

Issue 34
April, 2006



LAKE SARAH IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Mouth of Lake Sarah

LSIA Bylaws Updated

Jerry Wise, President



In May 2004, your board of directors laid out some goals to continue to improve Lake Sarah and the Lake Sarah Improvement Association. One of these goals was to bring the bylaws up-to-date and to make them less cumbersome.

Greg Hani volunteered to head up the committee to go through and clarify each bylaw. Greg Hani and Brad Spencer have worked hard over the last 1 ½ years to simplify these while preserving their intent. Your board of directors has met numerous times and has gone over each bylaw in detail. The proposed bylaw changes were mailed to the Membership prior to the Fall Meeting last year to be voted on last October 27th, but there was not a quorum at the Fall meeting.

Notice of intention to introduce proposed amendments and a copy

of the proposed changes must be mailed to the Membership no less than seven (7) days before the date of the meeting at which discussion and vote on the proposed amendments will be held. A copy of the original bylaws with the proposed changes is enclosed with this mailing. The bylaws can also be viewed on Brad Spencer's website at www.lakesarah.com. I will also mail a copy of the proposed bylaw changes to those members that I have email addresses.

The updated bylaws will be voted on at the next general membership meeting on **April 27, 2006 at 7:00 PM**. The meeting will be at the City of Independence Hall. This is also the spring membership and elections meeting. Hope to see you there.

Jerry Wise, President, LSIA
jerrywise@frontiernet.net

Vendors & Door Prizes at Spring Meeting

Be the lucky winner of a money door prize just for showing up! If your name is drawn at the April 27th meeting, you could win **\$60, \$25 or \$15**. Must be present to win. Vendors will be available to talk to and handout information on various amenities for members. Some of these include:

Lake Restoration
Natural Reflections
Winsome Orchids & Gardens
Hennepin County Environment Dept
Prairie Restoration
Environmental Sentry Protection

Weed/algae control
Lakeshore control/plantings
Plantings and ponds
Rain Gardens
Plantings, rain gardens
Public landing monitoring

The vendors will be available at 6:30 until the start of the meeting and again after the meeting.

LSIA Membership

Brad Spencer, Membership Director

As of March 23, 2006, the current year paid LSIA memberships totaled 104, a very similar number when compared to this date in 2005. Total paid membership in 2005 was 154.

To remain a member in good standing, be eligible to vote on association matters, and to be eligible to participate in the LSIA/Onyx group

residential trash program, your 2006 dues of \$35 must be paid by April 27, 2006. Dues payments may be mailed to: L.S.I.A., P.O. Box 25, Loretto, MN 55357.

If you need forms or more information please contact Brad Spencer at 763-479-3525 or by email to b.spencer@lakesarah.com.

The Lake Sarah Clean Water Task Force Minutes

Meeting notes from February 16, 2006

Minutes from the Lake Sarah Clean Water Task Force, February, 16, 2006

Attendees:

Harold Burrows; Jerry Horazuk; Mario Crespo; Tom Swanson; John Barten; James Kujawa; Jerry Wise; Cheryl Wise; Mike Peterson

Absent:

John and Terri Wise; Fred Bills; Dave Allen; Marvin Johnson; Willie Vetsch

The meeting was held after the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission meeting. John Barten is a water quality expert from Three Rivers Park District and Jim Kujawa is an environmentalist with the Hennepin County Environmental Services. They both serve as advisors to the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Water Management Commission.

John Barten states the number one problem with Lake Sarah, even more than Lake Independence, is the Curly Leaf Pondweed. This weed grows early in the year and usually forms dense growth by late spring, but then dies off by mid July. This die-off releases a substantial amount of nutrients into the water that may lead to an overall decline in water clarity. Eurasian Milfoil, another exotic nuisance species, generally begins to form dense surface growth by mid-summer, but does not experience the same level of summer die-off as curly leaf pondweed. Both of these nonnative plant species can lead to impaired usability for motorboats due to very dense growth at the surface of the lake and they regularly displace native plant species through shading effects, thus decreasing the quality of available fish habitat and food sources for wildlife.

Three Rivers will do the TMDL in the same way as they did for Lake Independence.

They are hoping to start the study this summer, but may have a staffing problem.

A TMDL or Total Maximum Daily Load is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, and an allocation of that amount to the pollutant's sources. Water quality standards are set by each state. They identify the uses for each waterbody, for example, drinking water supply, contact recreation (swimming), and aquatic life support (fishing), and the scientific criteria to support that use.

A TMDL is the sum of the allowable loads of a single pollutant from all contributing point and non-point sources. The calculation must include a margin of safety to ensure that the waterbody can be used for the purposes the State has designated. The calculation must also account for seasonable variation in water quality.

Lake Sarah will probably need to reduce the phosphorus input by approximately 50%. The load allocation of the pollution will be split between the Cities of Greenfield, Independence and Loretto. This may be done by population, land area, or by taxes.

Internal loading includes curly leaf pondweed as the main culprit. To effectively control that, the entire lake needs to be treated. The DNR is unlikely to grant a permit to do that without having a reduction in private property weed killer treatments. Current thinking is that our weed killing has helped the proliferation of curly leaf pondweed because of the timing of its germination versus that of the native plants. Also, they would look more favorably if an aquatic management plan were developed. This would possibly include preservation areas as well as plant buffer zones between lawns and the lake.

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Lake Sarah is on the state's impaired lakes for phosphorous. Impairment level for a lake is anything above 40 PPM. Lake Sarah has been estimated to have over 120 PPM and our target would probably be 36PPM.

Three Rivers will do the monitoring and will also do a modeling plan and draft a rehabilitation plan. The last data was taken in 1992. The Watershed has graciously earmarked over \$9,000 for the Lake Sarah Study.

The eradication of curly leaf pondweed will probably take 3+ years. The treatment needs to be done between mid April to the

first of May, before the turions (seeds) are formed. When the curly leaf pondweed is gone, the native plants should come back. The process of cleaning up the lake will probably take 15 years and will require all of us to change the way we address the water that leaves our property and goes into the lake.

The Three Rivers plan will hopefully go to the cities late in 2007. Our next meeting will be in the 3rd week in March. The exact date has not been set. John Barten will speak at the LSIA general meeting on April 27th. The Committee's goal is to have a public meeting in one year.

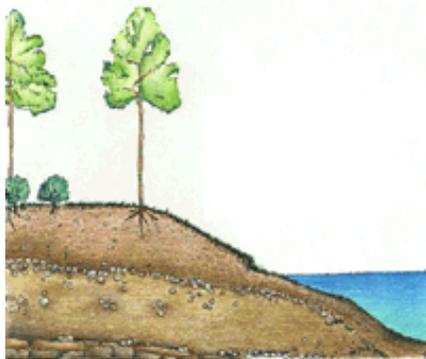
Harold Burrows, Chair

Disturbed Shoreline

www.dnr.state.mn.us

Degraded natural habitats

- Poor habitats reduce the quality and quantity of shoreland and upland birds and wildlife.
- Poor water quality and habitats degrade aquatic plant and animal communities.



- Poor habitats reduce species diversity and increase the risk of species being wiped out by diseases and pests.

Degraded water quality due to dramatically increased runoff water

- **Minimal natural filtration** leads to a much higher portion of precipitation becoming runoff water. A mostly natural landscape has about 10% runoff. A mostly hard surface landscape (including lawns) has about 55% water runoff.
- **Unfiltered runoff water** - Increased amounts of pollutants enter the water. Excessive nutrients lead to excessive aquatic plant growth. Increased sedimentation and lower

oxygen levels lead to unhealthy aquatic plants and marine life. Cloudy water reduces sunlight penetration into the water and this degrades the aquatic environment. Going from mostly natural to mostly hard surface means more of each negative factor affects the water.

- **Minimal ground water infiltration** - Poorly filtered water directly enters the ground water. Drinking water and agricultural irrigation water is degraded. Going from mostly natural to mostly hard surface means infiltration is reduced from 50% to 15%. Underground aquifer levels are reduced and may eventually dry up.

Degraded visual qualities. Shoreline looks disturbed and unnatural

- Vegetation removal looks unnatural and sterile.
- Man-made structures and intrusions are obvious.
- The shoreline looks artificial and over-developed.



Annual Ice Clean-up

Brad Spencer, www.lakesarah.com

The annual Ice Cleanup event was held on Saturday March 6, 2006. Volunteers met at the public access at 8:30 for donuts and coffee and

then scoured the lake for trash. We found less garbage than usual, probably due to the poor ice condition in January limiting ice fishing

activity. We did retrieve several propane cylinders, and the usual assortment of cans, plastic bottles, fishing line, plastic bags from fishing tackle, cigars and cigarette butts, and one gas can. The boy scouts found mostly paper and wood plus enough firewood and scraps to have a small bonfire at their fishing contest (which always follows their cleanup efforts).

A **BIG THANKS** to all those who showed up to help keep lake Sarah clean. This years volunteers included Jerry Wise (project coordinator), Don and Tom Becchetti, Fred and Freddie Lang, Brad & Jordan Spencer, Dale Hahn, Joe Slavec, Jim Olson, Jeff Harper, Scott Walsh, Andy Sorenson, Jeff Puth and the Orono Trinity Boy Scout troop 206. Apologies to anyone who we may have missed!



Walleye Project

Joe Slavec, LSIA DNR Liaison

There has been notable interest in the potential of walleye stocking in Lake Sarah by residents of Lake Sarah. While the DNR has refused to date to stock, we are allowed by state law to privately stock game fish in the lake. My understanding of the former fish population in Lake Sarah is that in the early 1900's through the 1930's there existed a fine population of walleye in Lake Sarah. According to some, the sediment in the lake from overdevelopment in the area will hinder the chances of walleye reproducing.

Ron Jorgenson has generously agreed to allow a small experiment in his pond in Jorgenson Park this summer. It would involve the stocking of walleye fingerling in the spring and the netting and release of the fish in Lake Sarah in the fall before freezing temperatures. This is an all volunteer, privately funded project that has been discussed with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The DNR has indicated that the rather large northern pike population probably will consume most of the walleye. However, in comparison with other similar lakes – a belief is widely held that the northern pike population will continue the same feeding pattern (bullheads, suckers, and pan fish) in shallow waters and leave the deep water walleye alone allowing them to

feed upon the cisco and other bait fish found in deep waters.

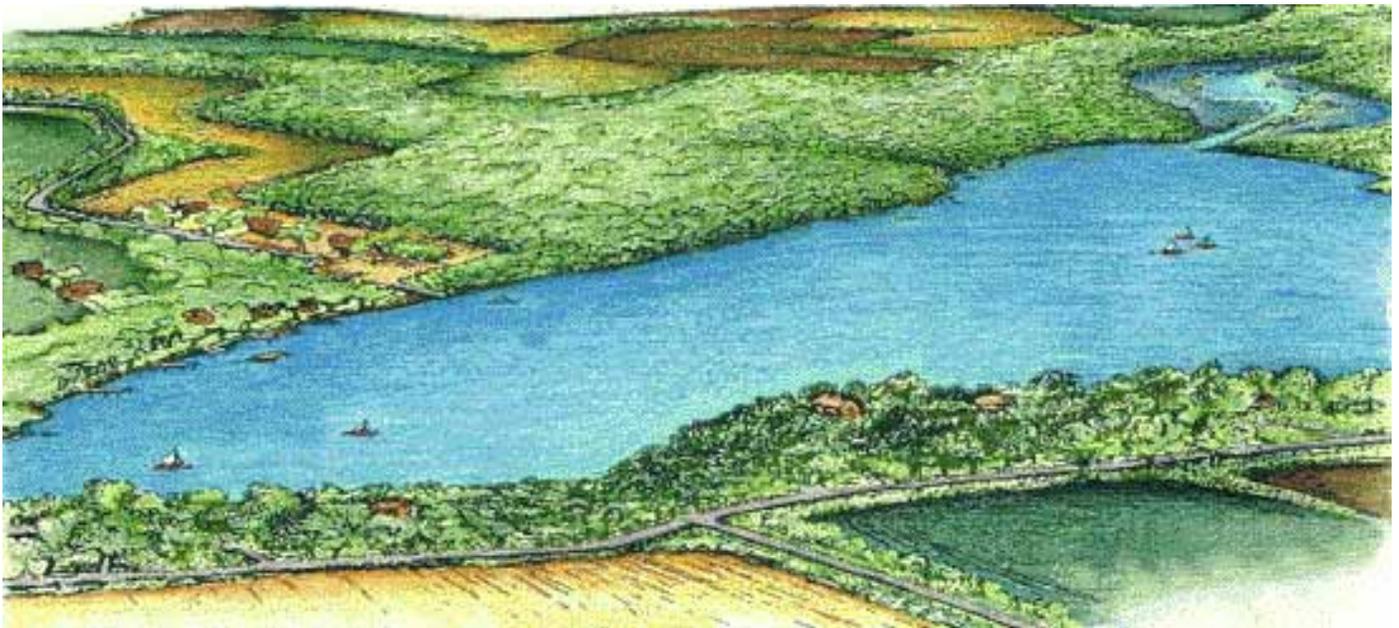
The intention of this project is not to make Lake Sarah into a "good walleye lake" but to maintain some presence of the fish species and to provide anglers with a chance at catching an occasional walleye.

I am looking for several individuals who would be interested in helping with the stocking, counting, netting, and other tasks that may be involved in the project.

I am also hoping that individuals will come forward to donate some funding to help pay for the fingerlings. Donations in any amount will be helpful. I am personally making the first donation of \$100.00 to the project. I believe \$1000 - \$1500 will be needed to test the project for the summer but haven't looked into the cost of walleye fry at this point.

Please contact me at mplsgarage@yahoo.com if interested in helping and/or donating. Thanks!

Joe Slavec
LSIA DNR Liaison



Sustainable shoreland ecosystems promote a healthy community, environment, and economy.

Sustainable quality of life

- A high quality of life can be achieved through low impact development that meets communities' social and economic needs while sustaining high-quality natural resources.

Water quality and watershed protection and management

- Watershed-wide impacts and benefits need to be considered in all land use decisions.
- All surface water needs to have healthy buffer/filter strips along the shoreline to reduce and slow runoff and to filter the remaining runoff and increase infiltration.
- Land use beyond the filter strip also needs to be carefully managed.
- Healthy wetland complexes are critical to good water quality.
- Preservation and restoration of native vegetation on shorelines and throughout the watershed provides a diverse plant community and healthy aquatic and upland habitats.

Natural resource protection and balanced land use

- Residential communities that preserve natural vegetation and habitats improve the environment.
- Development in the entire watershed needs to follow established best management practices.
- Sustainable farming practices are critical to having a balanced and healthy natural environment.
- Commercial development needs to be integrated into the environment and done in a way that minimizes negative effects on the natural environment.

Sustainable recreation

- Outdoor recreation is dependent on a healthy and attractive environment.
- Recreation pursuits should allow people to enjoy the outdoors without damaging the environment.

Visual quality protection.

- A healthy ecosystem with sensitive development, areas of native vegetation, natural shorelines, and good habitats for birds and wildlife provides a visually attractive environment.

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/shorelandmgmt/ecosystems/index.html>

Required Boat Equipment

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/index.html>

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES

On all boats, except a sailboard, regardless of length (including canoes, kayaks and duck boats), there must be a readily accessible U.S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V wearable PFD for each person on board. **Type IV throwable devices, such as buoyant cushions, are no longer acceptable primary lifesaving devices.**

IN ADDITION, on boats 16 feet or longer (except canoes and kayaks,) there must also be at least one U.S. Coast Guard approved Type IV throwable device, such as a buoyant cushion or ring buoy immediately available for each boat.

There are 5 types of personal flotation devices (PFDs or life jackets) approved for use on recreational boats:



Type I — Off-Shore Life Jacket.

This is a vest or yoke type device generally found on commercial craft. It is designed to turn most unconscious persons from a face downward to a face up position in the water.

Type II — Near-Shore Buoyant Vest.

The buoyant vest usually looks like a horse collar and is worn like a bib. It has an unconscious turning ability similar to the Type I, but it will not turn as many persons under the same conditions.

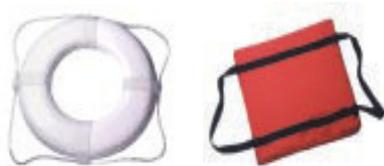


Type III — Flotation Aid. These devices are usually foam-filled and come in several colors and styles, including full-sleeved jackets. Type III devices are not designed to turn an unconscious victim, but they do provide protection for immersion hypothermia (exposure to cold water).



Type IV — Throwable Devices. (Buoyant Cushion, Ring Buoy or Horseshoe Buoy)

These devices are designed to be thrown to a victim in the water, rather than worn. Cushions especially should be checked often to see if they are in serviceable condition.



Type V — Special Use Devices.

These are designed and approved for restricted uses such as a sailboarding harness, duck hunting flotation coveralls, or a whitewater rafting vest. This type of flotation device is restricted to the particular activity for which it was designed. The label will indicate any restrictions that apply to the particular device. Some Type Vs such as the "Hybrid PFD" must be worn to be counted in the total number of PFDs on board your boat.



FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

All fire extinguishers must be U.S. Coast Guard approved, fully charged, and readily accessible. When looking for an extinguisher at a store or marine dealer, it is important to look for the words "U.S. Coast Guard Approved" right on the carton.

Although two sizes of extinguishers are approved for recreational craft (B-I or B-II), most extinguishers on the market will be B-I. The words "Marine Type USCG Type BC-Size I" will be in small letters right on the extinguisher's label along with the approval number. The letter "B" means the extinguisher will put out flammable liquid fires. The letter "C" means it can also be used for electrical fires.

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Fire extinguishers are a good idea on any boat where fuel is used or carried. They are required as follows:

Boat Size	Fire Extinguisher(s) Required*
< 26' with enclosed engine or fuel tank**	1 size B-I
26' < 40'	2 size B-I <u>or</u> 1 size B-II
40' - 65'	3 size B-I <u>or</u> 1 size B-II & 1 size B-I
> 65'	3 size B-II

WHISTLES / HORNS

Motorboats 16 feet to less than 26 feet long must be equipped with a hand, mouth, or power-operated whistle or horn capable of producing a continuous sound for two seconds and audible for at least one-half mile.

Motorboats 26 feet to less than 40 feet in length must be equipped with a hand or power-operated horn or whistle capable of producing a continuous sound for two seconds and audible for at least one mile.



Safety and Navigation

Mike Peterson, LSIA Director, Water Level, Safety & Navigation

Before your boat touches water:

Did you install the drain plug? Are ropes, fire extinguisher and life vests on board? Is the battery charged? Consider starting your engine before driving to the boat landing, but be sure you supply water to the cooling system (5 seconds without water can melt the rubber impeller in your engine's water pump). Did you check the tire pressure on your trailer?

Navigation Lights: Several lake residents complained last summer about boats running at night without lights. A reminder to all, if you're underway, bow and stern lights need to be on from sunset to sunrise. If anchored, or not under power, a stern light needs to be on. Please turn them on!

Life Vests: Children less than 10 years old must wear a life vest when aboard a watercraft while underway. Anyone operating or riding on a PWC must wear a life vest.

PWC (personal water craft): Hours of operation are 9:30 am until 1 hour before sunset.

2006 Boating Guide: Visit the site listed below to download a PDF file of the 2006 Minnesota Boating Guide summary of laws and rules. <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater/index.html>

If you see a violation: If you see somebody that's endangering people or property, ask them

to change their behavior or call the Hennepin County Sheriff Water Patrol (952) 471-1300 or West Hennepin Public Safety (763) 479-0500.

Thoughts for the summer: Be Safe! Be courteous! Have Fun! Set a good example. Respect other boaters.



Personal Watercraft Operator Age Restrictions regardless of horsepower	
Operator Age	Restrictions
less than 13 years of age	Cannot operate, even with adult on board.
13 years of age	Must either have: ★ someone at least 21 on board, <i>or</i> ★ a watercraft operator's permit and be in visual supervision by someone at least 21.
14-17 years of age	Must either have: ★ a watercraft operator's permit, <i>or</i> ★ someone at least 21 on board.

Lake Sarah Improvements Association
P.O. Box 25, Loretto, MN 55357-0025

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LSIA Board Elections—April 27, 2006

LSIA is always looking for members who are interested in serving on the Lake Association Board as a director or officer.

The **2006 LSIA Nominating Committee** was formed at the October, 2005 meeting and consists of **Steve Moe, Cindy Keating, and Fred Bills.**

Any member interested in being considered for an open board position should contact a Nominating Committee member.

LSIA Officer and Board positions up for vote at the

April 27, 2006 meeting are:

- **President**
- **Secretary**
- **Director Water Level/Pollution Control**
- **Director of Membership**
- **Vice-President**

Each is a two year term, except the Vice President position which is a one year term.

The LSIA April 27th meeting will be at Independence Hall off County Road 90 at 7 pm.

2006 LSIA Calendar

Mark your calendars for these upcoming 2006 LSIA events!

Thursday, April 27	Spring membership meeting and elections
Tuesday, July 4	Boat parade / decorating contest (John & Terry Wise, Chairs)
Sunday, July 23	Membership picnic (Pam Peterson, Chair) and Summer membership meeting
Thursday, October 26	Fall membership meeting