



FISH TRAP LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION



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

Fall 2020

A Note from the President

Writing the newsletter message last spring, I was working from home and wondering what the next several months would bring for all of us in a year that started, and will likely finish, as one of the most unique and challenging in the history of this country, and perhaps the world. Today I am retired, for the most part, and voted early, six days before the official election day of November 3, 2020, something I have never done before. A vote that has special significance in so many ways regardless of your personal preferences.

I am reminded of the significance as I ponder the unfinished year of 2020 in the microcosm of Fish Trap Lake's environment. We saw a resurgence of zebra mussels, periods of extreme heat, tornadic winds touching down on Staples Sports and Peg's BP gas station, the loss of trees to storms and beavers, the need to hold our annual meeting outdoors in August rather than June, the concerning reduction of our walleye population, and the surprising October snows and cold that threatened to lock our docks in ice for the winter. And, the year is not over

With all of that, so many days began with a beautiful sunrise and ended in a glorious sunset over the exquisite beauty of our very special lake. We are blessed with property owners who continue to support our growing endowment that will help ensure that our treasured lake will give pleasure to generations to come. I am so very thankful for an engaged board and membership that are willing to help me and others. We are also fortunate to have the support of county leaders who have helped maintain the quality of the lake and are willing to work with us on important initiatives such as maintaining the flowage of Fish Trap Lake Creek, managing invasive species, protecting the aesthetics of the lake and shorelines and ensuring development is properly managed. My one wish is that they would quit bickering with the railroad and do the right thing for our lake. Our discussions with the county and the railroad seem like the movie, "Groundhog Day." It's another reminder of the importance of voting and being involved in the community of the Lincoln Lakes Area.

It will be very interesting to see what the next couple weeks bring as we determine the course of the next four years for our country, state and local municipalities. Regardless of the outcome, you have my assurance that I, along with our board and the LID, will continue work to safeguard our lake and the interests of our property owners.

I wish you all a wonderful, safe and healthy Thanksgiving and upcoming holiday season.

Respectfully,

Scott Schnuckle

FTLPOA Annual Meeting
August 15, 2020
9:30 a.m. Outside Behind Scandia Valley Town Hall

Board Members Present: Scott Schnuckle, President; Gary Ziehmman, Treasurer; Paul Baker; Doug Copley; Jon-Scott Johnson; Marie Hilliard; Ron Markfelder; Chuck Salter; Brian Sams; Dennis Smith. **Absent:** Ron Nypan. Vice President; Mary Thibert, Secretary

Call to Order, Intro of Board Members, Welcome to Guests: President Schnuckle called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Board members introduced themselves and Schnuckle welcomed guest Makayla Geise – Seasonal water patrol deputy.

Update from Brian Sams regarding Beaver Control and Creek Cleanout: Scott Schnuckle recognized and thanked Brian for his extensive work to open up the Fish Trap Creek channel and beaver dam removal. Brian gave an overview of his efforts explaining the cutting and removal of many cattails and beaver dam materials in the creek and under the Azure Road bridge in conjunction with the assistance of Morrison County to load and haul away the cuttings. Currently there are no dams but there is still some material under the bridge that Brian will again work to clear out this fall. Brian stated that if anyone sees beaver activity to contact him and he'll do his best to take care of the situation.

Update from Sheriff's Department: Makayla Geise, Seasonal Water Patrol Deputy (one of two water patrol deputies) addressed the audience on jet ski usage rules and safe practices. Jet skis are to operate at high speed no closer than 150 ft from the shoreline and to be off the lake one hour before sunset. She also reminded the group that a spotter or mirror is required by jet skis and boats when pulling skiers or towables. A buoy has been placed at Lover's Point identifying underwater rocks that have caused some propeller damage earlier this year. Deputy Geise has been on our lake periodically this summer checking for life jackets and monitoring safe watercraft operational practices. She also stated that no reports of theft have been reported.

Secretary's report: In Mary's absence, Scott Schnuckle stated the report is published on the Association website and asked for any additions/corrections. Since none were forthcoming, he called for a motion to accept the minutes as published. Paul Baker so moved and Denny Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried to accept the minutes as published on the website.

Treasurer's report: Gary Ziehmman presented the financial report for CY 2019 and YTD 2020. The current checking account balance is \$15,447; current year contributions to the Initiative Foundation Endowment total \$2,515 and the current value of the IF Endowment is \$48,970. Membership totals reported – 2021 (Prepaid) = 53; 2020 = 197; 2019 = 215; 2018 = 213; 2017 = 212. The Treasurer's report was accepted. Scott Schnuckle recognized and thanked Gary for the fine work he does and explained the IF Endowment was formed as a resource to preserve and enhance the ecological value of Fish Trap Lake.

Old Business:

A. Aquatic Invasive Species Update and Plans: Chuck Salter reported on the boat cleaning grant. The grant request for the purchase of a CD3 cleaning station was not approved. He offered three alternative approaches to applying for a grant this coming year as follows: 1. A lesser priced unit without the vacuum and using some of our Endowment funds, 2. Requesting the full \$35M again without any Association or Endowment funds, 3. A matching of funds between the County and the Association Endowment monies. Discussion ensued regarding the actual benefits of such equipment, likely usage, desire to see in action. Chuck to compile list of area locations that Chris Ziehmman will post on the website for any interested party to investigate. Chris moved to authorize the Board to expend an amount not to exceed \$17M toward the purchase of a CD3 cleaning station. Lucy Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried. Members of the Board did express concern that further investigation and discussion should take place before actual funds are expended. The matter will continue to be discussed at the fall Board meeting.

B. Railroad Update: Paul Baker gave a historical overview covering the past 10 years of discussion and negotiation between the BNSF Railroad and the various governmental agencies regarding the closure of the Holt Road rail crossing. Morrison County and the railroad are still in negotiations. Paul and Scott continue to actively pursue the closing through the County.

C. Initiative Foundation Endowment: Current balance of the fund as previously reported by Gary Ziehmman, treasurer is \$49,870. It was hoped that Blue Water Science could conduct another comprehensive lake survey this year and IF Endowment funds were approved for this activity. Unfortunately, Steve McComas was unavailable this year but is being asked to conduct the survey in 2021. Scott again encouraged the members to think about potential uses for the Endowment funds.

D. Website/Newsletter: Chris Ziehmman encouraged people to regularly use the website <fishtraplake.com> for current information pertaining to the lake as well as valuable background and statistical information. The website is mobile device compatible. Two newsletters are published annually – spring and fall. She reminded the group that only dues-paid members receive the fall newsletter since it contains full financial information.

E. Lake Shamineau Update: Gary Ziehmman explained that recent information reports the lake 4 ft above the high-water mark. He encouraged anyone interested in the latest details about pumping plans to visit the Lake Shamineau website

New Business:

A. Virtual Meetings in the Future: Scott Schnuckle explained that Ron Nypan has been researching ways for the Board to conduct virtual meetings when inclement weather or other situations make it hard to impossible to meet face-to-face. A few Board meetings were conducted via conference call by use of Scott's employer's service. Now as a retiree, the Board needs to purchase its own service. The average cost is approximately \$15/month and can accommodate up to 100 callers.

B. Use of RVs on Properties: Morrison County has rules regarding the placement and use of recreational vehicles on lakeshore property available on the County's website. Property owners are encouraged to review the rules and properly observe them.

C. Bogs: Floating bogs have not been terribly problematic this year. Since a blanket removal permit (like Lake Alexander's) would have to be issued through the Lake Improvement District which would require rewrite of its charter and public meetings to do so; the LID will not pursue this matter further until bogs present significant issues for property owners in the future.

D. Election of Board Members: Four members are up for reelection – Brian Sams, Chuck Salter, Lisa Kajer, Mary Thibert. Brian and Chuck have stated their willingness to serve another three-year term. Lisa will not be seeking reelection and Mary has not made her intentions final yet. Chuck Salter will contact Mary for clarification. Scott made a motion to reelect Brian and Chuck. Gary Ziehmman seconded the motion. The motion carried. Lisa's open position and Mary's determination will continue to be settled.

E. Set Date for Fall Board Meeting: The board meeting will take place later in September. The date will be announced on the website.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Christine Ziehmman, LID treasurer
for Mary Thibert

The FTLPOA Board meeting followed the Annual Meeting

A. Leadership for next year – Scott Schnuckle, President; Ron Nypan, Vice President; Gary Ziehmman, Treasurer. Marie Hilliard agreed to fill Mary Thibert's position if needed. Scott moved to elect Mike Meis to fill Lisa Kajer's position. Paul Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

B. Chuck Salter moved to pay monthly fee for virtual meeting service.

C. Gary Ziehmman requested Board approval to get debit card for Association checking account for small purchases such as the \$15 monthly fee for virtual meeting service.

D. The fall FTLPOA Board meeting will be Saturday, September 26, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. at Campfire Bay Resort.

Respectfully submitted – Christine Ziehmman

Just a reminder to check the website – www.fishtraplake.com for the most current membership list. Thank you for your continued support of the Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association.

While you are checking the membership listing, be sure to review the veliger sampling report and the Fish Trap Lake Improvement District annual meeting minutes.

FTLPOA BOARD MEETING
September 26, 2020
9:30 a.m. at Campfire Bay Lodge and Zoom

Call to Order: Scott Schnuckle called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Board members stated who were physically present and who were present by zoom.

Board Members Present: Scott Schnuckle, President, Gary Ziehmann, Treasurer, Brian Sams, Ron Markfelder, Mike Meis, Dennis Smith, Doug Copley and Marie Hilliard.

Board Members by Zoom: Chuck Salter, Jon Scott Johnson, Paul Baker and Mary Thibert, Secretary. **Absent:** Ron Nypan, Vice President.

Secretary's Report: Chris Ziehmann submitted the August 15, 2020 FTLPOA annual meeting minutes. There were no additions or corrections. Gary Ziehmann moved to accept the minutes. Chuck Salter seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Gary Ziehmann submitted the Treasurer's report. The total balance from all accounts was \$16,258.99. Current year contributions to the Initiative Foundation Fish Trap Lake Endowment Fund (IFEFF) is \$2,920.00. The current value of the Endowment Fund is \$51,820.75. Total membership of the FTLPOA for 2020 is 214. 60 property owners have prepaid for 2021.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Birch Acres Association Update:** Scott Schnuckle reported Birch Acres Association is proposing to create a boat access to Fish Trap Lake (FTL) with a 60 ft dock for their association members who do not have direct lake access. In addition, boat slips may also be available to their members. Birch Acres Association needs approval from the DNR and Morrison County (MC). FTLPOA has no jurisdiction over this matter.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Newsletter:** Chris Ziehmann plans to mail the Fall Newsletter in early November.
- B. County Grant Status:**
 - a. Boat Cleaning System at the Public Landing:** Chuck Salter reported on the CD3 cleaning station. There are 2 models of CD3 stations available. The less expensive station without the vacuum is \$13-\$15000. The station with the vacuum costs \$30,000. The vacuum has a warranty of 10 years. If a CD3 station is awarded it would be installed at the north end of the public access and the current signage would have to be moved. MC awarded Sullivan Lake, a Legacy Fund grant in 2020 to purchase a CD3 station. For reasons unknown to Chuck, Sullivan Lake did not use this funding. According to Galen Gruber of MC, the funds left over from last year will not be added to the grant funds available for 2021. Chuck disagrees with this policy and will be meeting with MC Commissioners to discuss it. At the time of the board meeting the total grant funds available for 2021 is \$50,000. Prior to the Board meeting, Chuck had discussions with several people who have experience with CD3 stations. One person, Tony Brough, Hennepin County (HC), Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator told Chuck there are 13 stations in HC. The stations have been used more than 80,000 times. The stations were used upon exit from the lakes verses upon entry. Tony Brough preferred the lower cost option as it requires less maintenance and it was faster. Last year upon direction of the FTLPOA, Chuck Salter applied for a grant for the CD3 station, which MC denied. Chuck felt FTLPOA was denied this grant because the Association hadn't acted quickly in 2019 to accept a proposed CD3 station from MC and the Association's lack of financial commitment towards its maintenance. Chuck believes the MC Board prefers seeing an association contribute some monetary amount to the station even if it is just for the cost of annual maintenance. Annual maintenance cost for tool replacement and to clean the vacuum is \$500 to \$700, and \$800-\$1000 for the software program, which would track the station usage. Chuck felt the

software program could be maintained for a couple of years and then discontinued. Gary Ziehmman proposed MC should be totally responsible for the unit. However, Chuck believes FTLPOA will not be awarded the grant unless it commits some funding. Jon Scott Johnson proposed FTLPOA partner with the LID. The LID could be responsible for the software cost. He also suggested to apply for the lower priced CD3 model and for FTLPOA to be responsible for maintenance costs not to exceed \$750/year. Chuck volunteered to coordinate and work with the LID. There was discussion of MC providing education to use the CD3 station upon both entering and exiting the lake and to provide education to other Lake Associations. Denny Smith made the motion for Chuck to apply for the grant for a CD3 station with the stipulations MC will choose the CD3 model, FTLPOA will be responsible for the maintenance costs not to exceed \$750/yr and the LID will be responsible for the software cost of \$800-\$1000/yr. Gary Ziehmman seconded the motion and the motion carried.

C. Initiative Foundation Endowment Fund:

- a. **Current Standing:** See the Treasurer's Report.
- b. **Ideas for use of funds:** Gary Ziehmman proposed an idea. He would like to award a \$500 grant to a FTLPO who wants to create a shoreline erosion barrier on their property. This grant money would not be for rip rap or shoreline restoration but to establish a strip of plants and grasses that would prevent erosion and filter run off into the lake. The grant could be approved subject to completion of the project. He has spoken with Shannon Wettstein at MC Soil and Water. He suggested the following procedure. The property owner (PO) must contact Soil and Water District and develop a written plan. The PO would submit a grant request with the Soil and Water plan and the cost estimates to the FTLPOA. The PO completes the work per the above plan. The PO applies for grant funds by submitting the copy of the Soil and Water District plan along with final invoices and receipts for work completed. A Board member will inspect the project for the final approval of grant funds. 2 or 3 Board members could oversee and coordinate this project. The total amount of funding for these grants awarded would be \$2500/year and would be on a first come first serve basis. After discussion the Board decided more information was needed and will review at the Spring Board meeting. Scott plans to speak with Amy Kowalzek in regards to MC's proposed rewriting of the regulations on lakeshore development, because Scott wants FTLPOA to have input.

D. **Railroad Update:** Paul Baker reported MC and BNSF are still negotiating the closure of the Lincoln rail crossing. Steve Backowski of MC is asking for additional \$150,000 of funding from BNSF to improve parks and trails in MC. Paul believes the Railroad is planning on countering this offer. Both Scott and Paul are continuing to pursue the closing of this crossing.

E. **Water Levels and Beaver Management.** At this time there is no problem with water level on FTL. However, Brian Sams has concerns that the cattails in FTL Creek are becoming thicker, which makes them difficult to clean out without using equipment or professional assistance. He also thought the cattails may be slowing down the water flow. Before the new Highway 10 was built the creek was narrow and fast. The creek has now become wider and slower. He would like more assistance from the DNR and MC to keep the creek open so water levels stay manageable. He believes MC should have more concern about water levels on FTL and Lake Alexander especially because what is happening on Lake Shamineau. Several Board Members reported there has been increased beaver activity and PO are losing trees lake wide. Paul Baker is aware of at least 2 beaver lodges. Brian Sams stated he recently removed a beaver dam on the oil pipeline but the beavers are back building it with mud and rocks, which makes it difficult to remove. Trappers in the area aren't interested in trapping beavers because the bounty for a beaver pelt has dropped in price. To encourage trappers, Scott Schnuckle motioned FTLPOA pay \$50/beaver pelt with a ceiling cap of \$750/year. The trappers must provide proof the beaver was trapped on FTL or at the thoroughfare. Brian seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Adjournment: The FTLPOA Board meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary B Thibert

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 _____

2021 Annual Membership Dues* \$ 25.00

Fish Trap Lake Initiative Foundation Grant Contribution _____

Pre-paid Membership Dues _____

Total \$ _____

(Cut here) -----

Make check payable to: Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association

Mail payment and form to: FTLPOA

Attn: Gary Ziehmann (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

Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association Officers and Board Members

OFFICERS: Scott Schnuckle, President
Ron Nypan, Vice President
Mary Thibert, Secretary
Gary Ziehmann, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS: Paul Baker
Doug Copley
Marie Hilliard
Jon-Scott Johnson
Ron Markfelder
Mike Meis
Chuck Salter
Brian Sams
Dennis Smith

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 <fishtrapolake.com> under the header "Advertising Partners". Please contact them for your lake home needs.

AB Upholstery	320-493-9775	Action Dock & Boat Lift Service	218-575-2422
Altrichter Excavating	218-575-2222	Altrichter Septic Service	218-575-2222
Always Available Towing	218-575-3096	ASAP Septic Service	218-296-3190
Ballou Plumbing	320-749-2190	Campfire Bay Resort	218-575-2432
Central Minnesota Electric, Inc.	320-632-3946	Edina Realty (Judy Altrichter)	218-820-4847
John Fritsche – Realtor	218-251-6100	Galston Construction	320-630-7852
Horizon Painting	218-639-2996	Ideal Construction	218-894-3105
Kathy's Kut & Kurl	218-575-2519	Keppers Plumbing	218-575-2474
Lincoln Bait & Gas	218-575-3137	Mid-Minn Excavation	218-575-2469
Not a Problem Electric Service	320-248-7185	Not a Problem Handyman Service	320-248-7185
Pine Country Concrete	218-232-4969	Pine Ridge Golf Club	218-575-3300
Randall Building Supplies	320-749-2721	Scandia Valley Vineyards	218-575-2336
Sportsman's Plumbing & Heating	218-831-8720	Sweetwater Resort	218-575-2744
2 Tall Tavern	218-575-3013		