



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

**Annual Membership Meeting Minutes - DRAFT**  
**June 20, 2015 – Community Center, Miltona, MN**

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

**Board Members in Attendance:** Jack Anderson, Ted Boehne, John Fair, John Fay, Jerry Fulton, Lynn Glesne, Randy Hansen, Steve Herth, Levern Kingsberg, William Moeller, Wally Roberts, Vern Suhr, Mike Wrobel

**Call to Order:** President Steve DeSutter called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Jerry Fulton moved and John Fair seconded that the minutes from the 2014 Lake Miltona Association Membership Annual Meeting be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

**Election of Directors:** President DeSutter said that the current officers and the following slate of Directors have agreed to serve the Lake Miltona Association:

Area 1	Lynn Glesne	Area 8	Tim Lind, Gary Fuchs
Area 2 A	John Fair	Area 9&10	Jerry Fulton
Area 2 B	Jack Anderson	Area 11	Open
Area 2 C	John Fay	Area 12	Mike Wrobel & Warren Davis
Area 3A	Levern Kingsberg	Area 13	Ted Boehne & Tom Brauer
Area 3 B	Vern Suhr	Area 14	Steve DeSutter
Area 3 C	Gene Rose	Area 15	Wally Roberts
Area 4	Steve Herth	Area 16	Anne Rykken
Area 5	Dick Kuehn	Area 17	Marc Bot & Bob Larson
Area 6	Open	Area 18	Darrell Olson & Randy Hanson
Area 7	William Moeller	Area 19	Don Henning

Jack Anderson moved and Joan DeSutter seconded that the above nominees and current officers be elected. The motion carried unanimously.

**Speakers:**

**Douglas County Commissioner Bev Bales:** Bev Bales reminded us that the Douglas County Commissioners have temporarily moved due to the Court House remodeling. She noted that the County Commissioners recently adopted a new ordinance concerning a program for invasive species inspection

and decontamination, which is the main topic of our meeting today. One County Commissioner activity she highlighted was the 5 county public health entity that Douglas County joined. She welcomed questions and said that she publishes a quarterly newsletter of the Commissioners' activities that she is happy to send to anyone interested. She left cards with her contact information.

### **Douglas County Land & Resources Director D. Rush:**

In his opening remarks Dave noted that he appreciated being invited to our meeting because this provided him a way to be able to interact with many more residents than possible by individual contacts. In his presentation Dave provided us with information on three topics: (1) Ice ridge damage on the shorelines of the lakes. (2) High water and wake restrictions. (3) County programs to address aquatic invasive species.

- (1) Ice ridge damage: Dave noted that several factors contribute to ice damage to shorelines. One is high wind during break up and another is ice expansion and contraction due to warming and cooling during the winter. The first factor was not too important this year. The second factor was particularly important this year due to the lack of snow cover of the ice. In this case the thick ice layer pushes into the ground and pushes up shoreline material including rocks and sand. This year due to the unusual amount of ice ridge damage the DNR issued an exemption from permitting for shoreline repair. He noted that this ice ridge formation is a natural process so that unless the ice ridge is causing a problem the DNR would prefer to have folks leave it alone. Dave highlighted several aspects of the DNR exemption: (a) Pushing the ridge material back into the lake is not one of the remediation processes allowed - the best remediation process is to spread it on the property away from the lake or haul it away. (b) The lakeshore owner needs to notify Douglas County Land & Resources 7 days prior to the remediation. No county permit is needed if only ice ridge repairs are being addressed. Exemption is for damage that occurred during the winter of 2014 - 2015 only. Rip/rap does not require a permit. Dave noted that the best solution to ice ridge formation is good vegetative coverage of the shoreline, e.g., trees and shrubs. In response to a question, J. Haggemiller said the Douglas County Soil & Water District does not have grant money for shoreline remediation this year. (Note added during the preparation of these minutes: Further information on this topic and links to the DNR guidelines can be found on the "lake-miltona.org" web home page in the "Announcements section.")
- (2) High Water and Wake Restrictions: Dave noted that due to the recent repetitive rain events lakes in Douglas County are high, however, they are not as high as last year. For example, he said that Lake Irene set an all time high lake level record in 2014. At the time of this meeting there are no wake restrictions in Douglas County. The need for these restrictions is based on lake level recordings. A no wake restriction requires a Board of Commissioners action that is then acted upon by the DNR. As part of the discussion, Gene Rose noted that the DNR is currently looking for volunteers to do Lake Miltona level monitoring. He asked for folks who might be interested in this activity to contact him for details.
- (3) Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS): Dave said that since 2009 the Douglas County Board of Commissioners has been working with the DNR and the Douglas County Lake Association to limit the spread of AIS in Douglas County mostly through funding from the DNR that last year only amounted to \$18,000. A new program is now available due to a \$10 million fund allocated by the MN Legislature to address the AIS issue. This funding is to be distributed to counties based on the number of public accesses and their parking places. Based on these criteria Douglas County was allocated approximately \$270,000. In order to access these funds the legislature required that counties must submit a plan for the use of these funds. This criterion has been met

by the Douglas County Commissioners. (Note added in preparation of the minutes: For details of the plans see the minutes of their April 7, 2015 meeting.) Dave summarized the goal of these plans. The overall goal is to instill a change in behavior of folks using the lakes in order to enhance the protection of the lakes from AIS. For example, it is hoped that the Clean-Drain-Dry behavior will become second nature just as seat belt usage. A second goal is to improve the efficiency of watercraft inspections. A third goal is to implement some sustainable preventative practices through working with businesses, resorts, and educational curriculum (e.g., in schools and recreational facilities). In this respect, the Douglas County Commissioners are also working in partnership with other counties in order to provide a common message. A fourth goal is to find ways to impact the current AIS situations. Some examples include the following: (a) Quantify what is happening in our lakes – are the AIS increasing or decreasing? (b) Attempt to eradicate any small, new infestations of AIS. (c) Finally, their highest priority is to ramp up inspection programs at our lakes. This both helps prevent new or additional infestations of AIS and also provides educational opportunities. To address this objective two new watercraft decontamination systems have been added (for a total of 4-5 in the County at any given time) and 16 new inspectors have been trained and are out at access locations (for a total of 20-22 inspectors at different access locations at any given time). The location of inspectors and decontamination units is expected to vary depending on conditions such as weather and the expected usage at the site. The Commissioners hope to build a web site to allow lake associations to purchase extra hours if they so desire.

Dave volunteered to answer questions concerning other topics. These included the following:

- (1) What can be done about cutting of reeds? Answer: Currently the County does not have any jurisdiction concerning this action. Concerns should be addressed to the Leslie George at the DNR in Glenwood. Emergent aquatic vegetation protects the shoreline so it should not be removed. Pushing floating cattail islands is not helpful. The best practice is to try to anchor them.
- (2) What is the status of zebra mussels in Irene, Lake Miltona, and Christmas Lake? Answer: Time will tell. Zebra mussels need a temperature of greater than 54 degrees to reproduce. They then attach themselves to solid substrates in late July or August. Zebra mussels have been found on docks in some parts of Irene. Lynn Glesne reported that zebra mussels have again been found in Christmas Lake after it had been treated to remove them. Gene Rose noted that none of the Lake Miltona Association board members reported finding any zebra mussels on equipment removed from the water last fall.
- (3) How long does equipment need to be out of the water to kill zebra mussels? Who monitors equipment? Answers: Items need to be dry for 21 days. Currently no one monitors equipment, but all lift and dock business people are required to have yearly training.
- (4) What is the definition of impervious surfaces? Answer: The County requires that no more than 25% of the property in question can be impervious. If water runs off the surface when it rains the surface is impervious. For example, all driveways are impervious as are decks, landscaping using woven plastic landscaping material, and landscaping walls greater than 4 inches wide. Dave noted that some landscaping fabric is not impervious.
- (5) What can be done to address shoreline erosion? Answer: Using rocks to help reestablish vegetation may help.
- (6) What is the status of the regulations for using private, residential property as a rental? Answer: Renting of private property (i.e., non-resort renting) can be an issue. The topic of how to define this type of usage and ordinances or regulations needed was brought before the MN Legislature but it was resolved. Currently the Douglas County Commissioners are

moving towards an ordinance that would require licensing of private residences if they wished to rent out their property. The objective of the ordinance would be to insure that septic systems, lighting, parking, noise, etc. are not a problem.

Dave concluded his discussion by encouraging people to call his department if they have a concern or a question. He left business cards for contact information.

### **Paul Anderson – Lake Miltona Water Quality:**

Paul reported that our Lake Miltona Association is continuing to monitor the water quality of Lake Miltona. He emphasized that the best way to continue to provide good fishing and water entertainment is to maintain our water quality.

As part of this ongoing program our Lake Miltona Association in cooperation with Smokey Timbers supported a field trip activity this spring for Marlene Schoeneck's Parkers Prairie "College in the School" High School College Environmental Biology class. Gene Rose provided a brief introduction of the types of activities of this field trip. They included obtaining data on our inlet streams water and taking samples for chemical analyses from the stream. Biotic index measurements and shoreline evaluations were also made. Gene reported that the analytical data obtained from RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc. were similar to those obtained in our 2011 and 2012 Long Prairie River watershed evaluation program with the exception of a relatively high E. coli levels at one inlet that was most likely due to the very low water flow in that stream. In addition to providing an ongoing monitoring of our water quality our sponsorship of this activity also provides an environmental educational opportunity for young people.

Paul reviewed our new program to help Lake Miltona residents preserve and improve our lake water quality that was described in our May 2015 Newsletter. He handed out copies of a "self survey" and explained how it should be used to evaluate our property's shoreline conditions and aquatic vegetation near our shorelines. He noted that the survey is meant to provide both a way to evaluate the conditions of our shorelines and to thereby suggest ways that we could manage our shoreline to most effectively support the preservation and improvement of water quality. He said that the best time to complete this survey is in July or August when the trees, shoreline vegetation and lake vegetation are most visible. Paul showed a sign that the Lake Association is going to present to people to recognize their participation and support of this program.

### **Jerry Haggemiller, Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District – Update on Runoff Control Projects:**

Jerry noted that undesirable runoff is a major water quality issue. It is the main focus of several of their recent projects. On Lake Miltona the remediation projects included reestablishing a CRP planting along a creek entering Lake Miltona thereby preventing undesirable runoff; a cattle fencing project to exclude cattle from a creek flowing into Lake Miltona; and two projects to prevent gravel and dirt from washing into Lake Miltona during rain storms and spring runoff.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Bob Larson provided a review of the Lake Miltona Association finances. No questions or concerns were raised. Bob said that we currently have 405 members who have paid their dues for 2015. He noted that we obtained about \$1600 more in the walleye stocking this year than last

year and about the same amount in the invasive species fund as we had last year. Any member wanting the details of his report should contact him for a copy.

**Boat Parade:** Randy Hansen reported that our annual boat parade is scheduled for Thursday noon, July 4<sup>th</sup> starting at Sandy Beach. Randy will be there about 11:00 a.m. to register participants. (Note added in preparation of the minutes: 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 15<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 10 p.m. at the Miltona Community Center. Tickets for this event will be available at the door and for a reduced price from Lake Miltona Association Area Directors during the summer.

**Fish Stocking Report:** Steve DeSutter reported that about 3000 pounds of 4-6 inch fingerlings have been stocked of which about 1000 pounds of the 4-6 inch fingerlings were purchased by the Lake Miltona Association. He noted that the DNR walleye were stocked in the fall and the Lake Miltona Association walleye were stocked in the spring. He referred people to our Spring Newsletter for details of our walleye stocking activities.

**Smokey Timbers:** Jack Anderson reported that an invitation to attend their August 8<sup>th</sup> fish fry from 11:30 to 2:30 is going to be sent to all the Lake Miltona Association members. A free will offering to Smokey Timbers will be appreciated.

#### **Old Business, New Business and Open Forum:**

- (1) Steve DeSutter asked all of us to encourage new Lake Miltona owners to become members of our Lake Association.
- (2) Two questions were raised:
  - a. How should new runoff issues be addressed? Steve DeSutter said anyone seeing an issue can call him or contact one of the area Directors to get action started.
  - b. What is happening about muskie stocking? Steve DeSutter said that according to the DNR site muskies were stocked last year. Our walleye stocking was ramped up to compensate for the muskie stocking. He noted that one 52-inch muskie was netted in a trap this spring.

**Adjournment:** Seeing no further business for the meeting Jerry Fulton moved for adjournment and Marc Bot seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gene Rose, Secretary.