representative from Red Rock Lake suggested the article "Warning Issued About Red Rock" in the Echo Press over stated the amount of blue algae in the lake. The picture used in the Echo Press was not taken at Red Rock Lake. It was reported that there is a *small bay area* that gets minimal wind and has been found to be susceptible to blue algae growth if the weather conditions are correct. The individuals in question had chosen to enter this bay area of the lake with their dogs. The owner of the dog used a stick covered with blue algae and tossed it in the lake at least four times. The water activated the algae toxins and the dog became ill within a short time. Property owners are encouraged to talk to seasonal residents and visitors to Red Rock Lake about these conditions in parts of the lake.

With no further business to discuss. Stephen Henry moved, Linda Dokken-McFann seconded to adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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