

Douglas County Lakes Association

Public Works Building

August 9, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Jan Beliveau at 1630 hours. The following were in attendance: Jim Peterson - Ida, Dian Lopez - Ida, Dick Sudmeier - Ida, Lyne Glesne - Miltona, Gene Rose - Miltona, Gary Waller - Red Rock, Mike Cleary - Stowe, Vern Lorsung - Latoka, Bill Rustad - Victoria, Jeanne Johnson - Brophy, Don Clausen - Rachel, Jan Beliveau - Mary, Linda Dokken-McFann - Mary, Ron Tschaekoske - Vermont, Dave Rush - DC Land & Resource Director, Justin Swart - DC Land & Resource AIS/Shoreland Tech., Bruce Leuhmann - Latoka, John Kes - Victoria, Doug Kuells - Latoka, Greg Windhurst - DCSO Water Division, Karen Tolkkinen - ECHO Press, Don Stallman - Irene, Danica Derks - SWCD Water Plan Tech.

I. The agenda was approved by voice vote.

II. G. Rose moved, seconded by R. Tschaekoske to approved July 12, 2017 meeting minutes with the correction noted on 4. to read, To reduce *chloride* in lakes, explore and use alternatives to winter road salting. Motion carried.

III. Jim Peterson provided financial update. Account balance is 14906.57. The following bills were submitted for payment: RMB Labs 836.00, RMB Labs 792.00, Info Link 311.25. V. Lorsung moved, seconded by D. Stallman to pay the bills. Motion carried.

IV. Announcements:

- Fall Season Kick-off for Senior College of West Central Minnesota on September 7, 2017 at 3:15 p.m. at the ATCC Auditorium (room 743) with Dr. Nick Phelps from MN Fight Against Aquatic Invasive Species. There is no charge to attend this kick-off event. No pre-registration required. Please visit www.alextech.edu/SeniorCollege for more information, schedule and complete syllabus for future classes offered.
- West Central Minnesota Town Hall meeting "Improving Water Quality" is scheduled for September 6, 2017 at the St Cloud Community Tech College, 1540 Northway Drive, St. Cloud, MN. from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Registration opens at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.
- Free Nitrate Testing will be offered August 29th, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the SWCD office.

V. Greg Windhurst, DCSO Water Division fielded questions regarding disrespectful and possible unlawful behaviors observed on area lakes. There are current laws covering trespassing, disorderly conduct, noise regulation, disturbing the peace and parking violation. There are too few law enforcement personal to cover the 100 plus lakes in Douglas County. It was suggested that you video tape the infraction observed and forward it to the DCSO for follow up. DCSO office number is 320-762-8151.

Property owners reported shoreline erosion being caused by wake boats operating close to the shoreline. *It was clarified that the 150 foot rule from shoreline is for PWC (Personal Water Crafts) ONLY not boats.* Persons in support of adding boats to this 150 foot rule, should contact their MN representatives and the DNR.

It was clarified that there are no designated NO Wake lakes within Douglas County per Dave Rush, DC Land & Resource Director. There is an Emergency Special Control ordinance that can be enacted if the water level is deemed too high as a temporary measure to protect shoreline. There are designated *no wake zones* on area lakes which are marked with buoys. This is managed by the DCSO office. If a lake association is interested in water surface restriction, they should first approach their lake members to get a consensus. Dave Rush provided copy of the State of Minnesota, County of Douglas, Water Surface Use Ordinance No. 062309A.

It was clarified that the land below the OHWL is *not your personal property*. You can post no trespassing signs on your legal personal property that are clearly visible to the public.

General discussion held on educating the public on How To Be A Good Steward, Good Boating Practices, AIS Spread, and basic respect for others.

VI. Per Justin Swart, DC AIS/Shoreland Tech. A permanent DECON station will be installed at the Kruger Creek area on Lake L'Homme Dieu sometime this September. Rationale for this selection site was that the County owned the land and this is one of the top 5 busiest access. Thus far over 3500 inspections have been done throughout the County this season.

Statewide Starry Trek 2017 was held on Saturday, August 5th. Douglas County had 14 participants who covered 18 lakes and 22 public accesses. No AIS tarry stonewort was found. The state may decide to make this an annual event to include more AIS species. Currently 9 lakes statewide are infested with starry stonewort.

VII. Danica Mazurek, SWCD Water Plan Tech. On July 26, 2017, the DC Water Plan Task Force met. General discussion held on a variety of topics. DCLA reps present were Vern Lorsung, Jan Beliveau and Linda Dokken-McFann. Notes from the meeting outlined below.

- Jan Beliveau, DCLA President and Dean Beck, DNR are working on an Environmental Trust Fund to be established for Douglas County. They have met with the DC Commissioners who requested that they submit a plan. This trust fund will be *earmarked for clean water projects* within the County that can be used for the 25% matching funds required on the most grants.
- Discussed the support to create a joint powers board for the Long Prairie River Watershed. Per Jan Beliveau, One Watershed One Plan can not begin until every lake in watershed has a *completed TMDL*. Winona TMDL has not been finalized yet.
- Out of 125 some lakes in Douglas County, only 18 are participating in the water monitoring program. Dean Beck, DNR would like to see small lakes or lakes with no lake association be able to tap into a funding source for water testing. He feels this is very important to collect this data.

- State granted a waiver for buffer law deadline compliance until June, 2018 if the property owner meets with SWCD and demonstrates that they have a plan in place but due to lack of funds cannot meet this year's deadline. It cost 300.00 per acre for native grass seed and 200.00 per acre for cool season non native grass seed. DC Land & Resource elected to be the department for enforcement of the buffer rule. *Lakeshore owners were exempt from this law but are encouraged to leave natural shoreland, no mow let it grow or put in a rain garden to collect runoff from lawns. We need to do our part to protect the lake from runoff also!!!!!!*
- SWCD website has been updated. County's website Alexlakes.org is also up and running. SWCD is offering free nitrate testing to Douglas County property owners on August 29, 2017 from 830 a.m. through 4 p.m. at the SWCD office.
- AIS update: Lobster and Bergen lakes have been added to the zebra mussels infestation list. Victoria has been added for eurasian milfoil also this week. DC AIS staff and SWCD staff are conducting veliger density testing in area lakes this summer.
- Douglas County has 420 permitted feedlots. There are closer to 550 feedlots total but small scale farms are not required to be permitted under current law. Douglas County did receive 93000.00 in grant monies to be used for soil investigation on unpermitted pits. SWCD is overseeing Lake Ida project on ditch 23 and shoreland erosion issues. They received 227,430.00 in grant monies for terrain analysis, Ditch 23 analysis and DNR aquatic management study in the wetland near the ditch. 56,858.00 must be matching funds from somewhere.
- Wake boats primarily seen on L'Homme Dieu Victoria and Latoka have caused a lot of shoreline erosion and at times, safety issues to other boats anchored fishing. It was suggested that DCLA write a letter to DC Land & Resource to request that these lakes be *considered for surface water restrictions*. This lead into the discussion of general disregard to current law and lack of respect for other boaters on the lakes.
- SWCD will have a booth at the Douglas County Fair, August 17 - 20th, 2017. DCLA offered to provide prizes for the Name The Carp contest. Spin the Wheel will also have prizes for young participants provided by SWCD. This year's theme is AIS.

VIII. Annual DCLA meeting is September 13, 2017. Jan Beliveau will make the food arrangements with Pizza Ranch. V. Lorsung and D. Sudmeier volunteered for the Audit Committee. It was agreed to table the water quality concerns over to the annual meeting.

With no further business, L D McFann moved, seconded by V. Lorsung to adjourn the meeting at 1745 hours.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Linda Dokken-McFann, DCLA member