

Douglas County Lakes Association

December 09, 2015

Public Works Bldg.

President Jan Beliveau called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M. this date.

The following were in attendance: Jan Beliveau - Mary, Jean Johnson - Brophy, Gene Rose - Milona, Bob Reynolds - Devils/Little Chippewa, Gary Waller - Red Rock, Don Stallman - Irene, Chris Risbrudt - Stowe, Joan Norman - Latoka, Vern Lorsung - Latoka, Matt Bedore - Victoria, Sue Engstrom - Darling, H. Dan Ness - Vermont, Steve Henry - Douglas County Soil & Water Tech., Stephen G. Henry - L' Homme Dieu, David Rush - DC Land & Resource Department Director, Justin Swart - DC Shoreland/AIS Tech., Jerry Miller - Maple, Dick Sudmeier - Ida, Chuck Bokinskie - Viking Sportsmen, Dian Lopez - Ida, Linda Dokken-McFann - Mary, Mike Cleary - Stowe. A quorum was present.

II. Agenda was approved by voice vote with one item added: State AIS Committee. Motion passed.

III. Stephen G. Henry moved, seconded by Mike Cleary to approve the November 11, 2015 minutes. Motion passed.

IV. Treasurer Report: Vern Lorsung moved, seconded by Bob Reynolds to pay R&B Labs for September testing in the amount of \$ 882.00. Motion passed.

V. Committee Reports:

Public Relations - Stephen G. Henry advised that a two column by 3 inch high add for a monthly meeting notice is \$78.00 per issue in the Echo Press. No action taken on this information.

Zoning & Environment - Sue Engstrom reported that DC Planning Advisory Board *approved* by a 4 to 2 vote on the EAW findings & Conditional Use Permit Application for a 42 acre gravel pit in close proximity to Lake Vermont. This vote suggest that no further EAW study is needed. This application now goes in front of the DC Commissioners on 12/15/2015, Tuesday night at 6 p.m. It should be noted that Dave Rush , DC L&R Director, provided extensive research on this application, addressed the public's questions and concerns which mainly centered on dust, noise, increased traffic, possible impact on groundwater & residential wells and habitat. There are 19 conditions outlined: limiting operation hours M-F, 8-4 p.m., seasonal operation, increased setbacks, gravel/sand to be processed off site, reclamation after each 8 acres disturbed, cannot mine below the clay level to list a few. However, *conditions are only as good as the enforcement behind it. The County is responsible for "compliance oversight" which will be very important.*

There was a question if any follow up was going to be done with regard to the number of wells that are not *registered* around Lake Vermont? The agency to contact is the Department of Health which monitors all well data for the County. Two additional conditions asked to be considered were no storage of any hazardous materials at this site and bond monies set aside for any potential disaster that may occur in the future.

Lake Latoka Sediment Pond Update: Dave Rush, DC L&R Director, could not give a date when an engineer/surveyor would be available to do an onsite on the Latoka sediment pond. Until this is completed no cost estimate can be given to SWDC which has funds available for this clean out project.

Website - No one offered to be the backup on the DCLA website at this time. Any interested person please contact Jan Beliveau. Thank you.

Vacation Rental Properties - The general consensus is DCLA still has no opinion on this issue. It does not appear to be a wide spread problem in Douglas County with exception of one property on one lake. Examples of other states/county ordinances regarding vacation rentals were distributed to the membership via email. If anyone has an opinion, please forward to Jan Beliveau. No further action taken.

Water Planning Update - Steve Henry, SWDC Tech. "Our Lakes Are Important" - one unified message. It was agreed that we need to solicit outside support of area businesses in our efforts to get the message out. The buffer program is the best opportunity to protect lakes on agriculture practices. SWDC provides the technical assistance. The County is responsible to see that the law is implemented and enforced. What is the plan? How do they plan to staff it? Need to ask the questions. It was reported that the DNR has posted a tentative map on buffers on their website. Jan Beliveau will ask Crow Wing County if they would give an informational presentation how they got the ball rolling in their county. How they marketed their clean water projects and successfully received monies from the various funds available.

VI. Working With Others: Jean Johnson spoke person for the Citizen Climate Organization advised that on February 6th, 2015 at the Discovery Middle School, Paul Douglas, Meteorologist, will give a presentation on "Weather Disruption", stewardship obligation to take care of our natural resources. Via voice vote, the membership approved DCLA to be a co-sponsor of the event. Sponsors can put a table at this event and share with the public what they do and how everyone can pull together for a common cause.

VII. The DCLA Newsletter item was tabled.

VIII. Items From The Floor:

1. Anyone interested in serving on the *State AIS Committee* please contact Stephen G. Henry A.S.A.P. as the deadline date is near. It should be noted that Commissioner Stratton does sit on this board.
2. Justin Swart, DC Shoreland/AIS Tech. reported that a total of 5611 boat inspections were completed. This does not include inspections done by the DNR. Over all data shows the incoming drain plug law compliance rate was 97.5% this past season. There are no new lake infestations to report. If a lake association is interested in their lake stats, please contact Mr. Swart at 320-762-3864 or email: justins@co.douglas.mn.us. Mr. Swart reported that he did contact COLA with regards to their concerns on the MN decontamination procedures. He has not heard back.

With no further business, Bob Reynolds moved, seconded by Don Stallman to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 P.M.

Minutes prepared by Linda Dokken-McFann, DCLA Secretary