



DOUGLAS COUNTY LAKES ASSOCIATION
Public Works Building
March 14, 2018
WEDNESDAY @ 4:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 1630 hours by President Jan Beliveau.

The following were in attendance: Jim Peterson - Ida, Dick Sudmeier - Ida, Gene Rose - Miliona, Bob Reynolds - Devils/Little Chippewa, Don Stallman - Irene, Mike Cleary - Stowe, Vern Lorsung - Latoka, John Kes - Victoria, Bill Rustad - Victoria, Stephen Henry - L'Homme Dieu, Mike & Lori Pettit - Union, Bob Teclaw - Grill, Don Clausen - Rachel, Jan Beliveau - Mary, Linda Dokken-McFann - Mary, Steve Kogler - Lobster, Rod Johnson - Lobster, Paul Anderson - Big Chip, Justin Swart - DC AIS/Shoreland Tech., Dave Rush - DC L&R Director, Danielle Anderson - SWCD Water Plan Tech., Jessica Albertsen - SWCD/DC AIS Education Tech., Bob Bowden - Red Rock, Karen Tolkkinen - Echo Press and Pat Schultz - DC L&R, Environmental Planning Tech.

Introductions were given.

I. The agenda was approved by voice vote.

II. V. Lorsung moved, seconded by D. Stallman to approve the 02/14/2018 DCLA meeting minutes as written. Motion carried.

III. Treasurer's Report - Jim Peterson reported that the bank balance was 10296.24. The following bills were submitted for payment; MN Lakes & Rivers annual membership fee of 100.00 and LD McFann for Dec, Jan & Feb. minutes preparation - 450.00. B. Reynolds moved, seconded by G. Rose to pay the bills. Motion carried.

IV. Committee Reports:

Membership - All member lakes are paid up to date. Nothing else to report.

Website - Don Clausen reported that the committee has met twice with Dynamics 14 since last month. The meetings have been very productive. Charlene Staples will be the contact person for content and design. All legal matters will be referred to DCLA President, Jan Beliveau for follow up.

Zoning - Jan Beliveau reported that the public hearing on Vacation Rental By Owners was held. It has since been approved by the DC Commissioners. The new Zoning / Lodging Ordinance is effective immediately except for the one provision dealing with capacity of units which will be effective October 1, 2018 to allow for reservations that owners have accepted for 2018 season. There are approximately 80 known VRBO's within Douglas County at present. From Land and Resources Management - Notice is hereby given that on the 6th day of March, 2018, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners adopted amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and Lodging Ordinance establishing licensing and permitting requirements for private/vacation home rental, and creating standards for the operation of the use in all zoning districts in the County. The amendments were effective upon adoption, however enforcement of Section U, subpart 3.d will not be enforced until after October 1, 2018. Complete copies are available on the Douglas County Website (www.co.douglas.mn.us), at the Land & Resource Management Office, Horizon Public Health, and at the Auditor/Treasurer's Office.

DCLA Position Paper Committee - No update to report.

Water Quality Committee - Gene Rose reported that the Environmental Trust Fund sub group met with Leah Hall from the Nature Conservancy who has offered to assist in creating multi use maps based on scientific data. The maps will highlight priorities in Douglas County to identify potential future projects. Next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2018 at the SWCD conference room.

V. SWCD Update: Danielle Anderson reported that she submitted 319 Grant Applications for the Long Prairie River Watershed and the Chippewa Watershed. Broad range of projects fall under this grant such as targeting polluted waters, sedimentation issues, feedlots, chloride concerns, gullies, cover crops and land and lake scaping projects. 4.2 million is available statewide. Notification of grant application approval will be in May of 2018.

CD23 update - Grant application was given in August of 2017. Mid October, the engineering company was hired. They began soil boring this fall. Part of the study includes water flow which will take place this summer. Barr Engineering will not have any results until June of 2018. Anyone interested in updates can go on the SWCD website, click on News/Events tab.

Water Sampling program is gearing up. RMB Labs will be offering a short training again this year. Date and time to be determined.

Jessica Albertsen reported that she provided AIS Education at 4 schools with a total of 74 students participating. They met with 4 landowners on buffer requirements and 13 landowners on wetland questions. There are still trees available for purchase. Ms. Albertsen is working on the first draft for the Shoreland Guide Book.

LAMP (Loop-mediated Isothermal Amplification) unit is being tested to detect present or absent of AIS and viruses within one hour. The unit is portable and easy to use. This proto type was developed right here in Alexandria, MN at Douglas Scientific. Jessica Albertsen made contact with the US Geological Survey (USGS) and Douglas Scientific to request that DCLA be able to obtain a unit to collect data for the USGS in Douglas County.

Lake Survey - Each lake has a dedicated separate LINK to insure that the data collected is a *representation of their lake only*. The data will be compiled after the survey time is closed and shared with each lake association. If for any reason you receive a lake survey that is NOT your lake, immediately contact Jessica Albertsen @ jessica.albertsen.swcd@gmail.com. To date 201 surveys have been received. Closing date will be April 27, 2018 at 430 p.m.

VI. DC Land & Resource Department - Dave Rush, Justin Swart

Per Justin Swart the 2018 Douglas County Invasive Aquatic Plant Control Grant Application has been emailed out. The funds provided by these grants are intended to support management activities permitted by the MN DNR that will likely decrease the impacts of invasive aquatic plants to public use of a water and/or limit potential expansion. Examples include managing infestations near public water accesses, public beaches, in and near navigable channels between lakes, around public fishing piers, and in high watercraft-traffic areas. The application is also be available on the AlexAreaLakes.org site.

2018 Application for Additional Watercraft Inspection Hours must be submitted by May 4, 2018 to the Land & Resource Management Department. Submit to Justin Swart at justins@co.douglas.mn.us.

Become an Aquatic Invasive Species Detector. Offered through the University of Minnesota Extension in partnership with MN AIS Research Center. Complete 16 hours of training self paced online courses and one in-person workshop. Workshops held across the state from April - June. Interested parties go to www.AISdetectors.org for more information.

VII. Items from the floor-

1. **University of Minnesota Homeowner Seminar;** Douglas County Land and Resource Management is hosting a **FREE** septic system and private well homeowner education class on **Wednesday May 9th, 2018**. The class will be put on by the University of Minnesota Onsite Sewage Treatment Program which will be held at the **Douglas County Public Works Conference Room from 2:00-4:00 PM**. Snacks and refreshments will be provided during the class. Please **RVSP** by **May 2nd**, 2018 to Patrick Schultz at 320-762-3868 or pats@co.douglas.mn.us

This class will cover the basics of how septic systems function, well water testing, and how to help protect your well from contamination sources. It will also provide property owners information on chemicals of emerging concern (CEC) including pharmaceuticals, personal care products, and the potential impact on ground and surface water. Information on proper maintenance of both septic systems and private drinking water systems will be covered to help property owners protect their investments and the environment. A representative from your county will be present to answer any questions you may have related to the local ordinance and related programs

2. 2018 Gathering Partners of Natural Resources Conference! This year's conference is being held May 18-20 at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd, Minnesota. Conference attendees are invited to reserve lodging on-site at Cragun's for a reduced rate of \$99 per night plus 7.375% sales tax for a total of \$106.31 per night. Book your room before March 31, 2018 to receive the reduced rate. Be sure to reserve your lodging early! Rooms will be released after March 31, with the rate going back to the normal rate of \$169+ per night. Gathering Partners is designed around educational natural resources sessions, and volunteer recognition. At Gathering Partners, you can learn more about AIS research, get out on the water, and discover other volunteer opportunities through Extension.

3. Vern Lorsung letter of resignation dated March 14, 2018, which read: Due to health problems and age, I sorrowfully offer my resignation as Vice President and Executive Board Member of the Douglas County Lakes Association. I enjoyed more than 28 years as a member and seen it grow from its birth to a great organization, that was organized, to protect our waters for the next generations. I will also be resigning my position as representative from Lake Latoka Property owners Association to the DCLA. Keep up all the great work. I sure will miss all of you. Respectful, Vern Lorsung.

Jan Beliveau accepted V. Lorsung letter of resignation. S. Henry moved, seconded by D. Stallman to approve Gene Rose to assume the Vice President position. Motion carried.

VIII. Septic System Ordinance Presentation by Patrick Schultz, Environmental Planning Technician DC Land & Resource Department. What is sewage? Sewage is a water-carried waste, in solution or suspension, that is intended to be removed described as dirt · muck · grime · mud · mire · sludge · slime · ooze · foul matter · excrement to name a few. Refer to MN Rule 7080-7083 for state definition. Why treat sewage? To protect you, your family, the environment and public health concerns. How to deal with it? Treating sewage is everyone's responsibility. Residents within towns, cities, and sewer districts have their sewage treated at a treatment plant referred to as a centralized system. Decentralized systems include residents in areas without access to municipal treatment plants however, own, operate and maintain their own "mini-treatment plants" – their septic systems. What is a septic system? A septic system is professionally designed to treat sewage for a specific home, business, or group of properties. Proper treatment of sewage recycles water back into the natural environment with reduced health risks to humans and animals and prevents surface and ground water contamination. The complete septic system is made up of three primary components: Plumbing - sewage collection, Septic tank - primary treatment of all water used in the home and the Soil Treatment Area - final treatment and dispersal of septic tank matter. What determines the size of system? Lot size, set back requirements, function of the site (residential or

commercial use), financial considerations to name a few. How to get started? DC Land & Resource Department maintains a list of professionals in the area currently licensed by the state to conduct this specialized work. Interview your septic system professional and learn about how they do business. Make sure they are licensed, reputable, and reliable by asking for and checking references. Contractor will submit design and stake out the proposed site on your property. The DC inspector will review design and collect soil borings on the site (soil is verified for life). Once this is completed and approved by the DC inspector, application and permit will be forward for final signoff by property owner (private systems). The final approval is granted by Dave Rush, Director of Land & Resource Department within 10 working days. Once this is completed, work can begin. Final inspection is completed after the install in done, if everything is OK, a Certificate of Compliance will be issued and is good for 3 years. It is recommended that private system tank be pumped at a minimum of every 3 years. Proper maintenance will save costly repairs down the road. What triggers an inspection? Mainly the transfer of ownership and/or applying for permit to do other work.

Douglas County received grant funds to create a Septic Data Base which they have shared with other counties. Since 2015, there have been 4213 data entries (parcel numbers) entered into the system. This system also tracks disposal sites used, non compliance issues and other useful data. The County can now provide requested information within minutes as compared to years back when everything was tracked on paper.

Since 2015, 632 inspections have been completed. Of those, 14% were found in non-compliance. System failure may be identified by one or more of the following: Sewage backup into the house, sewage surfacing in the yard or a ditch, sewage odors indoors or outdoors, high levels of nitrates or coliform bacteria in well water tests, sounding of system alarms, algae blooms and excessive plant growth in nearby ponds or lakes. System failure most commonly results from overuse of water in the home , lack of proper maintenance and/or improper system design or installation. The property owner has 24 months to correct any issues.

With no further business, B. Reynolds moved, seconded by V. Lorsung to adjourn the meeting at 1745 hours. Motion carried.

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