



FISH TRAP LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION



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

Spring 2021

A Note from the President

I'm excited to welcome the dawning of a much more normal summer on our lovely lake. While the pandemic still persists, it's lost most of its strength, and I'm pretty sure the tan lines will be back where they belong in 2021. With that said, out of an abundance of caution, we plan to delay our annual meeting until Saturday, July 17, with the LID meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m. and the FTLPOA meeting commencing at 9:30 a.m. at Scandia Valley Town Hall. We may hold the meeting outside on the lawn or at the park pavilion depending on the circumstances at that time.

As always there is a lot happening, and I encourage you to read the minutes of our last meeting. The more detailed version of the meeting discussions can be found on the website, as we edit the newsletter version to reduce the cost of mailing. I want to mention a couple areas of particular note. First, Morrison County regulations regarding the use of RVs as living quarters, landscaping projects, tree removal and lake shore improvements have changed, and the consequences of non-compliance can be significant. We acknowledge that these modifications may create extra steps or limitations for some property owners, but they are designed to protect the beauty of our lake and quality of the water we all enjoy. To help with some of these requirements, and thanks to your generosity in supporting our lake's foundation initiative, we are offering grants to help defray the costs of planting native grasses, flowers and plants to provide a buffer to our lake against harmful runoff of nutrients and chemicals.

Second, we are excited to announce that we have received a grant from Morrison County of \$32,500 for the purchase of a solar-powered cleaning station to help stem the spread of invasive species into and out of our lake. The property owners voted to move forward with pursuing this grant and/or purchasing a unit at last year's annual meeting. We encourage all of you to use this to help with the cleaning of your boats that have been in other waters before dropping them into Fish Trap Lake, or when leaving our lake.

I hope when you receive this newsletter all is well with you and your family, and that you have a wonderful summer on the lake.

Be well and take care!

Scott Schnuckle

Mark your calendars:

Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association Annual Meeting – Saturday, July 17, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. at the Scandia Valley Town Hall.

Fish Trap Lake Improvement District Annual Meeting – Precedes the Property Owners Association Annual Meeting at 9:00 a.m.

FTLPOA BOARD MEETING

April 17, 2021

9:30 a.m. at Campfire Bay Resort and Zoom

Call to Order: Scott Schnuckle called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

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

Guests Present: Chris Ziehmman, LID Treasurer; David Thibert, Kathy Johnson and Amy Kowalzek.

Secretary's Report: Mary Thibert submitted the secretary's minutes from September 26, 2020 Fall Fish Trap Lake Property Owner's Association's (FTLPOA) Board Meeting. There were no additions or corrections. Doug Copley motioned to accept the minutes. Ron Nypan seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Gary Ziehmman submitted the Treasurer's report. Total membership of the FTLPOA for 2021/122; 2020/219; 2018/213. 26 property owners have prepaid for 2022. Gary asked the board to approve the following monetary payments of \$250 for the Secretary and the Newsletter Editor, \$300 for the Treasurer and \$500 for Creek Monitoring/Beaver Control. Marie Hilliard motioned to approve and Mike Meis seconded, the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Lake Shore Use and Management Discussion with Amy Kowalzek:

1. Shoreline rules regarding tree removal/inclusion and buffer zones: Amy Kowalzek reported that Morrison County (MC) adopted a new shoreline ordinance in the spring of 2020 in order to comply with DNR regulations. MC's previous shoreline ordinance was less restrictive and they now have higher standards. There was a change in the zoning districts. MC made changes in these classification districts in order to eliminate the need to rezone areas when an individual is requesting a permit. This reclassification now provides more protection to the natural resources. Another change was in the vegetation topographical variations. MC is constantly dealing with violations. They plan to initiate an education campaign for the public to increase the public's knowledge when a permit is required. Board members were concerned that property owners (POs) were cutting down trees, adding rip rap and changing Fish Trap Lake's (FTL) shoreline. According to Amy there is a place for rip rap but the PO must provide documentation when there is an erosion problem. The PO needs to apply for a permit and approval would require the PO to include a minimum of 10 ft of buffer vegetation. Many POs don't want to do that. MC is trying to protect shorelines by continuing to prohibit any structures within 50 ft from shore by denying impervious surfaces and retaining walls unless there is documented erosion problems which cannot be controlled any other way. Any shoreline alteration whether minor or major requires a permit. MC has a Shoreline Specialist on staff, Galen Gruber, who can provide proper guidance to a PO as to what they can and cannot do. Unfortunately, many POs spend a great deal of money to making changes to their shoreline using a landscaper. They assume a landscaper knows the current shoreline regulations, but many do not. The PO is responsible for the permit and will be held accountable. MC is trying to educate offending landscapers but is unable to penalize them. All liability falls on the PO. MC will enforce these ordinances and POs may have to restore the shoreline to its previous state, if they proceed without approving the project in advance. The Soil and Water Conservation District, led by Shannon Wettstein works very closely with the DNR and the Shoreline Specialist. Permits will be provided to POs who have submitted an application with all the necessary information. Permit requests/approvals are usually done by email. Because MC is trying to maintain the natural shoreline, all vegetation alterations or tree removal now require a permit. They do not allow any clearing of land without a permit. A PO does not need a permit to remove dead or diseased trees, but MC would like to be notified. Some trees may need to be replaced by the PO. MC has aerial and shoreline pictures of FTL properties taken in the summer of 2018. They provide information of what existed before any alterations were completed. Any unapproved vegetation alterations will be ordered to be repaired to its previous state.

2. Rules applicable to additional buildings and trailers: There are a lot of recreation vehicles (RVs) on FTL and the rules have become more restrictive. Only a relatively few properly permitted properties will be able to maintain additional dwellings or RVs that are out of compliance with the new requirements. The regulations now state if the lot is less than 30,000 square feet, 1 dwelling or RV is allowed. If the lot is equal to or greater than 30,000 square feet, 1 cabin and 1 RV or 2 RVs are allowed. A Duplex lot is defined at 180 feet of shoreline and 50,000 sq. ft. or more of property and enable the owners to have a guest house of 700 sq. ft. or less. If the RV is being used more than 10 days a year a PO needs a permit, a septic plan and a 75-foot set back. No permit is needed for less than 10 days. These regulations are not addressing a camper stored alongside a garage. Because of Covid-19 there are an increased number of RVs on lots around the lake and FTL isn't the only lake experiencing this increase. We are encouraged to send concerns to Amy Kowalzek and she will direct them to the appropriate person. A board member asked if any RVs have been

grandfathered in to date and the number permits on the lake. Amy was not certain, so Scott Schnuckle asked for a listing of properties which have legal RV permits.

B. County Grant Status:

1. Boat Cleaning System at the Public Landing: Chuck Salter reported on the CD3 cleaning station. Amy stated MC Commissioners wanted to have a boat cleaning unit somewhere in MC but not to own it rather to partner with a lake association. Amy and Galen are both very excited about the potential. Pending County Board approval, MC will give FTLPOA \$32,500 to purchase the unit if there is an agreement where we maintain the unit (expected to be modest costs) and FTL's LID pays for the software to track usage and shares the recorded information with them. The unit will be installed this summer once approved. Chris Ziehmman questioned liability. FTLPOA carries liability insurance. Gary will send Scott and Chuck the existing liability policy to determine what the added coverage might cost. Chuck thought it would probably be insignificant. Chuck Salter reminded the Board that we were directed by the Association last year to do this. Amy will present this agreement to the MC board on May 4, 2021.

2. Other: Chris Ziehmman reported the LID decided a grant was not needed this year to treat Curly Leaf Pondweed because of ample LID funds and only small areas have been treated the past couple years.

C. Railroad Update: Scott Schnuckle and Paul Baker have been working on negotiations with MC and BNSF regarding the closure of the Lincoln railroad crossing. MC is asking the railroad for \$500,000 to cover related costs and provide funding for a new park. If the railroad agrees, MC will then approve the closing of the crossing. At this time, we are patiently waiting for a decision. Scott or Paul will follow up prior to the fall board meeting if resolution has not been achieved prior to that time.

D. Lake Shamineau Project Update: Amy Kowalzek` reported Shamineau's LID is working with Todd County on removing water from the Lake Shamineau (LS). Presently, water is being pumped out of LS into a ditch. LS's LID will be meeting with engineers next week to determine the location of the pump house. They need Todd County's approval for this project. FEMA has developed a new flood plain which now includes LS. Some PO will need to acquire flood insurance. With this new mapping to include LS in a flood plain the state could declare it a disaster area and then PO would be eligible for federal funding. Fish Trap, Crookneck and Lake Alex are not in the new flood plain.

E. Initiative Foundation Endowment Fund:

1. Current Standing: See the Treasurer's Report.

2. Ideas for use of funds: Gary Ziehmman proposed a Shoreline Buffer Grant Program. FTLPOA would award a \$500 grant to a FTLPO who wants to create a shoreline erosion barrier on their property. Five grants up to \$500 each would be available each year on a first come first serve basis. 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 money would be awarded after the completion of the work. He stated the steps for applying for the grant will be on the website along with the application form. A Board member will inspect the completed project for the final approval of grant funds. Jon Scott Johnson and Mary Thibert volunteered to lead this project. Scott motioned to approve the plan and volunteers. Ron Markfelder seconded, the motion carried.

F. Website/Newsletter: Chris Ziehmman stated at this time she has 22 paid advertisers – two of which are new. On average there are 24-26. Chris reported there were 1661 users on the website. This is an increase.

G. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Update: Chris reported for the LID. An article in the Brainerd paper explained an experiment by the DNR on Pelican Lake, where they are using copper sulfate to kill zebra mussels. It is expensive and it only kills the adults. A delineation vegetation survey will be completed versus a point intercept study. Due to the expense, such a survey has not been done for four years. The LID hopes to increase the number of locations treated this year for Curly-leaf Pondweed. Treatment will begin in mid to late May depending on water temperatures.

H. Water Levels and Beaver Management: Brian Sams submitted his report. Several beavers have been removed by professional trappers and compensated \$60 per beaver for their work as authorized by the FTLPOA board last fall. Brian has removed 2 small beaver dams. Sand has accumulated in the creek. It may need to be dredged in order to keep the water flowing. The area under the bridge is clear. Water levels are normal for this time of year.

New Business:

A. Covid-19 Impact on the Upcoming 2021 Annual Meeting: The Board opted to have the Annual Meeting in July instead of June. The Annual Meeting is set for July 17, 2021 at 9:30 am. A board meeting will follow the annual meeting. A board member suggested the Bylaws be signed, dated and put on the website.

Adjournment: The FTLPOA Board meeting adjourned at 11 am.

Respectfully submitted by,
Mary B Thibert

Permits are Required

Don't assume that because you see something on someone else's property along the lake, that you can do the same thing to yours. The rules have changed tremendously over the years.

The Shore Impact Zone on Fish Trap Lake is the first 50 feet from the Ordinary High-Water Level. Placing any kind of structure within the impact zone such as a shed, boathouse, screen room is NOT allowed. Building a deck or patio requires a permit BEFORE you start building. Excavating or digging dirt to create things like patios, retaining walls, stairs, etc. requires a permit.

Landscaping companies are one of the biggest problems on our shoreland properties. Don't assume that because they will do it, it is legal to do it. This could cost you a lot of money.

In order to maintain a natural vegetative shoreline buffer, clearing, cutting, trimming, and pruning of vegetation including trees, shrubs, and understory within the shore impact zone is not allowed, except to provide a viewing corridor, recreational use or access path as provided in subparagraph 710.3.D. These rules are very specific and you should refer to them before doing anything to vegetation on your shoreline.

The removal of diseased or hazardous trees is allowed with the encouragement to replace the tree(s) by replanting species suitable for the site. Dead trees provide habitat for many species and should remain unless hazardous or in the case that removal will prevent the spread of a disease.

We just want to encourage everyone on the lake to call Land Services BEFORE you do any digging, cutting down trees, trimming brush along the shore. Do the same before building a deck, patio, stairway, shed. Save yourself some headaches and find out what you are allowed to do and if you need a permit to do it.

Shoreland Ordinances can be found in Section 700 of the Morrison County Land Use Ordinances which can be found at: <https://www.co.morrison.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/640/Morrison-County-Land-Use-Control-Ordinance>.

Rules for Recreational Vehicles on Lakeshore Lots

Morrison County Ordinance Section 708 sets out the rules for RV use. If you keep and utilize an RV for more than 10 days in any year you must secure a permit from the county and must have it displayed in such a manner that it can be seen from the exterior of the vehicle.

If your lot has no dwelling and is under 30,000 sq ft you can have one RV, if the lot is over 30,000 sq ft you can have two RV's. If there is a dwelling on your lot and it is under 30,000 sq ft you are not allowed to have an RV, if the lot is over 30,000 sq ft you can have one RV. RV's must follow a sewage management plan in compliance with Section 1300 in the ordinances.

2021 FTLPOA Paid Membership

(May 14, 2021)

Cumulative Initiative Foundation Endowment Contributions from current members

D = Donor (\$0-\$99) B = Bronze (\$100 - \$249) S = Silver (\$250 - \$499) G = Gold (\$500-\$999) P = Platinum (\$1000 and over)

Number in parenthesis indicates that annual (January-December) membership dues are prepaid for year(s) shown:

(22) – dues paid for 2022

(23) – dues paid for 2023

(24) – dues paid for 2024

(A) Indicates Associate Membership

Jeff & Karen Althaus D	Scott Haskin	Matthew J & Tracy A Morrow B
Bill & Kim Ancel B (22,23,24)	Ryan &Tasa Leikvoll-Heilman (22)	Bruce & Mary Mozey
Arlene Baker B	George Heroux (A) B	Brian & Holly Nygaard D
Frank & Jeanne Barnaby D	Dan J & Marie L Hilliard B	Ronald O & Deana A Nypan
Jim & Maribeth Bedtke S	David & Gayla Hoeller B	Daniel J Otte D
Jerry & Jan Benusa B	Randy & Rae Hogle (22,23)	Steven C & Brenda Peeke (22)
David & Penney Bernier	Barry & Kristi J Holden P	Todd M Peter
Scott Bjerke & Patty Larson	David & Kathleen Holmquist	Ritch & Sandy Peterson B
Ken & Pat Bonovsky D	Dave & Jean Jaeckels P (22,23,24)	Dalton & Nancy & Pam Petrie
Charles S & Cindy L Brey	Glen & Shane Jelks	Roger & Terra Pohlkamp
Julie A. Bruber D	James E & Carol Johnson	Christopher & Tonia Potthoff
Ralph Butkowski & Janet Beneke S	Gordon M & Anne Marie Jones	Reuben W (Bill) Prodahl Jr & Phil Brezicka
Richard W Butler	Thomas O & Lisa A Kajer G	Todd A Reimringer G
Kyle R & Katherine J Cannon S	Gary J Karnowski (22,23)	Ernest & Anita Baccus Robinson
David M & Joan H Ciminski B	Mary Ann Karnowski B	Michael & Elaine Ropson D (22,23)
Doug & Linda Connell D	Tom & Peggy Kasak B	John & Stephanie Rudnitski D (22,23)
Timothy P & Rachel M Corrigan D	Mary Jo & Michael Keating	Mark&Margaret Ruffino G (22)
Mark & Michelle Czech G	Robert A & Nancy Keeton S	Jim & Mary H Rumpca S
Bryan & Camile Dalbec	Gary & Lee Ann Kilgard S	Chuck Salter & Kate Bretscher B (22,23)
Shannon K Daniels / R L & Gary Dennehey	Oscar D Jr & Susan M Kleman	Brian & Heather Sams D
Christopher J & Peggy Dietzen D	Robert T & Debra J S Knutson B	Ronald & Tamara Scherling D
Rob & Maureen Dolan G	Paul & Margaret Kohls (22)	James J & Margaret Schlichting
Spencer & Amy Dumpprope	Scott R & Nancy J Kohs / Robert & Janice Kohs	Bruce & Alison Schmidt B
Michael & Cynthia Ernst D (22,23)	Diane E Koole D	Scott A & Kristin M Schnuckle P
Joe & Davina Fanciullo D (22,23)	Matthew B & Susan M Kramek	Tom & Mary Jo Shamp S (22,23)
Brian J & Kris Flanagan	James & Marion Kreisman P (22)	William L & Laurie A Senn B
Mike & Barb Flanagan G (22,23,24)	Alex & Juliana Krueger (A) B(22,23)	Clinton & Julianne C Sigg B
James B & Laverne T Fogelberg	David & Pat Krueger B (22)	Sisters of The Order of St. Benedict G
Dominic Fragomeni D	Nicholas D & Donna R Krueger S	Jerome & Patricia Smelter B
Earl & Mary Fuechtmann B	Victoria Littlefield & David Johnson B	Katherine M & Paul Solon D
Larry & Linda Gareis D	James D & June Loscheider B	Randy and Michelle Spiczka
Lee & Colette L Goderstad D	Carol Lovdahl D	Stanley J & Janice K Sroga
John & Patricia Gordon D (22,23)	Russell J & Sarah L Markfelder (22)	Garrett, Leslie, John, & Lori Starr
Courtney A Gusel	Ron & Linda Mash D	Gary D & Deborah J Sundberg
Suzanne K Hadley	John Mazzitello & Jim Swanson	Dan & Margaret C Swalm B
Jeff & Julie Hardy (22,23)	Bradley J & Kristine R Meints D	
Dana & Katherine Harms B (22)	Mike & Lynn Meis	
Peggy Sue Hartung D (22)	Leland Moe B	

Theodore & Elizabeth Thorson B
Conrad G & Arlys A Towne D
Jon A Van Loon & Lori Bates
Maria VanZyl (A)
Diana Vaverek B

Leon & Marlene Visser S
Richard F & Mary K Vouk
Thomas & Joann Vouk (22,23,24)
Jon & George Wavinak D (22,23)
Darrel T & Patricia E Winter

Michael & Connie Wood G (22)
Gary & Chris Ziehmman P
Thomas T & Cindy Zulkosky

The 2020 Membership List is on the FishTrapLake.Com website

New Grant Offering for Shoreline Vegetation Buffer

The Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association through its Initiative Foundation Fund is offering five \$500 grants annually to any property owners who wish to establish a shoreline vegetation buffer. The grants will be offered on a first come, first serve basis. To apply for a grant, please follow the steps listed below:

- 1. Fill out the grant application which is available on the <fishtraplake.com> website. Then, contact Shannon Wettstein at Morrison County Soil and Water to determine the best plan for your specific shoreline topography.**
- 2. Once you have an approved plan, submit your grant application and a copy of the plan to FTLPOA, PO Box 85, Cushing, MN 56443.**
- 3. The Grant Committee will review your application and notify you of its eligibility.**
- 4. Complete your buffer project according to the approved plan.**
- 5. Submit your request for reimbursement including your invoices and receipts again to PO Box 85.**
- 6. A member of the Grant Committee will contact you to schedule an on-site visit to review the work.**
- 7. Upon approval, a check will be promptly issued to the property owner.**

Please remember, this grant is not for rip rap or shoreline restoration. It is only for the installation of a vegetation buffer strip along the shoreline.

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 Ziehmman (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 Ziehmman, 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.

Altrichter Excavating	218-575-2222	Altrichter Septic Service	218-575-2222
ASAP Septic Service	218-296-3190	Ballou Plumbing	320-749-2190
Campfire Bay Resort	218-575-2432	Central Minnesota Electric, Inc.	320-632-3946
Clear View Window Cleaning	320-360-8411	Edina Realty (Judy Altrichter)	218-820-4847
John Fritsche – Realtor	218-251-6100	Galston Construction	320-630-7852
Giza Plumbing	218-894-2284	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	2185785-2744	2 Tall Tavern	218-575-3013