

**LAKE SARAH IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
Held at the Independence City Hall
Theme: Our objectives for improving Lake Sarah**

April 28th, 2011

Board members in attendance were Joe Baker, Donna Sheeley, Scott Walsh, Sonja Tilbury, Joe Slavec, Victoria Marley, Ann Slavec, Roger Van Beusekom, Mark Holten, and Mel Knapton. Carol Beasecker was not present.

After a social at 6:30, President, Joe Baker called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Joe Baker asked for approval on the Agenda for the April, 28th meeting and stated the agenda was not complete and that new subjects could be added. All approved.

Joe Baker asked for approval of the October, 2010 meeting minutes. Len Nadasdy approved, Scott Walsh seconded. All approved.

Agenda

Joe Baker opened up the floor to agenda items.

- Set the Agenda (Joe Baker).
 - Anyone not on agenda may be placed under Open/Misc.
- Approval of October, 2010 Meeting Minutes (Donna Sheeley).
- Approval of Treasurer's report and 2011 budget (Roger Van Beusekom).
- Fishery/DNR Update (Joe Slavec).
- Membership Update (Sonja Tilbury).
- Lake Level/Outlet Update (Scott Walsh).
- Water Quality Update (Mark Holten).
- TMDL Implementation Plan Preview; Lake Rebecca CLP and Alum Treatment Update (Richard Brasch, guest speaker).
- Open mic/misc.
- Adjournment.

Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurer, Roger Van Beusekom presented a financial report dated April 18, 2011 (*see handout*) and went over all items in detail.

Q.) Roger Pitts a Lake Sarah member from the audience inquired about what kind of back up there was when it comes to purchasing items, etc. out of the Lake Sarah account?

A.) Roger Van Beusekom stated that are two authorized signers on the bank account and that all expenditures are approved by the Board. He also stated that the books had went through a complete audit in September, 2010. President, Joe Baker added that we want to be in good standing for any grant writing being done in the future and that our books are in good order.

- Joe Baker made a motion to accept the budget. Mark Holten approved, Joe Slavec seconded. All approved.

Fishery/DNR Update

- Joe Slavec reported the following information:
- The 2011 ice cleanup day did not go as well as hoped. With the large amount of snow received the day of the cleanup made it hard to cleanup. The east side of the lake did get more attention, so there may be debris along shoreline on the west side. Joe also added that he had found piles of burnt wood on the ice. The wood had nails that when found were frozen in the ice, which ended up in the lake. He suggested that all residents keep an eye out for these types of lake guests next year. Joe Baker added that a Boy Scout Troop also participated in the cleanup.
- Joe Slavec reported that there has been scattered reports of 12" plus walleyes being caught, which is encouraging, but was disappointed when he was shown a photo of a 12" walleye that someone caught and then just left it on the ice. Joe Baker stated we should all be happy at the success of the walleye program because this will add value to the lake.
- Joe Slavec closed by saying that he has formed a committee with three other residents to layout a plan for the lake so that they can approach and put pressure on the DNR to begin supporting Lake Sarah because of the residents and the surrounding community that enjoy the fishing.

Membership Update

Sonja Tilbury reported the following information:

- We now have 171 paid member. The record is 174, so we are very proud of the numbers. We approached the residents with the idea that it is important to join because it is being part of the community; you receive information about what's going on around the lake and for the great discounts.
- We've talked about the idea of residents having the opportunity to become lifetime members for a certain dollar amount (maybe, \$1,000) and then would also receive a recognition gift of some sorts.
- The new directory will be available soon. We are exploring the idea of making space available in the directory for local businesses to buy ad space. Doing this could pay for the entire directory *plus*. We have also found out via survey that most people enjoy having a hard copy of the directory verses an online copy.
- The new salt program is going well.
- Sonja also talked about a couple of fundraisers that are being done. One being a plant sale that just ended with McGregor Farms of Medina, that earned the association \$99.55 on only 15 items being sold. There is also a program with Otten Brothers Nursery in Long Lake that takes place in May, where you print an online store coupon and 10% of your total purchase goes back to the lake association. Sonja encouraged all of us to take advantage of this program.
- Joe Baker thanked Sonja for all of her hard work over the last six months.

Q.) Is the \$35.00 we pay for dues tax deductible?

A.) Roger Van Beusekom responded that everything above and be on the \$35.00 may be taken as a tax deduction. Joe Baker suggested that we take a look at the form and make

it a little more clear that when you give to the Walleye Program or Water Quality, etc., this is tax deductible.

- Joe Baker added that the newsletter looked fantastic and hoped that people realize how much work goes into putting out a newsletter. Thanks to Victoria Marley and all who contributed to a story. Joe also said that he put a tracker on the online newsletter to see how many have been opened.

Lake Level/Outlet Update

Scott Walsh reported the following information:

- Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped out the past couple of months. Between March 19 and April 17, 110 hours, over three events, have been put into clearing out the one and only lake outlet. After the first event where eight guys each put in three hours each, the water flow went up 5.5 inches. After the second event that included removing three trees it went up 1.5 inches.
- The creek is becoming “pinched off” and there are loose bogs continuously. Over this time 10,000 lbs. of material have been hauled out
- Scott said that we need to work with the city of Greenfield in the future to keep the creek cleared out.
- Scott stated that he is also forming a committee to work on the railroad to replace their culvert under the tracks to a much larger one.
- Member, Roger Pitts stated that in the 1970’s there was high water and it was mentioned then about talking with the railroad. He wrote to the railroad and they responded and were willing to meet, but the association president did not follow up.
- Joe Baker suggested that maybe we should approach the railroad as a liability issue.
- The issue of a “No Wake” was brought up. Scott responded that we had to be at that point if not very close to it.
- Joe Baker thanked Scott and the volunteers for all of their hard work.

Water Quality and TMDL Implementation Plan

Mark Holten opened by introducing guest speaker Richard Brasch. He presented a slide presentation that is available through Joe Baker to view.

- Richard started by saying that the TMDL was at the EPA and was just days from being approved. He feels we should begin to move forward, even though we do not have full approval, to the next step so organizations can begin to start applying for grants.
- The main items at this point are timing, sequencing, and identifying a leader.
- Cost range is \$494,000 – 2.9 million; proposed lead are the five surrounding cities, MnDOT, and Hennepin County; proposed timeline is 10 – 15 years.
- The three choices for controlling Curly Pond Weed are using a low dose, early season herbicide treatment; harvesting; and lake drawdown. Richard feels that herbicide is our best option.
- The first application for Lake Sarah would cost approximately \$40,000.
- If we have a professional apply the herbicide, over five years the cost to Lake Sarah is \$250,000. Joe Baker added that we have the option of applying the herbicide ourselves. Using a couple of pontoon boats and volunteers it could cost only 1/6 of the cost of professional application. We also would have more control on when it is applied, being

able to apply at the best water temperature and wind speed which can make a lot of difference in the success of the program.

- We could begin as soon as 2012.

Q.) Why can't we start this year?

A.) The DNR says "no", not until the TMDL is completely approved

Q.) When should this treatment be applied?

A.) Best is when the water temperature is between 50 and 60 degrees usually during the last week of April through the first two weeks of May.

Q.) What percentage of residents have to approve this treatment?

A.) It's a consensus, but the more the better.

Q.) What is the confidence level that the TMDL will be approved by the end of the summer?

A.) It should be ready to go in within six weeks (per Richard Brasch).

Q.) So, do we have a plan so that we are ready to go next spring?

A.) We are now working on a planning guideline, getting everything in order (per Ann Slavec).

Q.) Where does the money come for the alum treatment (alum is applied after multi-year Curly Pond treatment is applied)?

A.) That is 8 to 10 years in the future, so there should be many more options out there. 90% of Lake Rebecca treatment was paid for by a grant.

Q.) Are there farming fertilizers with less phosphorus in them?

A.) Finding and developing a relationship between lake people and farmers is a tough deal. Most farmers are not using a lot of phosphorus. We will need to meet with farmers to educate them on using only as much that is absolutely necessary.

Q.) Dancehall Creek is very polluted. Wouldn't this be good place to study what will work?

A.) The plan for the creek was for a retention pond to be put in, but at this time Greenfield has no money to make this happen. Greenfield is open to helping within their budget.

Mark Holten stated that the association has four things to consider when making choices for our lake: (1)–What our objective is, (2)–What are our options, (3)–What are the costs, and (4)–How important are they. We need to think through what we want to achieve. What is most important to us – improved water clarity; an easier boating environment; water health for people; and/or a better eco environment for the fish. What ever we decide is most important may impact another area, because of the approach we use to control our most important objective(s).

Q.) Will the next newsletter summarize all of this information? It's to bad more residents aren't here tonight.

A.) We will make sure we get this information out to others in some shape or form. It would also be nice to reach "the friends of Lake Sarah", meaning people who do not live on the lake but come to enjoy it. Maybe by having a sign at the boat landing, handing out flyers, or any other way that people can think of to get the word out.

Joe Baker then commented about how few residents are at tonight's meeting. He suggested that maybe we need to do more to remind people via email or signs around the community. Joe stated that we are at a crossroads. We really need the consensus of all the residents.

Q.) Right now we need to be aware of the health of our lake, and people need to go slow. How are we going to achieve this?

A.) We will find away to communicate this to boaters, maybe a sign at the public landing asking people to slow down.

Open Mic

- Board member, Mel Knapton commented that we should also be aware of Zebra Mussels. If those get into our lake, in 25 years we won't need to worry about how to control vegetation, because there will be no vegetation.
- Resident and member, Roger Pitts told a story that took place in the 1970's where the DNR was looking at buying some property along County Road 11 to put in another landing. His point in mentioning this, is that how important it is that we are all aware of what is going on around the lake. Joe Slavec concurred with Roger that it is very important that we stay connected.

Door Prize

- President, Joe Baker announced that we would draw a names for a gift certificate to BaggyJos in Delano (they make our Lake Sarah sweatshirts and T shirts).
- The winner was: Rich Brasch.

President, Joe Baker called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20. Rob Sheeley and Joe Slavec seconded. All approved.