

DOUGLAS COUNTY LAKES ASSOCIATION

PUBLIC WORKS BLDG.

January 13, 2016

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

I. The following were in attendance: Jim Peterson - Ida, Dick Sudmeier - Ida, Gene Rose - Miltona, Bob Reynolds - Devils/Little Chippewa, Don Stallman - Irene, Mike Cleary - Stowe, Joan Norman - Latoka, Vern Lorsung - Latoka, Sue Engstrom - Darling, Stephen Henry - L'Homme Dieu, H. Dan Ness - Vermont, Jan Beliveau - Mary, Linda Dokken-McFann - Mary, Dave Rush, DC Land & Resource Department, Bill Rustad - Victoria. A quorum was present.

II. The following items were added to the agenda: water quality education, walleye stocking, water runs the world draft, Latoka sediment pond, vacation rentals by owners, AIS education, and the upcoming Paul Douglas presentation. The agenda was approved by voice vote.

III. Bob Reynolds moved, seconded by Gene Rose to approve the December 9,2015 minutes as written. Motion passed.

IV. Jim Peterson, Treasurer reported that the checking account balance is 11,918.86. One bill submitted by LD McFann for 750.00 (6 months of DCLA minutes preparation and distribution). Vern Lorsung moved, seconded by Dan Stallman to approve payment. Motion passed. Mr. Peterson reported that DCLA has 23 members as of this date.

V. Committee Reports:

Public Relations - The question was posed should we invite nonmembers to the monthly meeting via published notice. The general consensus is the DCLA is an open meeting forum and the public is welcomed. Motions and voting rights are reserved to the one designated person from each active lake association.

Zoning & Environment - No date set on the Commissioner's calendar for the Lake Vermont proposed gravel pit operation as there is no new data on the wells for the Commissioners to review yet.

According to Douglas SWCD Coordinator, Jerry Haggemiller, he will meet next week with Tom Anderson (DC Ditch Inspector) and Dean Beck (DNR Director of Fisheries) to discuss the Lake Ida Clean Water Project.

Website - Still looking for a volunteer to be trained on the DCLA website. Any interested person please contact Jan Beliveau.

Water Planning Update - Steve Henry, SWCD not present. No report given this month.

VI. Working With Other Agencies:

Recycling : Lake Associations interested in having a recycling bin placed at their lake in the spring to collect boat wrap please contact Nathan at Pope/Douglas Solid Waste Management , 320-763-9340 or popedouglasrecycle.com. DNR may require a permit if placed at a public access. Jan Beliveau will follow up.

Clean Water Project: Stephen Henry and Steve Henry, SWCD, made the initial contact with area businesses requesting support for clean water projects for Douglas County. Mike Scarborough has agreed to take the lead on this committee. Linda Dokken-McFann and Mike Cleary have volunteered to serve as DCLA representatives.

Climate Change: Meteorologist, Paul Douglas is giving a presentation on Feb 6, 2016 at the Discovery Middle School titled "Weather Disruption", Stewardship Isn't Optional." DCLA is a sponsor of this event. Jan Beliveau and Sue Engstrom will handout DCLA information pamphlets. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. for event sponsors. The presentation starts at 7:00 p.m. This is a free event for the public, however, a voluntary donation will be accepted to defray expenses.

VII. It was agreed to have the DCLA Newsletter completed by Spring 2016. Send articles of interest to Jan Beliveau at janbeliveau@gmail.com.

VIII. Items From The Floor

1. Per Stephen Henry, no date has been set for the conference/education session with Crow Wing County about accessing water quality grants. The leader of that program just resigned to become an independent consultant. He recommended several others including one Crow Wing County Commissioner. Steve Henry, SWCD, is continuing to work on setting this up in the near future.
2. Stephen Henry reported that the DNR has observed the *growth rate* of walleye over the last 4 years has decreased in the Chain of Lakes. Reason for this has not been identified. Lake Associations can go on the DNR Fisheries website and look up specific data for their lake.
3. Water Runs The World article (draft) was given out for members to critique. Please submit comments to Jan Beliveau at janbeliveau@gmail.com. This can be used as a flyer, article for the Echo Press and/or newsletter piece.
4. Lake Latoka sediment pond - Dave Rush, DC Land & Resource provided an estimate of \$4775.00 to remove 20 cu yards from the pond and to repair the road ditch to not run into the pond. This estimate will be forwarded to SWCD. It was agreed that additional water sampling would be beneficial as we really don't know the source of the problem.
5. Dave Rush updated the members on the Douglas County AIS Program. He presented the idea to work with other counties to identify initiatives to help all counties statewide. Possibly hiring a marketing firm to identify groups for venues. Working with R&B Labs to create an educational AIS component for the class room. Possibly replicate as a statewide curriculum. Design a module such as "program in a box" that you can take to events/functions to educate the public on AIS.

Lake Associations interested in additional AIS inspections for the upcoming year should contact Justin Swart, DC AIS Tech. The cost per hour for Level One & Level Two inspectors has not been established at this time. To date, Douglas County has 26 lakes and 2 rivers listed by the DNR as infested. All reside within the Long Prairie River Watershed. Mr. Swart is working with R&B Labs for AIS monitoring in infested lakes for veliger development research.

6. Dave Rush met with area realtors and asked if the County should address the issue of Vacation Rental by Owner (VRBO). He said they were on the fence, however, if the County put regulations on VRBO, it could be good because with no regulations, it is the "wild west." Mr. Rush will continue meeting with stakeholders to identify potential issues and concerns. No public discussion planned as of now.

7. Per Jerry Haggemiller, SWCD Coordinator, Andy Rice was offered the position as Conservation Tech. He will begin on February 1, 2016. His primary duties will focus on implementing the buffer rule program.

SWCD will begin to outline duties and job description for the Water Planning position. They will work with Dave Rush, DC L&R Department, as this is viewed as an interagency position. The Water Planning person will be instrumental for clean water projects which is *our number one priority of this coming year*.

With no further business, Gene Rose moved, seconded by Stephen Henry to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Linda Dokken-McFann, DCLA Secretary