

FTLPOA ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 23, 2018

SCANDIA VALLEY TOWNSHIP HALL 9:30 am

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

Board members not in attendance: Chuck Salter, Ron Markfelder and Lisa Kajer

Scott Schnuckle called the meeting to order at 9:30. He welcomed the Property Owners (PO) to the meeting. The Board introduced themselves and the offices they held.

Secretary's Report: A condensed version of Fish Trap Lake Property Owner's Association (FTLPOA) spring board meeting minutes were published in the spring newsletter. The entire minutes can be viewed on the Web site. Mike Flanagan motioned to accept the minutes. Ron Mash seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Gary Ziehmman submitted the Treasurer's report. For the period from 1/1/17-12/31/17 the beginning balance in the checking account was \$10,499.45. Income from dues, WEB Page ads and interest totaled \$7,180.49. Other revenues from Endowment contributions, Lake Grants and transfers from the Endowment Savings totaled \$10,160.00. Total credits to the account were \$17,340.49. Total regular expenses from this period was \$5,624.40. Other disbursements from transfer to the Endowment saving, transfers to the Initiative Foundation Endowment Fund (IFEFF) and to the LID totaled \$10,160.00. Total debits to the account were \$15,748.40. The ending balance in checking for this period was \$12,055.54. In the saving account for this same period the beginning balance was \$641.55. Total deposits were \$4,650.00, withdrawals were \$5,200.00 and interest earned was \$1.06 for an ending balance in savings of \$2.61. The total balance in all accounts was \$12,058.15.

The checking account beginning balance for the period 1/1/18-6/22/18 is \$12,055.54. The total income from dues, WEB Page ads and interest is \$3,228.03. Other revenue from Endowment contributions was \$2640.00. Total credits to the account were \$5,868.03. Regular expenses were \$5,088.81 and \$2,640.00 was transferred to the Endowment Fund savings account for a total debt of \$7,728.61. The ending balance in checking is \$10,194.96. The Endowment Fund saving account beginning balance for this same period is \$2.61 with \$2,640.00 in deposits and \$0.15 in interest earned for an ending balance of \$2642.76. The total balance in all accounts for this reporting period is \$12,837.72.

The current calendar year contribution to the IFEFF is \$2,640.00. Cumulative transfers to IFEFF since inception is \$26,465.00. The current value of the IFEFF is \$42,586.23.

The total membership for the FTLPOA for 2017 was 212. There are 155 members at this date for 2018. This number does not include the membership dues that were received today. 33 PO have prepaid for 2019. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Guest Presentations:

A. County Reports

Director of Land Services-Amy Kowalzek: Amy Kowalzek reported many changes have occurred this past year to Morrison County' (MC) Administration to make it more efficient and to improve our services. Land Services is the result of Planning and Zoning merging with the County Assessor Department and the addition of Shoreline Services. Galen Gruber, who was unable to attend this meeting is the Director of Shoreline Services. MC created this new Shoreline Services division because of MN's new Buffer law. MC is receiving funding from the State of MN to provide enforcement of the shoreline law, to develop Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) programs and to provide technical resources for lakeshore issues. Two interns, who are high school students interested in the environment have been hired by MC. These interns will be photographing all lakeshore property in MC to create data baseline of the current shoreline. MC plans to use this information to identify what they need to work on and for enforcement. They have 2 boat teams and always notify the police which areas they are photographing for the day. As of this meeting Fish Trap Lake (FTL) has not been photographed. MC has revamped their shoreline standards. Their new policy has a more practical set of rules that can be enforced.

The QUAD Lake Association received a grant this year for research in the prevention of AIS. They are using some of the funding to cover the expenses of monitoring veliger levels. They want to monitor the life span of zebra mussels on FTL. RMB Labs will be doing the analysis. QUAD Lake Association will also be monitoring for Spiny Water Fleas (SWF). This spring there was a Lake Association Summit which MC covered the expenses for Mike Flanagan to attend. (See his notes from the meeting in the spring newsletter).

Amy Kowalzek reported it has already been a busy building season. MC has granted several variances and there has been violations. A PO asked how MC finds out about violations. She responded sometimes the county sees it and sometimes a neighbor will report it. They appreciate emails of concern and the report will remain anonymous. A PO asked are there any consequences to a contractor when they do illegal things? Amy responded the contractors should know the rules/regulations and should get permits before the projects. However, according to the law it is the PO's responsibility. MC does provide education to contractors.

Jean Popp, the County Assessor was unable to attend the meeting. Amy reported that lakeshore property values have not changed much. However, off the water sales saw a little decrease in value. All sales can be viewed on MC website.

Sheriff's Department: Sheriff Larson was unable to attend but Cody Skwirna, Assistant Deputy presented. The water patrol's goal is to be on every lake for 2-3 hrs each weekend. He assured PO that his department is very careful about cleaning their boats so they do not spread AIS. The water patrol performs boat safety checks. He reminded PO all children under 10 years of age are required to wear a life jacket. There must be a life jacket available for all passengers on the boat. And the life jacket cannot be stored away. He stressed to obey the lake laws. There should be no jet skiing before 9:30 a.m. or after one half hour before sunset. Water skiing is permitted from dawn to one hour after sunset. Sunset varies every day. A PO asked about people trolling on high seats. The law requires if the boat is running everyone needs to be in a protected area. So technically it is a violation but he would not write a ticket for trolling. However, if they were going faster he would issue a fine. He reminded FTLPO of the new law called Sophie's Law. It pertains to all cabin cruises and some sail boats. These boats need stickers in their cabins declaring there is a danger/hazard for carbon monoxide. They also need carbon monoxide detectors. This law went into effect because a young girl died by carbon monoxide poisoning when sleeping in a boat cabin.

Randy Posner, the new Conservation Officer introduced himself. He is from Brainerd. There are 135 Conservation Officer in the state. Day fisherman cannot transport fish in a live well. Bait buckets also need to be emptied and drained when a fisherman leaves the lake. Those abundant green blobs of stuff floating on the lake is filamentous algae that grows because of excessive fertilizer.

County Commissioner-Mike LeMiuer: Mike LeMiuer updated FTLPOA on the Lincoln railroad crossing. Burlington Northern Santa Fe Rail Road (BNSFRR) is very difficult to work with. Recently Paul Baker, Scott Schnuckle and the Public Work's Director met with BNSFRR. MC and BNSFRR cannot agree on terms. The closing of the Lincoln crossing is very important to the railroad. MC and BNSFRR disagree on the placement of a trail. Mike LeMiuer also briefly discussed the high water level on Lake Shamineau. A survey was conducted last week by MC of the Lake Shamineau's POs. He informed the association new construction on the MC's courthouse has been done. The MC Board has only 4 commissioners at this time due the death of Duane Johnson last fall. A PO stated that about 4 years ago the BNSFRR wanted to add another track. Work began and a lot of trees were taken down but now the work appears to have stopped. LeMiuer responded this is the last section that needs to be completed. The dual track will happen but he was not sure of when. BNSFRR has an appeal to the State of MN regarding their taxes.

B. Scandia Valley Township Supervisor.

Al Card reported FTL Drive will be reconstructed this fall. This will include Hohler, Pan, 21st, FTL Creek and Artic Drive. 3 new culverts will be added. Bolton and Mink from Brainerd are the engineers of the project. In addition to the addition of the culverts they will also cut down some of the hills, remove some large trees and try to divert the water into the woods. The old tar will be removed and a new tar road will be laid. There will be no widening or straightening of the road. He reassured PO who have cement driveway that their driveways won't be damaged. The road work will begin after Labor Day and will last for about 2 weeks. The roads will continue to be open 24/7. 20th Ave in Scandia Valley Township has some bad bumps which will be repaired this week.

C. State House and Senate Representatives.

Ron Kresha, State Representative and Majority Whip discussed the climate at the legislator. He reported it was a difficult session. He felt that the legislators worked very hard and put together a good bill which included the opioid crisis, school safety, taxes and eldercare. But Governor Dayton vetoed it. This veto will cause an increase in taxes, no assistance with the opioid crisis and no funding for school safety. He thought that there may be a special session this fall. He wants people to conform and work together. He asked FTLPO to vote for him this fall. He described his 1st year in office as being a political session. It was good session because they had a good budget and a 2% increase for the schools. The 2nd year the politicians are in campaign mode. The opioid crisis is very important to him. He is involved with a pilot program. He spoke briefly of the passing of Sophie's Law and he opposes a proposed law requiring boat insurance to be responsible for the payment for treatment of injuries which occur on a boat. He believes it is better to let the individual's health insurance be responsible for the health bills. Because if boat insurance is responsible it will increase the cost of boat insurance. However, an individual's boat insurance will cover injuries for a visitor's injuries. He is not in favor of the proposed Distracted Driver Law because it will be too difficult to enforce due to the definition of a distracted driver. He asked the question "What is a distracted Driver?" A driver who is eating could be considered a distracted driver. It is already illegal to text and drive, which is killing many teenagers. At this point

technology can not differentiate between a real text and a blue tooth text, which is voice activated. He lastly addressed MN DOT funding projects. The funding should be split 50-50 between metro and rural roads. However, right now the metro area gets 60% of the funding. Unfortunately the rural roads have a greater number of miles and failing systems.

D. Lake Treatment Representative.

No representative was present.

E. RMB Environmental Labs.

Ellie Kriese works with lake volunteers and with Lake Associations to collect lake water samples. They are doing research on water quality, AIS and to obtain a baseline data base. They are keeping records of phosphate levels, Sechi Disc and Chlorophyll levels on lakes. They need 8-10 years of data in order to get a good understanding of the lake's health. They look for trends and outliers. It is important for Lake Associations because this monitoring can help determine issues so they can be corrected earlier. (FTL's web site has a link to RMB Labs where there is a lot of information). There are 7 ecoregions in MN. FTL is in the Northern Lakes and Forest region. It is a mesotrophic lake. The Pollution Control Agency sets the standards for each region. FTL has 10 years of data. Ellie reported that FTL is healthy. There has been no increase in phosphate which is good. They have 2 concerns for FTL. There needs to be a good shoreline buffer 15 to 50 ft and they want to have natural plants in the lake because this hold down sediment on windy days. Ellie Kriese also spoke on zebra mussels and SWF. Because zebra mussels help clear the water, the water clarity improves which in turn causes more sunlight to reach the bottom of the lake which promotes increased algae growth. Those floating green gooey globs are an increase in algae growth which has broken away from the lake bed. FTL has more algae growth due to the increase in water clarity. There is no treatment at this time for zebra mussels except for chlorine which would kill the entire lake. Ellie did point out that a few fish species will eat them as well as crayfish. Scott Schnuckle reported that he has seen otters eating them. Lake Erie has had zebra mussels for 20 years. SWF have been found in deeper and larger lakes. They are most abundant in August. They are a bad AIS for several reasons. First they eat zoo plankton, which is in direct competition with the fish population and secondly they cling to fishing lines. It is difficult to wipe them off the fishing lines. They have spines on their tails and if ingested by a fish it rips up their intestines. Both Lake of the Woods and Millie Lac have SWF. It would be smart to isolate fishing rods and anchor ropes from contaminated lakes but the DNR has not made any new regulation regarding this.

F. Lake Shamineau LID.

Bob Koll and Rick R from Lake Shamineau's LID reported there is high water on Shamineau. For the past 30 years the water level would be high in the spring and down in the fall. But the last 10 years the water level have remain consistently high. At the present time it is a foot over the high water level. Lake Shamineau is like a basin and has no outlet. This high water is affecting all PO but some PO are affected more than others. There are trees falling into the water and there is no shoreline buffer which is affecting the water quality. Lake Shamineau's LID had an environmental Engineer firm perform a feasibility study to determine if it was possible to adjust the water level. One problem is the water cannot be released into other bodies of water because Lake Shamineau has Eurasian Milfoil. The water would need to be filtered. In mid-January the study was completed and options were discussed. Lake Shamineau's LID chose the following option. The project consists of pumping billions of gallons of water

out of Lake Shamineau through a pipeline to FTL Creek. This water will enter FTL Creek about 3 miles from FTL's outlet. This should not impact FTL or Lake Alexander. This pump could be shut off at any time. They want to bring down the water level one foot below the high water level. Each of the 370 PO will be assessed \$8000 for the project. They held a meeting 4/22/18 with Lake Shamineau's POs, MC and Todd County (Todd County is involved because FTL Creek flows into a drainage ditch in their county). They had good attendance and a positive response. 90% of Lake Shamineau's PO are in support of this project. They had letters of support from some PO and from Scandia Valley Township. MC has been very cautious with this project. Before going any further with the project MC requested more letters of support from both POs, surrounding area lakes and from areas downstream. Lake Shamineau's LID is working on getting these letter of support and is asking FTLPOA to support this project by writing a support letter. FTLPOA had several concerns in regards to writing a letter of support. One concern is which entity is going to have control of the pumps to protect FTL own water levels. At this time no one has been assigned this responsibility. The Association wanted assurances that there would be no dangers to FTL. There was also concern about consequences for others downstream. FTLPOA approved a conditional letter of support which would include additional studies to provide more details. Scott Schnuckle will ask Chuck Salter to assist with this letter.

Old Business:

- A. Railroad update. Paul Baker provided a synopsis of the railroad dilemma. Several years ago FTLPOA approached BNSFRR to close the Lincoln crossing due to the noise and the fear of the possibility of a derailment. The Railroad agreed and met with MC but the proposal was not approved for a variety of reasons. 2 years later MC agreed to close the crossing if Scandia Valley Township (SVT) approved. SVT did not want to close the crossing for safety concerns and the need for a pumping station. When BNSFRR received funding for a new pumping station on the west side of the property SVT approved the closure of the crossing. Because the new pumping station will be on MC's property, MC now wants access on railroad property for a new trail near Camp Ripley to be included in the deal before offering their approval. BNSFRR made a proposal to MC regarding this trail and MC turned it down. Just prior to this meeting both MC and BNSFRR had been waiting for each other to make a new proposal. Because of pressure from Paul Baker and Scott Schnuckle during a conference call on June 15, MC made a new proposal and BNSFRR is considering it.
- B. Initiative Foundation: Scott Schnuckle announced the signage project at the public landing has been completed. It was financed by the Foundation. He thanked everyone who continues to contribute to the Foundation. Scott asked for ideas for new Foundation projects. There were no recommendations. Scott also asked for a new committee of volunteers be formed to recommend yearly projects. He stated it would be good to have a yearly project but it is also difficult to choose a project. It was recommended to save the Foundation's funding as an insurance policy for an emergency, if a quality project is not identified. There were no volunteers for this committee.
- C. Website: Chris Ziehmman, Newsletter and Website Coordinator reported there are 28 businesses that support our website through advertisement. This past winter there was a major revision to the website making it more mobile friendly. There is a great deal of information on the website and she encouraged POs to check it out. She encourage POs to continue to submit photos. She is unable to upload the photos immediately but it will be done once a year by FTLPOA web designer at a cost.

- D. FTL's Water Quality Update: Jim Fogelberg resigned from his volunteer position of water sampling after many years of service. Jim was thanked by the FTLPOA for his years of service and was given a gift certificate to the Landing. Jim thanked everyone who has helped him over the years. Brian Sams has temporarily agreed to perform water sampling. Water quality testing has to occur on a calm day. Both rain and wind will affect the results. The algae growth also effects the clarity. He reported those algae blobs that POs have been seeing is not just related to zebra mussels. Lake Alex also has these green blobs. Brian has completed 1 secchi disc test reading. Basically the water is clear. Visibility was at 16ft and last time it was 12.6 ft. Brian reported that the water level is up at this time because of the several inches of rain received last week. But when the ice went out the water level was at normal level. FTL Creek is flowing well. There are no beaver dams. Trappers have removed many beavers but Brian cautioned that they will be back. In about 2 to 3 weeks Brian plans to check the creek again for dams. Because of bogs and cattails this inspection takes about 2-3 hours to complete.
- E. Boat Parade: Ron Napan agreed to lead the parade. PO are to meet in the bay by Fish Trap Lake Campground at 12N on 7/4.

New Business:

- A. Request for New Board Members: Five board members terms are up-Peg Hartung, Paul Baker, Gary Ziehmman, Dennis Smith and Jon Scott Johnson. All have agreed to serve another term except for Peg Hartung. Peg was recognized by the board and the FTLPOA for her 12 years of service, her hospitality of food, donuts and coffee at all of the meetings. No one volunteered to be a board member so Scott Schnuckle stated that we will need to recruit.

The FTLPOA was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary B Thibert