

Douglas County Lake Association

July 13, 2016

Public Works Building

The meeting was called to order at 1630 hours this date by President Jan Beliveau. The following were in attendance: Jim Peterson - Ida, Dian Lopez - Ida, Gary Waller - Red Rock, Don Stallman - Irene, Mike Cleary - Stowe, Vern Lorsung - Latoka, Matt Bedore - Victoria, Stephen Henry - L'Homme Dieu, Jeanne Johnson - Brophy, Arland Hirman - Winona, Jan Beliveau - Mary, Linda Dokken-McFann - Mary, Justin Swart - DC Land & Resource, Bruce Leuhmann - Latoka, Jerry Haggemiller - SWCD, Dave Jones - Rachel, Bob Bowden, Danica Mazurek - SWCD, Steve Desutter - Miltona. A quorum was present.

I. Introductions were completed.

II. The agenda was approved by voice vote.

III. Vern Lorsung moved, seconded by Arland Hirman to approve the June, 2016 meeting minutes as written. Motion passed.

IV. Treasurer, Jim Peterson gave the financial report. The checking balance is 18475.55. Stephen Henry moved, seconded by Don Stallman to pay 750.00 to L.D. McFann for minutes prepared from January through June, 2016. Motion passed.

V. Committee Reports

1. Public Relations - Per Stephen Henry, the next KXRA radio open line is July 20, 2016, 9-10 am, guest speaker is Justin Swart, DC AIS Tech. Open line for August is the 15th. Subject and guest speaker not determined yet.

2. SWCD Update - Danica Mazurek SWCD Water Plan Tech. and Justin Swart, DC AIS Tech. are currently completing high density zebra testing on area lakes. Early detection testing is also being completed by lake association volunteers on targeted lakes not infested.

The DC Water Plan amendment review is scheduled for July 22, 2016 at 10 am at SWCD office.

The DNR buffer map is available at www.mndnr.gov/buffers. Public waters are all lakes, wetlands and watercourses that meet the criteria set forth in Minnesota Statutes 103G.005, subd. 15 and are designated on public waters inventory maps.

Nov 1, 2017: 50-foot average width, 30-foot minimum width, buffers must be in place on lands adjacent to public waters and identified and mapped on the buffer map.

Nov. 1, 2018: 16.5-foot minimum width buffers must be in place on lands adjacent to public ditches as identified and mapped on the buffer map.

Lakeshore property owners have several options to meet this requirement: no mow... let it grow, installing a rain garden and/or planting native grasses to list a few. Local SWCDs have funds available to assist landowners if they are interested in a rain garden. SWCD are working with landowners to create the right size buffer or select an alternative water quality practice if needed. If the SWCDs, Drainage Authorities or other local governments identify errors in the map during landowner conversations, they will notify the DNR.

Nitrate Testing - Nine townships in Douglas County will be offered free nitrate testing for private wells. Property owners will receive a letter about the offer and the kit should follow shortly in the mail.

Clean Water Funding - August 8, 2016 is the clean water fund application deadline. Some projects being submitted include Lake Ida for ditch 23 work, an existing ag waste pit project and a severe bank erosion project on Cty. Rd. 82. If a lake association has a clean water project they wish to be considered in the future, contact the SWCD office.

3. DC Land & Resource Update - Justin Swart reported that as of July 11, 2016, 4300 inspections have been conducted. Drain plug is at a 98.5 compliance rate. The County focuses their inspection on the highest traffic public accesses. There have been no new infestations noted.

The County does have funds available to treat AIS. A revised application form can be obtained at their office. Lake L'Homme Dieu is requesting treatment for erosion milfoil of approximately 5 acres. It was requested that the MN Identification AIS Handbook be available to lake association via PDF form.

4. The MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) conducted a review of transparency trends in MN lakes. This report takes a closer look at data for those monitored lakes exhibiting significant trends and provides insights into factors that affect the transparency and quality of Minnesota's lakes. Of the almost 400 lakes with significant trends, 75% exhibited increasing transparency over time, while 25% were decreasing. A majority of lakes that exhibited transparency trends were associated with decreases or increases in in-lake phosphorus (P) concentration. For many of the lakes with increasing transparency trends, analysis suggests a beneficial effect of watershed, septic system, and near shore projects intended to reduce nutrient loading. Analysis considers other contributors to lake transparency, such as aquatic invasive species. Douglas County had 12 lakes with significant trends. Of these, ten were increasing and two were declining. Several of the lakes are located in or near Alexandria and are part of the Alexandria Chain of Lakes (Geneva, Victoria, and Le Homme Dieu). Zebra mussels are present in 10 of 12 lakes and most of the infestations date to 2009 -2012. There are excellent TP data for all of these lakes, and in general, temporal trends in transparency can be associated with changes in TP and the recent influx of zebra mussels. Lake Mary and Red Rock were the two lakes with *declining transparency*. There was a general discussion on water clarity and water quality are two separate issues.

5. MN Ag Water Resource Council has invited the DCLA to an evening meeting either September 8 or 9, 2016 in Evansville. Subject is Ag practices - how it affects water quality. Craig Hausmen is the contact person. Stephen Henry will follow up with confirmation of date, time and location.

6. July 27, 2016 the MPCA is having a meeting in Detroit Lakes. Jan Beliveau plans to attend.

7. Miltona representative brought up the subject of Vacation Rentals by Owners. This is apparently becoming a countywide issue. It was suggested that the Commissioners be requested to revisit this issue. Dave Rush had approached the DCLA approx. a year ago about VRBO. At that time no action was taken.

8. Monies have been secured to clean the Lake Latoka sediment pond . Waiting for another contractor that has the necessary equipment to come on board.

9. Per Jan Beliveau, update on Lake Winona. The 5 year master contract for professional/technical services expired 6/30/2016 and the new one was just issued 7/1/2016. The MPCA has to issue a new work order (with their new database system) to have the contractor there for the public meetings and to assist in addressing comments for the final TMDL. Denise Oakes, at MPCA, will let Jan know when she gets work order issued and then a public notice and public hearing can be scheduled. Looking toward early August, 2016.

10. Kids Day at Fleet Farm was a great day for around 85 kids. A big thank you to Stephen Henry who manned the DNR table. Dan and Nancy Stallman for heading up the AIS and rain gardens tables. They successfully handed out all the life vests for youths and grab bags. Thank you Danica Mazurek, SWCD Water Plan Tech, Justin Swart, DC AIS Tech for your participation and Jan Beliveau, the official tattoo lady.

With no further business, Vern Lorsung moved, seconded by Linda Dokken-McFann to adjourn the meeting at 1725 hours.