



FISH TRAP LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION



“To preserve our wildlife and water quality and promote safe recreation for the
Fish Trap Lake Community”

Fall 2017

Note From the President

Just watched the Vikings win somewhat ugly again in front of London “football” fans who seemed more impressed by field goals than touchdowns. Nice to be by a fireplace, because autumn has gotten cold and the ice on Fish Trap Lake is likely not far away. Hoping to have a reasonable weekend for the great MN outing in the woods to hunt deer this coming weekend and that our docks get out before the lake freezes once again.

I hope that you had a wonderful summer on the lake and that you enjoyed some time with family and friends or just some alone time on the dock or in a fishing boat. Every year marks a different experience with our lake, which its changing biology, water levels and clarity. If you haven’t had the chance to read the Blue Water Science report on our lake, paid for by funds from our Foundation, please check it out on our website. It contains excellent information on the quality of our lake and surrounding environment, or watershed that contributes to the lake’s health. The news is generally very good even though we have a couple of aquatic invasive species (AIS) with which to contend, i.e., zebra mussels and curly-leaf pondweed.

Your Association Board remains active in a number of areas. We continue to press, led by Paul Baker, for action by the Morrison County Board and BNSF Railroad to close the crossing near our lake and reduce the risk of derailments – the agreement has been reached but legal details slow the process to a crawl. We have been monitoring the discussions of pipelines and the actions taken by the DNR and County on AIS issues as the threat continues for all lakes in the state. Brian Sams has been keeping his eye on water levels and beaver dams for us, and Mike Flanagan keeps a close watch on the quality of our fishing.

We are proposing to spend funds from the Foundation earnings this spring to enhance the signage at our landing to ensure boaters clean their boats and empty any water reservoirs both coming and going. Thanks to all of you who continue to contribute to the Foundation and future of our lake

We have been blessed with a great neighbor, Jim Fogelberg, who has monitored and tested the quality of our lake for 13 years. Jim plans to retire from this important role this spring with his final act of recording our ice-out date. We could use your help and would like a new volunteer to step forward to be trained. I promise your commitment doesn’t need to last as long as Jim’s. More details are included in this newsletter. I want to thank Jim on behalf of the entire Board for his phenomenal service to our lake. Cheers, Jim!

Have a wonderful holiday season and winter of rest until we see each other on the water again next year.

Respectfully, *Scott*

Mark your calendars: The Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association Spring Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 14, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at the Scandia Valley Town Hall.

FTLPOA Annual Meeting June 10, 2017
9:30 AM at Scandia Valley Town Hall

Board Members: Scott Schnuckle - President, Mike Flanagan -Vice President, Gary Ziehmman – Treasurer, Peg Hartung, Ron Markfelder, Chuck Salter, Brian Sams, Dennis Smith, Jon-Scott Johnson, Ron Mash, Paul Baker, Peggy Swalm and Mary Thibert – Secretary.

Absent Board Members: Paul Baker

The annual meeting was called to order by Scott Schnuckle. He introduced the guest speakers and asked them to present their information.

1. Guest Presentations and Updates

a. DNR Conservation Officer – Randy Posner presented for Jeff Halvorson who was unable to attend. He stressed that we all need to be good stewards of the lake and need to make sure that our boats, water crafts and equipment be from Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) before transport. He reviewed some existing boating laws and a new law called Sophia’s Law which requires all boats that have a cabin have a carbon monoxide tester to monitor the carbon monoxide level on the boat. Officer Posner spoke on the joint MC/DNR inspection project at FTL public access as a measure to control transfer of AIS including zebra mussels.

b. Morrison County Sheriff’s Department – Chief Deputy Jason Worlie reported that basically there has been no change in the numbers of crimes committed in MC. He suggested to get to know neighbors and normal activity and if any suspicious activity or persons are noted to not hesitate to call the police. He also reminded everyone to remain vigilant with water safety.

c. Morrison County Commissioner – Mike LeMieur was elected last fall replacing Kevin Maurer. He addressed the status of the railroad crossing closing in Lincoln. Negotiations between BNSF railroad and MC are ongoing. Because closing of the rail crossing has been discussed for 14 to 15 years, Scott Schnuckle asked LeMieur’s assistance to get it closed as quickly as possible. He was requested by a property owner to follow Kevin Maurer’s legacy in his vision to protect the environment first and foremost.

d. Morrison County Assessor – Jean Popp replaced retired Glenn Erickson. She stated that the Assessor Office has merged with Planning and Zoning and is under the direction of Amy Kowalczek. Jean reported there have been no changes in the property values on FTL this past year.

e. Scandia Valley Township Board – Chairman Terry Sandstrom told the audience that Lakeview is being repaired this year and Fish Trap Lake Drive will be repaired in the fall of 2018 but not widened. That resurfacing on FTL Drive will begin the weekend after Labor Day. The resurfacing will take 1 to 3 weeks to complete.

f. Blue Water Science – Steve McComas who is an expert in bodies of water and aquatic life throughout Minnesota gave a comprehensive overview of FTL. Much of FTL’s shoreline is in excellent natural condition. According to his 2016 shoreline survey, there are 43 parcels which could improve their natural buffers. He recommended at least 50% of a PO’s shoreline should consist of native vegetation. Last year he was asked to analyze why the stand of trees on the south end of FTL were dead. His analysis found no toxic components present or responsible. He concluded the die off was the result of high water levels as some tree varieties are more vulnerable to high water levels than others. He reported the FTL water quality is very good. FTL has good clarity with good native robust and diverse plant growth which promotes good fish habitat. The only invasive plant life in FTL is Curly-leaf Pondweed (CLP) which is being managed on an as need basis. He discussed ZM growth potential on FTL. It is expected their growth will be explosive for the next couple of years however they will likely be limited by food supply and numbers will decrease. He submitted a chart depicting criteria needed for ZM growth compared to FTL conditions. FTL water quality gives indications that ZMs will not maintain optimal growth status but rather be limited to light to moderate growth due to low algae population which is their major food source. In conclusion Steve’s opinion regarding FTL: 1. ZM are not good or bad for a lake – they don’t change a lake but they will affect fish habitat and change fish habits; 2. FTL is still at risk for other AIS and finally there are 10 properties that have no buffer area and any buffer area will help and make a positive impact. Little improvements to the lake matter and can add up.

2. Secretary’s Report – Mike Flanagan motioned to accept the Spring Board minutes, Chuck Salter seconded and the motion carried. Secretary reports are available in a condensed version in the newsletters and in full on the FTL website.

3. Treasurer’s Report – Gary Ziehmman submitted the Treasurer’s report and it was accepted. George Heroux who served as FTLPOA Treasurer for 15 years resigned last year and was recognized and thanked for his years of service

4. Old Business

a. AIS and Algae Update – Dave Brenzke from Lake Restoration explained his company has been treating FTL’s CLP for several years. He explained its life cycle and that CLP is treated in late April to mid-May when the water temperature is 50 to 60 degrees before the turions reproduce. This year, 1.8 acres were treated in 4 locations. After an area is treated, there are no restrictions for swimming or fishing but markers are still put out in the treated sites.

b. Railroad Update – This was addressed with LeMieur’s presentation.

c. Fish Update – Mike Flanagan spoke in lieu of MC’s Fisheries Officer Eric Altena who was unable to attend. Last year FTL received 1.2 million fry and no fingerlings. Mike is concerned why FTL is only receiving fry and wants to know why. There were no bass tournaments on FTL last year. Eric controls which lakes host tournaments and one will be on FTL in August. Mike reported there has been good crappie fishing this year.

d. Initiative Foundation Endowment Update – Scott Schnuckle asked the members for suggestions for projects. A member asked if funds could be used for fall control of weeds at the public access. LID Chairman Tom Anderson explained that the access is DNR property and we can only harvest loose weed material. Brian Sams offered to take care of any buildup if notified. Chuck Salter is working with the DNR for more visible signage. Scott asked the members if anyone opposed using IF funds for the signage. There was no opposition.

e. Newsletter/Website – Chris Ziehm reported the spring newsletter goes to all property owners but the fall issue only goes to paid FTLPOA members. She asked all to submit any beneficial information to her via email or through a board member. The website design was updated in April for mobile device compatibility. 32 business partners advertised on the website this year. A member asked if the website could be used to post items for sale or rental. The Board will address this idea at the fall board meeting.

f. Beaver Dam Update – Brian Sams reported the beavers are now building dams on top of the pipeline so they have to manually be removed. There are no dams causing damage currently but some shoreline damage by beavers was noted. The water level on FTL is average/low.

g. Quad Lakes Association Update – Jon-Scott Johnson and Tom Anderson reported that QLA has been discussing signage at all public accesses and preventing spread of ZM. The QLA includes Lake Alexander, Shamineau, Crookneck and FTL.

5. New Business -- Four board member terms are up – Chuck Salter, Brian Sams, Peggy Swalm and Mary Thibert. All but Peggy agreed to continue. Lisa Kajer volunteered to join the board. Jon-Scott Johnson moved to accept these four, Chuck Salter seconded the motion, the motion carried. Door prizes for a drawing following the meeting were donated by Angler’s Corner, Lincoln Bait and Gas, Campfire Bay Resort and the Scandia Valley Vineyard.

6. Adjournment – Chuck Salter motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mike Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion carried and the FTLPOA meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary B. Thibert, Secretary

Get Involved - Help our Lake

Since Jim Fogelberg has decided it’s time to “pass the Secchi” we are looking for someone who would be willing to take over our lake water clarity and quality monitoring. The requirements are fairly simple. You need to be able to:

- Report lake ice out and ice in dates
- Have access to a fishing boat or similar low riding watercraft
- Be able to take a series of Secchi disc water clarity readings and water quality samples from May to September

Jim has indicated he would be able to work with you and show you how and what to do. There is no cost to you other than your time and effort. Secchi information and water samples are forwarded to RMB labs and used in their reporting. Water clarity/quality monitoring is very important to us to keep track of what our lake is doing, especially now, as we see what impact the Zebra Mussels will have on our lake over the upcoming years.

If you are interested please go to our website and in the drop down under “About Us” go to the *Contact Us* to send us an email or drop us a note at P.O. Box 85, Cushing, MN 56443.

FTLPOA Fall Board Meeting September 9, 2017
9:30 am at Scandia Valley Town Hall

Board Members: Scott Schnuckle-President, Mike Flanagan-Vice President, Gary Ziehmman-Treasurer, Peg Hartung, Ron Markfelder, Chuck Salter, Brian Sams, Dennis Smith, Jon-Scott Johnson, Ron Mash, Paul Baker, Lisa Kajer, Paul Baker and Mary Thibert-Secretary. Visitors: Chris Ziehmman and David Thibert

The board meeting was called to order by Scott Schnuckle.

1. Secretary's Report: Mary Thibert submitted minutes from the FTLPOA Annual meeting. Peg Hartung moved to accept the minutes. Mike Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2. Treasurer's Report: Gary Ziehmman submitted his report. The checking account balance on 1/1/17 was \$10,499.45. After income from membership dues, Web Page ads, interest, and total expenses of \$4530.57 the ending balance on 9/8/17 was \$11,697.94. Gary is waiting for bills from Peg Hartung for the Annual lunch-meeting, Brian Sams for beaver control and Jim Fogelberg for water quality testing. A bill for the signage at the public landing is expected. This could be paid from the Endowment Fund. The signage expense is probably under \$1000. The total balance on all accounts was \$12,069.96. The year's contributions to the Initiative Foundation Fish Trap Lake Endowment Fund were \$3,430.00. The current value is \$39,127.02. There was discussion about why FTLPOA has not been awarded grant money recently. FTLPOA received no grants in 2016 and \$400 for 2017, which was for the LID. There was speculation that since Morrison County Board Members receive our Newsletter, which includes financial information of the Endowment Fund, that perhaps FTLPOA is not receiving grant monies because there is a substantial amount of money in this fund. In August Gary sent reminder cards to FTLPOAs who have not paid their 2017 membership dues. Currently, 2017 FTLPOA membership is 202. Gary anticipates another 10-15 more memberships by year-end. There were 196 members in 2016, 203 in 2015, 183 in 2014 and 213 members in 2013. 44 members have prepaid for 2018. The treasurer's report was received.

3. Old Business:

- a. Signage at the public landing: Chuck Salter reported that the DNR has finally approved the proposed sign. It has taken 3 years for this approval. The signage is multicolored, and made out of protective material to prevent fading. It has the words STOP, CLEAN, DRAIN and DISPOSE. It is 2 ft by 3 ft. Board members requested that Chuck ask the DNR if the sign can be 4 ft x 4 ft. It was decided that there will be 2 signs, back to back, facing both directions. The sign itself is \$150 plus the post. Chuck moved to approve the location of the signage and approve the cost not to exceed \$1500. Mike Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- b. Bass Tournament: There was an August bass tournament on FTL. Approximately 23 boats took part. A board member asked what percentage of the fish die. Mike Flanagan said it is a low mortality rate because bass are hardy and the anglers only use artificial bait.
- c. New information: A board member asked if the public access could be more secure, like Christmas Lake, which forces each boat to go through a power wash and a code to gain access. A board member said that future of aquatic invasive species prevention is in genetic engineering. Genetic engineering on zebra mussels could make the males sterile and unable to reproduce. It was thought the increase in green algae this year was due to mussel feces. Tom Anderson, LID Chairman asked and received approval from the DNR to treat Curly-leaf Pondweed at the public access. Chris Ziehmman, LID Treasurer, will speak with Tom about continuing to treat CLP at the public access. A total of 1.8 acres were treated this spring. Wild Celery is at its normal level this year according to Brian Sams.
- d. Railroad Update: Paul Baker and Scott Schnuckle reported that Morrison County has agreed to lease land owned by the railroad. The County is working on the legal paperwork. Paul and Scott will attempt to get the County and BNSF to close the crossing by the spring board meeting. Several board members asked about the 2nd rail road track that was going to be constructed. Some board members thought the proposed line had been terminated. Peg Hartung heard that the 2nd rail was still going to be pursued. Paul and Scott will speak with the Public Works Director Steve Backowski. Paul lamented that the B NSF contact person changes all the time.
- e. Website: 1400 people have looked at the new website. 1/3 of them have been by tablet or mobile phone. Chris reported that people liked the new website and she finds it easier to make updates. She wants April to continue adding the photos and business ads. Chris states that it won't be very expensive for April to do that. It will now be less costly to maintain the site and attach documents. At the Annual Meeting a property owner asked if individual ads could be placed on the website. Chris recommended that property owners continue to use Craigslist, Facebook or EBay. Brian Sams felt our website is for lake information and not individual sales. The board agreed there will be no sales on the website. Morrison County is offering free nitrate testing from October 2- 6 from 8 am to 4 pm, property owners can drop off water samples. She plans to send out the fall newsletter the 1st week in November.
- f. Board Duties: Chuck Salter will continue to be responsible for grants and signage. Gary Ziehmman will do taxes. Mike Flanagan will be the FTL representative on the Quad Lake Association.

4. New Business: Shamineau continues pursuing the pumping of water out of Shamineau.. They want to lower Shamineau by 2ft. There is a lot of information on their LID website. At this point it does not affect Fish Trap Lake. Several board members were concerned about back-flow. Shamineau has been classified as an impaired lake due to high mercury levels in the fish. Lisa Kajer attended the June Enbridge pipeline meeting in Staples. 3 potential routes have been proposed. There was concern that one could affect Fish Trap Lake. At this time the pipeline that would run by Fish Trap Lake is the 3rd option. Brian Sams continues to watch the beaver dam situation. The dam under the bridge was removed once but it has been rebuilt. The County knows this but is slow in responding to removal. Brian does not want to remove it himself because the situation is too dangerous with high water on one side of the bridge and none on the other side. Because of the lack of flowage in the creek below the bridge the creek is getting clogged with sediment and cattails. Scott will follow up with the County. It was reported that Lake Alex's water level is high. The Spring Board Meeting will be April 14, 2018 at 9:30. Scott moved for adjournment. Brian seconded the motion. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Mary B Thibert

Minnesota's Lake Associations: Who they are and what they do

A Report on a survey created, distributed, and analyzed by Concordia College Researchers
September 25, 2017

Executive Summary

This report provides empirical data on who Minnesota lake associations are, the scope of the lake conservation activities that they engage in, the major concerns they have, and the main hurdles they face. Survey methodology was used to gather data from 250 respondents, representing 186 different lake associations in Minnesota. Methods of analysis included descriptives, frequencies, and correlations. Examination of descriptive statistics and frequencies revealed the following:

- Most Minnesota lake associations were formed in the 1960s and 70s. The main reason for forming a lake association is the preservation/protection of the lake. Specifically, the top goals most lake associations have are to control aquatic invasive species (AIS) in the lake and to improve the quality of the lake water.
- Most lake associations in our sample report that their members are motivated to reach the lake association's goals and welcome membership by anyone interested in the welfare of the lake, not just owners of lake properties.
- Most lake associations have 100-400 members and 10 or more board members. Even though about half of lake association board members have expertise in specific lake conservation areas such as fisheries and/or AIS, only about 5% of them are able to contribute to legislation affecting the lake.
- Collectively, the 500+ Minnesota lake associations donate about \$6.25 million, annually, to the care of Minnesota's lakes.
- Collectively, the 500+ lake associations in Minnesota contribute about 1.2 million volunteer hours annually to lake conservation activities, including AIS inspection, attendance of meetings, water quality testing, and community education/outreach activities.
- The top 3 concerns of lake associations in Minnesota are: AIS, overall water quality, and runoff control.
- Most respondents agree or strongly agree that their associations face hurdles in becoming more engaged in lake conservation activities.
- The top 3 challenges that Minnesota's lake associations face as they work on achieving their goals are: Inadequate member participation (i.e. the needs far exceed the available human capital), not being heard/taken seriously by the DNR, and the aging population of lake property owners.
- Most respondents do not agree that their lake associations are authentically included in the lake planning process.
- Most respondents do not feel that their lake associations have real authority over the lake.
- Most respondents do not think that the DNR has sufficient lake management policies in place.

Qualitative data, obtained from observations at field visits, email and phone communications, and an open-ended survey question, revealed that AIS, lack of communication with the DNR, managing water quality, and engaging members are major concerns of many lake associations. Lake association members assert that AIS infestations greatly impact their lives and are eager to engage in more collaborative conservation efforts with the DNR. Miscommunications about decisions affecting the lake and about allocation of funds may result in the projection of major concerns and hostilities directly toward the DNR.

The report concludes that Minnesota's lake associations play a crucial role in protecting and managing Minnesota's lakes and recommends more communication and collaboration between policy makers and lake associations.

*****This is a condensed summary of the report, visit our website to see the full report*****

Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association
Membership Dues & Initiative Foundation Contribution Form

Members benefit from:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) Monitoring of lake issues and legal advocacy | 4) Voting rights at the annual meeting |
| 2) Monitoring water level and quality | 5) Group action when new issues arise |
| 3) Current information about lake issues | 6) Newsletters and Financial Report |

Name _____

Permanent Address _____

Lake Address _____

E-mail _____ Telephone _____

2018 Annual Membership Dues* \$ 25.00

Fish Trap Lake Initiative Foundation Grant Contribution _____

Pre-paid Membership Dues (for future years) _____

Total \$ _____

(Cut here) - - - - -

Make check payable to: Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association

Mail payment and form to: FTLPOA
Attn: Treasurer
P.O. Box 85
Cushing, MN 56443

***Dues are payable for a calendar year (Jan-Dec) time period. Please indicate if additional amount sent is intended for the Initiative Foundation or pre-paid dues for future years.**

All contributions and dues are fully tax deductible. Contributors to the Foundation will be recognized in the newsletter

To review your membership status, go to the <fishtraplake.com> website to view the current 2017 and 2018 membership lists.

Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association Officers and Board Members

OFFICERS: Scott Schnuckle, President	BOARD MEMBERS: Paul Baker	Ron Mash
Mike Flanagan, Vice President	Peg Hartung	Chuck Salter
Mary Thibert, Secretary	Jon-Scott Johnson	Brian Sams
Gary Ziehmman, Treasurer	Lisa Kajer	Dennis Smith
	Ron Markfelder	

FISH TRAP LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 85

Cushing, MN 56443

We wish to recognize and thank those businesses in the community who continue to support us. Their complete information is also posted on our website <fishtraplake.com> under the header "Advertising Partners". Please contact them for your lake home needs. **If you do business in the lakes area and wish to become an Advertising Partner, send a note to: FTLPOA, PO Box 85, Cushing, MN 56443 and we'll send you a sign-up form in the spring.**

AB Upholstery	320-493-9775	Action Dock & Boat Lift Service	218-296-2721
Altrichter Sand, Gravel & Excavating	218-575-2124	Altrichter Septic Service	218-575-2222
Always Available Towing	218-575-3096	Angler's Bar & Grill	320-749-2244
Ballou Plumbing & Heating	320-749-2190	Campfire Bay Resort	218-575-2432
Central Minnesota Electric, Inc.	320-632-3946	Edina Realty (Judy Altrichter)	218-820-4847
Galston Construction	320-630-7852	Hilltop Sports Center	320-749-2055
Horizon Painting	218-639-2996	Ideal Construction	218-894-3105
John's Wood Shop, Inc.	320-387-2366	Kathy's Kut & Kurl	218-575-2519
Lake Country Landscaping	320-980-2454	Lincoln Bait & Gas	218-575-3137
Lincoln Lakes Liquors & Motel	218-575-2588	Mid-Minn Excavation	218-575-2469
Morey's Seafood Markets	218-352-2110	Not a Problem Handyman Service	320-248-7185
Peterson's Welding	218-746-3295	Pine Country Concrete	218-575-3300
Pine Ridge Golf Club	218-575-3300	Rail Line Grill	320-749-2994
Randall Building Supplies	320-749-2721	Randall State Bank	320-749-2265
Scandia Valley Vineyards	218-575-2336	Simple Solar Designs	320-493-9586
Sportsman's Plumbing & Heating	218-831-8720	Sweetwater Resort	218-575-2744
2 Tall Tavern	218-575-3013	The Shante	218-746-4412