

## Douglas County Lakes Association Minutes

Public Works Bldg.

July 12, 2017

Attending: Jim Peterson - Ida, Dian Lopez - Ida, Andy Lopez - Ida, Dick Sudmeier - Ida, Gene Rose - Miltona, Steve Desutter - Miltona, Don Stallman - Irene, Chris Risbrudt - Stowe, Mike Cleary - Stowe, Vern Lorsung - Latoka, Bill Rustad - Victoria, Stephen Henry - L'Homme Dieu, Jeanne Johnson - Brophy, Don Clausen - Rachel, Jan Beliveau - Mary, Linda Dokken-McFann - Mary, Dave Rush - DC Director Land & Resource Dept., Danica Mazurek - SWCD Water Plan Tech. Justin Swart - DC AIS/Shoreland Tech and Jessica Albertsen - DC/SWCD Education Cord.

Meeting called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President Jan Beliveau. Agenda was approved by voice vote with the added item of Selective TV appeal.

June, 2017 meeting minutes correction to reflect that Bob Bowden (Red Rock) was in attendance. Lorsung moved, seconded by Lopez to approve the June 2017 with correction noted. Motion carried.

Jim Peterson gave the Treasurer's Report. No bills were submitted this month. Current balance is 13,774.57.

Jeanne Johnson presented a list of recommendations for action by County officials to ameliorate lake water quality issues as follows:

1. Review and update of PUD regulations, including clarification of density limits. Dave Rush questioned the need for review since it had been done in 2009 and suggested adding tighter storm water controls, especially of impervious surfaces.
2. Enforcement of current development and shoreland regulations, including follow up on variance commitments post approval. Lake owners could benefit from being familiar with shoreland regulations and PUD ordinances. It was suggested that penalties for non compliance may not be adequate and should be reviewed.
3. Enforcement of buffer zone law to the fullest extent.
4. To reduce chlorine in lakes, explore and use alternatives to winter road salting. Are there alternatives to water softener chemicals?
5. County should set up a fund to provide matching funds for grant applications, which enhances chances of grant approval.

After lengthy discussion, the remainder of possible recommendations were postponed until the August meeting.

Gene Rose read a letter from a Miltona resident reporting numerous illegal or discourteous behaviors on July 4 by lake visitors. Nuisance behavior should be reported to DCSO sheriff for said actions while it's

happening.

Stephen Henry reported Eurasian Milfoil found in 2 new locations on L'Homme Dieu. Treatment costs of \$16,000 have not been completely effective. Lorsung pointed out that in some other counties, the County pays for much of these efforts. Dian Lopez urged concerned parties to attend Senior College free seminar on invasive species at AATC offered in September, 2017.

SWCD Water Plan Tech, Danica Mazurek reported that 56 wells have been tested for nitrate levels and the SWCD will offer free testing again on August 29, 2017 at the SWCD office in USDA building behind McDonald's on Hwy 29 North.

She announced the Water Plan Task Force will meet at Public Works on July 26, 2017 from 10:00 - 12:00 p.m. . All citizens are welcome to attend and comment. The Sauk River Watershed and Pomme de'Terre Watershed have been added to the One Watershed/One Plan lineup. Long Prairie is on hold until the Winona TMDL is approved. Also note that the Clean Water Funding has been reduced to \$6 million for Projects and Practices for the entire state.

Justin Swart, DC AIS/Shoreland Tech reported that approx. 250 visitors attended the annual Mills Fleet Farm Kids Fishing Appreciation Day. Four areas covered were fish hook knot tying, fish identification, AIS education and boat safety. Starry Trek 2017 - join a statewide search for Minnesota's newest aquatic invader, starry stonewort on August 5, 2017. No experience necessary. Registration is open at [www.StarryTrek.org](http://www.StarryTrek.org). Thus far 7 have registered for Douglas County. All participants will report at 8:30 a.m. at the Public Works Bldg. Justin Swart is the local coordinator for this event.

Dave Rush announced that the Vacation Rental By Owner (VRBO) work group is almost finished with recommendations for the County Commissioners to review for approval. It appears that licensing will be recommended.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Jeanne Johnson, DCLA member