

Namakagon Lake Association Meeting Minutes – Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 22, 2015 – Namakagon Community Hall

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Greg Dehring. Board members present included Greg Dehring, Jeanne Baxter, Barb Best, Dodo Dumanch, Jim Krueger, Kent Lage, and Steve Musser.

NLA Member attendees: 14, Board members: 7; Guests 2

Introductions and Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting: President Greg Dehring introduced board members. Attendees were also given the opportunity to introduce themselves. Secretary Baxter read the minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Submitted and read by Treasurer, Steve Musser. The general accounting balance as of this date is: \$29,108.93. The Certificate of Deposit value is \$11,909.55, for a total of liabilities and equity of \$41,099.58. Musser explained that cash flow varies when grant monies are received. The report was approved.

Introduction of guest speaker Scott Toshner, Fisheries Biologist, Wisconsin DNR Toshner explained the need in our developed lakes for woody habitats where fish flourish in submerged trees, especially yellow perch and small mouth bass. Fish sticks (submerged trees), as opposed to fish cribs, are the recommended approach to increase our fish populations because they can last through several generations if properly placed and secured. His offer is that the NLA support a Healthy Lakes Grant now in place at the DNR in which property owners may contact the DNR to have fish stocks placed on their property. If the site is approved, the DNR will do all of the placement and a \$300 permit fee will be waived for the owner. There are, however, limited funds with no guarantee that future funding will be available. The motion for NLA to send a letter of support to the DNR (in favor of the Fish Sticks project) was seconded and approved.

Accomplishments for 2014-2015

- **Membership Numbers:** The calendar year runs from January 1 through December 31. As of August 22, 2015, NLA has recorded 333 paid eligible voters; 199 households are on our list; 37 are unpaid; 41 new households joined in 2015.
- **Cameras and Camera Viewers:** Volunteer viewers are still needed for Funny's Bay and Lakewoods. Dianne Grage, volunteer viewer for County D Landing, explains that tapes can be viewed at any time, and it is easy to learn. These volunteer hours are critical for the landing grant monies we receive; it was suggested that a pool of volunteers might do a 'week at a time'.
- **Lake Management Grant:** Jim Krueger summarized the results of the lake management grant: (155 pages) There were no reported invasive plant infestations; mixed water quality at certain times of the year are present in Jackson and Garden Lake areas. While

not critical (cause could be fall leaves) the DNR will monitor the situation. Regarding land use, zoning and restoration, county law must coincide with state law. At present, state law is less restrictive. 'Better fishing' was the major feedback concern from survey.

- **Boat Landing Supervision:** In addition to the Northland students who supervise the County D and Funny's Bay landings from Memorial Day to Labor Day, NLA uses paid volunteers from Fishing opening in Spring to Memorial Day and Labor Day to early October. .
- **Future Grants:** NLA will apply for two more landing grants. Shoreline restoration and fishing habitats also may be a future focus.
- **Buoy Repair, updating, placement and removal:** Volunteer Charlie Best was thanked for his work with other volunteers in keeping our lakes safe.
- **Lakeshore cleanup:** A replacement volunteer (for Tom Nelson) is needed to make the calls and organize the cleanup every spring. This task mainly require the phone calls.
- **Fun on the Water:** Linda Fischer reported on this year's successful FOTW and publicly acknowledged the organizer/director, Al Stawicki, for his work year after year. This family picnic that includes dozens of children activities, including fire and water safety, is the NLA annual gift to the community.
- **Volunteer Recognition Dinner:** NLA will partner with the Namakagon Community Club to recognize the many volunteers who work to preserve our lake quality. The dinner, hosted by NLA, is scheduled for 6 p.m., Thursday, September 3 at the Namakagon Community Hall. Professor Randy Lehr, Northland College, will be the guest speaker.

Old Business: President Dehring noted that old business was covered under 'Accomplishments'

New Business: Election Results: Greg Dehring (on the ballot) was elected to a new, three year term. Denise DuPras and Linda Fisher were nominated from the floor and were elected for three year terms, replacing retiring board members, Jeanne Baxter and Barb Best.

Correspondence: Secretary Baxter reported that NLA received a check in the amount of \$69 from the recent Musky Fest held at Lakewoods. Thank you notes went out to Al Zawicki and Phil Rasmussen for their contributions to Fun on the Water.

Comments/Concerns from the Audience: Andy Teal, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator for Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation Department announced a September 22 Noon to 5 workshop at the Northern Lakes Visitor Center. He also invited NLA members to the Strategic Planning for St. Croix River Association September 14. Andy may be contacted at ATeal@bafielddcounty.org. for information.

The meeting adjourned at 10 45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jeanne Baxter, Secretary

