



DOUGLAS COUNTY LAKES ASSOCIATION
Public Works Building
February 14, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 1630 hours on February 14, 2018, by President J. Beliveau. The following were in attendance: Jim Peterson - Ida, Gene Rose - Miltona, Bob Reynolds - Devils/Little Chip, Chris Risbrudt - Stowe, Mike Cleary - Stowe, Bill Rustad - Victoria, Linda Rice - Darling, Stephen Henry - L'Homme Dieu, Don Clausen - Rachel, Jan Beliveau - Mary, Linda Dokken-McFann - Mary, Mark Meuwissen - Jessie, Rod Johnson - Lobster, Paul Anderson - Big Chip, Dave Rush - DC Land & Resource Director, Justin Swart - DC L&R AIS/Shoreland Tech, Danielle Anderson SWCD Water Plan Tech, Jessica Albertsen - SWCD/AIS Education Coordinator. A quorum was present.

I. The agenda was approved by voice vote.

II. There will be no virtual summit option this year for the Aquatic Invaders Summit III to be held February 28th - March 1, 2018. You will need to go online and register to attend in person.

III. B. Reynolds moved, seconded by S. Henry to approved the January 10, 2018 meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

IV. J. Peterson, DCLA Treasurer report: checking account balance is 10796.24. No bills submitted this month. Membership is 24. A monkey survey draft was given out to for review. If you would like to add questions specific to your lake, submit them to Jessica Albertsen, SWCD/AIS Education Coordinator at jessica.Albertsen.SWCD@gmail.com by the end of this month.

V. Stephen Henry and Gene Rose met with Dave Robley, Director and the County Engineer of the Public Works Department to discuss the use of salt on the roads. Mr. Robley indicated that the State uses 200 lbs per mile per lane of salt. Douglas County uses 100 lbs. per mile with a 90/10 mixture of sand and salt. The 90 % being sand and 10 % salt. There is also the option of using a salt brine spray before a storm. Salt brine for roads is a mixture of rock salt and water, and can be comprised of one or a combination of different types of salts. That is the white substance that is often times seen on the roads. The City of Alexandria salts at intersections. County salts intersections and curves throughout the 546 miles of county roads. DC uses 1000 tons of salt in a season. Each Township has their own policy for salt usage. From all indication, Douglas County practices are on the *conservative side* to save money and to reduce the amount of road salt that has the potential to end up in the lakes streams and groundwater. According to Conservation Minnesota, it only takes one teaspoon of road salt to permanently pollute 5 gallons of water. Once in the water, there is no way to remove the chloride from road salt, and at high concentrations, chloride can harm fish, aquatic plant life, groundwater, and drinking water supplies.

VI. Website Update: L. Dokken-McFann moved, R. Johnson seconded to pursue Dynamic 14 to update the DCLA website. M. Cleary moved, S. Henry seconded to *amend the motion to read to up the amount*

of 2657.00 for website creation and update. The amended motion passed. The original motion passed. Don Clausen, Mike Cleary, Rod Johnson and Jessica Albertsen will serve on the Website Update Committee.

VII. No update on the Winona TMDL per Jan Beliveau.

VIII. The Private Vacation Rental Ordinance DRAFT (PVR) was sent out to the membership. Public hearing is set for February 27, 2018. Any questions or feedback can be submitted to Dave Rush at DC Land & Resource Department.

IX. Jan Beliveau and L. Dokken-McFann will serve as the DCLA Zoning contact person(s) for the County. Lake Associations receive the monthly DC viewing packet via email. Each lake association is responsible to review the packet and attend public hearings their lake association deem necessary.

X. SWCD Update: Danielle Anderson, SWCD Water Plan Tech reported that their office is applying for 319 grants for the Chippewa Watershed and the Long Prairie River Watershed. Project ideas need to be submitted by this Friday. Jessica Albertsen reported that the Tree Open House has taken place. Interested parties can still order trees for a brief time however. SWCD met with 21 landowners on the buffer law requirements, 5 landowners on wetland questions, met with 2 landowners on Ag. BMP Loan Programs, pre-con meeting for a stream bank project, reviewed 5 delineations and 4 road projects and provided update on the progress on the CD 23 water grant on Lake Ida. The second Environmental Trust Fund steering committee met this past week. AlexAreaLakes and the SWCD websites have been updated. The DC AIS Education curriculum was offered to 85 students for the month of February.

The upcoming Kids Groundwater Festival Event is open to all 4th graders in the area. B. Reynolds moved, seconded by G. Rose to approved 500.00 donation to the Annual Kids Groundwater Festival to be held on May 2, 2018 at the Runestone Bldg. Motion carried.

XI. DC Land & Resource Update: Justin Swart reported that the Cost Share For Additional Inspection Hours form and the DC AIS grant application are being revised. Targeting early March for completion.

Shoreland Guidelines presentation was provided by Justin Swart, DC AIS/Shoreland Tech. For the past 50 years there has been *some type of guidelines* for shoreland area. In 2007, the state directed the DNR to update shoreland rules however was never legislatively voted on to become law. At present we have shoreland guidelines of best practices that the County has adopted to protect our natural resources. The areas around lakes are subject to special rules and regulations intended to protect water quality and minimize the visual impacts of development. The shoreland area extends 1000 feet from the Ordinary High Water level of any DNR classified lake. This entire area is subject to the shoreland regulations. Not all lakes are treated the same by the Douglas County Zoning Ordinance. Lakes are zoned differently based on size and depth. There are three lake classifications: general development (largest size, lowest restrictions), recreational development (medium size, medium restrictions), and natural environment (smallest size, greatest restrictions). The Douglas County Ordinance is based on this classification system. The Shore Impact Zone (SIZ) is the area from the ordinary high water mark upland to half the distance of the building setback for the zoning district. Structures are not allowed within the Shore Impact Zone. Stairways and landings are allowed with a Shoreline Alteration Permit (SAP). All landscaping projects within the Shore Impact Zone require a SAP as well. Three types of SAPs are issued, Standard, Major and Minor, depending on the type and size of the project. Land and Resource Management staff will determine what type of permit is required. ***It is a good idea to arrange a site***

visit with Land and Resource Management staff before beginning any shoreline work. You can do this by calling (320) 762-3863. Removal of vegetation below the ordinary high water line (OHW) is regulated by the MN Department of Natural Resources. Above the OHW intensive vegetation removal is not allowed. Limited clearing (25% or up to 25 feet of the shoreline frontage) is allowed with a Shoreline Alteration Permit issued by Land and Resource Management. A Shoreline Alteration Permit is also required for any type of landscaping, construction, dirt work or excavation within the shore and/or bluff impact zones.

Permit Process includes: Initial site visit, apply for permit with submitted plans of the project, pay permit fees, the plans are reviewed by DC L&R staff then a second review by the Director, once it receives approval, the work can begin. After the completion, a follow up inspection is done by DC Land & Resource. The majority permit application in the County are for Minor and Standard projects.

Projects where NO permit is required: Rip rap work, removing dead and/or diseased vegetation, tree limbing, vegetation planting, ice ridge repair, and/or landscaping outside of the SIZ shore impact zone area.

Violation/Enforcement can have multi agencies involved. Fines can range from 50.00 up to 1500.00. Restoration orders are used to have the property owner put back to the original state. It is hard to stabilize soil once disrupted. 20 violations listed for 2017: 10 for lack of a permit, 7 for going beyond the approved plan and 3 major violations.

Best practice is to call DC Land & Resource before you begin any work to ensure your plans are within the guidelines and if any permits are required. For additional information, you can call Justin Swart at 320-762-3864. There is also a section on shoreland guidelines on the AlexAreaLakes.org website. **LESS YOU DO ON THE SHORELAND THE BETTER FOR YOUR LAKE.**

With no further business, C. Risbrudt moved, seconded by L. Dokken-McFann to adjourn the meeting at 1810 hours.

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