

Douglas County Lakes Association

Public Works Building

March 9, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by DCLA President Jan Beliveau.

The following were in attendance: Jim Peterson - Ida, Dick Sudmeier - Ida, Gene Rose - Miltona, Gary Waller - Red Rock, Chris Risbrudt - Stowe, Vern Lorsung - Latoka, Stephen Henry - L'Homme Dieu, Jean Johnson - Brophy, Jan Beliveau - Mary, Juanita Bolinger - Mary, Linda Dokken-McFann - Mary, Chuck Bokinskie - Vikings Sportsmen, Dave Rush - DC Land & Resource Director, Justin Swart - DC AIS Tech, David Jones - Rachel, Don Stallman - Irene, Lynn Glesne - Miltona, Bill Rustad - Victoria, Amy Chaffins - Echo Press and guest speaker - Jaclyn Urness with Conservation Minnesota. A quorum was present.

II. Agenda approved by voice vote, adding water quality issue.

III. February, 2016 minutes review and approval tabled until next month.

IV. Jim Peterson, DCLA Treasurer provided update. Current checking balance is 11,012.05. Membership bills will be sent out the end of April. Juanita Bolinger moved, seconded by Vern Lorsung to pay 56.25 for the website. Motion carried.

V. Committee Reports

Public Relations - Stephen Henry reported that a notice of the monthly meeting was placed in the Voice of Alexandria. Open Line will be starting again in May. It was suggested DCLA request two (1/2 hour) sessions per month to cover more topics and add human interest stories. Anyone with subject ideas please contact Stephen Henry via email at henry5369@charter.net. It was requested that members be notified via email the date and time that Open Line is aired and the subject matter.

Zoning & Environment - Dave Rush, DC Land & Resource Director reported that the County received its' first solar farm application. It is approx 40 acres in size, located in the most eastern end of the County near Osakis. The site visit is this Friday and it will be presented to the DC Planning Advisory Commission Board on March 22, 2016.

Any lake association interested in the 8 page information pamphlet titled "Getting To Know Your Septic System" contact Dave Rush at daveru@co.douglas.mn.us. The County will split the printing cost with any lake association who is interested.

Justin Swart, DC AIS Tech provided a handout "Application for Additional Watercraft Inspections". The County is offering a cost share opportunity to lake associations since the DNR is no longer. Submit application to Justin Swart, DC Land & Resource, 305 8th Ave, West, Alexandria, MN, 56306 or email

justins@co.douglas.mn.us. Applications are due by May 6, 2016. Inspection season runs from May 28 to October 2, 2016. Targeted lake inspection hours table was also distributed.

Justin Swart will verify and report back that the DC AIS Plan has a section that covers "treatment of AIS" .

Dave Rush reported that the DC AIS Prevention Plan and budget will be reviewed by the DC Commissioners on Tuesday of next week. They will begin to advertise for inspectors. There is no age limit, looking for retired and young person's that are out going and a positive attitude to work with the public. Level I inspector - 12.00 per hour and Level II inspector - 25.00 per hour. The DNR will provide the AIS/Decon Unit training.

DNR website will have a "decon unit finder calendar" for individuals who would like their boat cleaned.

VI. Jan Beliveau will be attending the 2016 Watershed Summit this Saturday.

VII. Water Quality Issues. Discussion identified areas that need to be addressed. One team, one message "Our Lakes Are Important". Clean water is everyone's responsibility - how does one motivate every segment of the community to get on board? DC lacks a cohesive team to initiate and oversee clean water projects for the Long Prairie River Watershed. Several lakes are listed as "at risk" but not impaired yet. Lack of communication between intergovernmental agencies. Who is in charge? At present it appears no one department has the lead thus creating confusion for everyone. The DC Water Plan needs to be updated by SWCD and then reviewed and approved by the DC Commissioners. Until such time, we have been advised that no application for clean water monies will be applied for. Time frame for completion is on hold until SWCD hires a Water Planner staff person. We have two DC commissioners that are not seeking re-election when their term is up which will also create some hurdles. Long Prairie River Watershed could benefit by having a formalized board. Asking other counties around us that have been successful in applying for grant monies to provide an informational workshop has not materialized.

In the interim everyone is encouraged to speak with their commissioner about these road blocks. Writing articles to educate the public on the importance of clean water. Continue to participate on various County committees to get the message out there. Attend workshops and/or water summit conferences when offered.

Guest Speaker - Jaclyn Urness, Public Engagement Director with Conservation Minnesota.

Conservation Minnesota is focused on solving problems that are most important to Minnesotans. Clean water is the key to Minnesota's future. Our health, our economy, and our way of life depend on it. They have put together The Clean Water Promise wavier that they are requesting that lake associations sign and email to their office. Highlights are:

- By 2020, state and local officials will have the information, tools and authority necessary to conserve and sustainably manage the quality of water in our lakes, streams and groundwater reserves.
- By 2025, Minnesotans will enjoy lakes and rivers that have 95% less plastic pollution.

- By 2030, every Minnesotan will be drinking safe, non-polluted water.
- By 2040, Minnesota will protect children from mercury pollution. Individuals, businesses, and industries in our state will have stopped adding mercury to our lakes.
- By 2050, Minnesotans will have peace of mind knowing that every one of our lakes is safe for swimming. Currently, polluted lakes will be cleaned up, and our most pristine lakes will be protected for future generations to experience.

Other areas of interest: (1) Governor has proposed \$167 million in a bonding bill to repair or replace wastewater infrastructure throughout the state. (2) Support keeping the buffer law on the books. (3) Products labeled as "flushable" have become a growing problem for local and municipal sewage treatment systems. Truth in labeling is being pushed. (4) Support continued funding for AIS research facilities in the nation. (5) Support measures that protect local lakes and rivers and projects that improve local water resources. Proposals for additional phosphorous research, protecting sensitive surface water, and groundwater resources for detrimental land conversion, and reducing chloride pollution are all being monitored by Conservation Minnesota.

For more information go to www.conservationminnesota.org website. Or contact Jaclyn Urness at Jaclyn@conservationminnesota.org, telephone # 612-767-1563.

With no further business, Juanita Bolinger moved, seconded by Jim Peterson to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

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