



LAKE MILTONA ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 148, MILTONA, MN 56354
320-852-7588

Annual Membership Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2014 – Community Center, Miltona, MN

Officers in Attendance: Steve DeSutter, President; Marc Bot, Vice President, Bob Larson, Treasurer; Gene Rose, Secretary

Board Members in Attendance: Jack Anderson, Pete Anderson, Ted Boehne, Cheryl Brauer (attending for Tom Brauer), John Fair, John Fay, Lynn Glesne, Don Henning, Steve Herth, Dick Kuehn, William Moeller, Vern Suhr, Mike Wrobel

Call to Order: President Steve DeSutter called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Verification of Quorum: President Steve DeSutter confirmed that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes: John Fair moved and Don Schaefer seconded that the minutes from the 2013 Lake Miltona Association Membership Annual Meeting be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Election of Directors: President DeSutter presented the following slate of nominees who have agreed to serve as Directors for the Lake Miltona Association:

Area 1	Lynn Glesne	Area 8	Tim Lind
Area 2 A	John Fair	Area 9&10	Jerry Fulton
Area 2 B	Jack Anderson	Area 12	Mike Wrobel & Warren Davis
Area 2 C	John Fay	Area 13	Ted Boehne & Tom Brauer
Area 3A	Skeeter Kingsberg	Area 14&15	Steve DeSutter
Area 3 B	Vern Suhr	Area 16	Anne Rykken
Area 3 C	Gene Rose	Area 17	Marc Bot & Bob Larson
Area 4	Steve Herth	Area 18	Pete Anderson & Randy Hanson
Area 5	Dick Kuehn	Area 19	Don Henning
Area 7	William Moeller		

Lynn Glesne moved and Dick Kuehn seconded that the above slate be elected as Directors of the Lake Miltona Association. The motion carried unanimously.

Invited Speakers:

Jim Bosek provided an overview of the stocking operation from his fish farm near Garfield. He started the business in 1985 by stocking the chain of lakes. His business has since expanded to lakes throughout Douglas County. His business raises its own fry. They stock the lakes by putting the fry into the lakes at the middle of lake in order to reduce the loss of fry due to predation, etc. if they are released near the

shore. He pointed out that most lakes do not adequately reproduce sufficient walleye to support the fishing activity on the lakes. This is because most lakes are too silted to ensure that walleyes can spawn successfully. They need a non-silted, rubble rock shoreline. He stated that Lake Miliona does not have sufficient rubble rock shoreline for walleye spawning to support their population. Therefore, we need to continue to stock walleyes. He recommended a yearly stocking program to prevent a population crash and build process.

Jim then fielded a number of questions from the audience:

1. Was the delay of our usual fall walleye stocking to the spring of this year a problem? No. Walleye only grow during the four months of May – September. Stocking is best done as late in the fall as possible to ensure maximum growth. The ice conditions last year were not favorable for fall stocking. However, by stocking in the spring we only passed up months during which the young walleye could have been eaten.
2. Why are the walleyes in Lake Miliona so small? It takes 5 years for walleyes to grow up. Lake Miliona is known as a good fishery, so the fish are being taken smaller and smaller due to the fishing pressure.
3. Are smaller walleyes more voracious feeders? There is a competition between big and small walleyes for feeding and big ones eat small ones. Sometimes many small ones encourage big ones to bite. Dealing with the distribution issue by using slot limits doesn't work well. The best way to obtain a good distribution of sizes is to use a continuous stocking program.
4. What are the stocking/acre recommendations? Stocking limits for a lake are regulated by the DNR based on their analysis of the walleye population in the lake. However, they do not provide stocking recommendations. The Lake Associations submits a stocking request but that request may be denied if it exceeds the DNR limit for that year.
5. Can natural reproduction occur in the lakes? The walleyes hatch in 21 days at 51 degrees under favorable conditions. However, most lakes do not have clean enough areas for the eggs to survive and hatch. This is primarily due to eggs getting covered with silt. Less than one percent of the Minnesota lakes can produce sufficient walleyes. Walleyes are basically a put and take species in our lakes.
6. What is the status of our walleye-stocking fund? Bob Larson reviewed the contributions from members and clubs. We spent about \$7000 on stocking last year and have some cushion left that was carried over to this year's budget. Steve DeSutter reported that we will request a permit to stock 1000 pounds this fall.
7. What is the fingerling growth rate? A 6-inch fingerling should grow to about 15 inches in 3 years.
8. How do the walleyes compete with zebra mussels? They don't feed in the same zone in the lake. Jim said that Lake Erie has good walleye fishing now even though zebra mussels have moved in. He also said that the zebra mussel population in Lake Le Homme Dieu is now decreasing after peaking about 2 years ago. This peaking may be caused because the fish begin to see zebra mussels as a food source especially after their shells weaken due to a reduced food source caused by a zebra mussel population explosion. He did not expect zebra mussels to do well in Lake Miliona.

Marlene Schoeneck provided an overview of her Environmental Biology course activities at Lake Miliona in cooperation with the Lake Miliona Association and Smokey Timbers. She explained that this class is part of the College in the School program. This Environmental Biology course is offered to eligible juniors and seniors. Upon completion of the course the students receive Central Lakes College credit. The enrollment in her Parkers Prairie class is thirteen students consisting of 11 seniors and 2 juniors.

The project comprised two objectives: (1) an evaluation of the conditions of our 4 inlets and (2) a “Score Your Shore” lake shoreline evaluation. One part of the inlet study repeated the analyses used in our earlier May 2011 and May 2012 monitoring program that was part of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s Long Prairie watershed evaluation program. The objective from this part of the study was to determine if any significant changes in the conditions of the inlets took place in the intervening two years since the last evaluations. Additional aspects of their program included obtaining volumetric flow rate data at each of the inlets and conducting vertebrate and invertebrate surveys at the inlets. These new data provide additional information on the status of the inlets and their impact on our lake. For example, the inlet flow rate data can be used to estimate the overall loading of nutrition to Lake Miliona.

A report has been written on the project and photographs of the activities are available. Marlene provided an overall review of the results. A comparison of their data to that of 2011 and 2012 did not show any major changes in the chemical analyses data at the inlets. The biotic index diversity was classified as “all right” in 2 streams, “good” in another and “poor” in one. The flow rates were high at all inlets except the Spring Lake inlet, which was slowed by a beaver dam upstream. The “Score Your Shore” evaluation showed that shorelines with natural vegetation had less damage than those cleared of the natural vegetation. In the question and answer period Marlene reported that no zebra mussels were found.

Paul Anderson introduced a new version of the "Water Quality Dedication" program. He contrast it with the effort initiated 20 years ago. At that time 143 people participated in this program. Of this number only about one-half are still residents of the lake. He said that these data suggest that we have a lot of new people on the lake and that with so many new residents it is time to initiate another effort to preserve and protect our lake water quality. He described the eight "actions" that all residents can take to be part of the program. He noted that this list has been published in our Spring Newsletter and in our 2014/2016 Lake Miliona Area Directory. The list focuses on actions to reduce the addition of nutrients and pollutants into the lake. He said that program would start this year as we review this list of recommendations and begin to take actions that can lead to improvements in our behavior. Next year folks can complete a “self-survey” that will be distributed to evaluate their lakeshore behavior. Recognition awards based on successful implementation of the suggested actions are planned.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Bob Larson provided a review of the Lake Miliona Association finances. No questions or concerns were raised. He said that any member wanting the details of his report should contact him for a copy. Bob also reported that our records have been audited and that no discrepancies or weaknesses were found. Bob said that we currently have about 400 members who have paid their dues for 2014. Last year we had 413 members. He also reported that ads sold for our 2014/2016 Lake Miliona Area Directory covered the cost of its publication. Steve DeSutter urged everyone to thank the contributors and support their businesses.

Boat Parade: Steve DeSutter reported that our annual boat parade is scheduled for Thursday, July 4th starting at Sandy Beach. Details on registration and prizes are available in the Spring Newsletter. A Jet Ski category has been added this year.

Fund Raiser: Steve DeSutter reported that our annual fundraiser takes place on August 16th from 5 to 10 p.m. at the Miliona Community Center. Tickets for this event will be available at the door and for a reduced price from Lake Miliona Association Area Directors during the summer.

Clothing Report: Steve DeSutter reported that our online apparel ordering opened May 24th and closes June 15th. In response to a question he noted that no new items have been added to those available last

year. Maintaining a relatively small selection of items allows us to save money in the production of the items and thus reduces their cost. The shipping cost is \$3. He noted that other Lake Miltona items might be available from local resorts.

Fish Stocking Report: Steve DeSutter reported that Jim Bosek's presentation already covered all of the information concerning fish stocking. (See above section of the minutes.) He said that our policy is to stock as much as we can afford and the DNR will allow.

Smokey Timbers: Jack Anderson reported that an invitation to attend their August 9th fish fry from 11:30 to 2:30 is going to be sent to all the Lake Miltona Association members. He also gave a brief overview of the current activities at Smokey Timbers.

Old Business:

1. Mike Wrobel reported that our new Directories are available. He suggested the people attending the meeting pick one up. Directories were also passed out to the Lake Association Directors to distribute in their areas.
2. Steve DeSutter reminded attendees that if anyone had any issues or concerns they should contact their area Director to ask them to bring it to the attention of the Board.

New Business:

1. **What is the status of the "cows in the lake"?** The project has been completed. Jerry Haggemiller reviewed the actions taken to keep the cows out of our lake and the cost sharing for the completion of the project between the Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Lake Miltona Association.
2. **When does the sewer assessment end?** One more year.

Adjournment: Seeing no further business for the meeting Lynn Glesne moved for adjournment and John Fair seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gene Rose, Secretary.