

FTLPOA ANNUAL MEETING

July 17, 2021

Scandia Valley Town Hall

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

Board Members Absent: Doug Copley and Dennis Smith

Call to Order: Scott Schnuckle called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and welcomed members.

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. Chuck Salter motioned to accept the minutes. Paul Baker seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Gary Ziehmman submitted the Treasurer's report. The beginning balance for the checking account was \$13,979.66 for the period from 1/1/20-12/31/20. Income received from Dues, WEB Page Ads and Interest totaled \$6,757.36. Income from Other Revenue, Endowment, Grant from Endowment, and Transfer from Endowment Saving, totaled \$7,380.00. The totaled income was \$14,137.36. Total expenses from this period were \$4,445.68. Other Disbursements from Transfers to Endowment Saving, Transfer to Endowment Initiative Foundation totaled \$7,380.00. Total debits for this period were \$11,825.68. Ending balance was \$16,291.34. The Endowment Fund Saving Account had the beginning balance of \$5.59. After deposits, withdrawals and interest earned the ending balance totaled \$6.58. The total balance from all accounts was \$16,297.92.

The beginning balance for the checking account from 1/1/21-7/16/21 was \$16,291.34. Income received from Dues, WEB Page Ads and Interest totaled \$3,654.97. Income from Other Revenue, Endowment, Grant from Endowment, and Transfer from Endowment Saving totaled \$34,725.00. The total income was \$38,379.97. Total expenses from this period were \$3,633.92. Other Disbursements from Transfers to Endowment Saving and Transfer to Endowment Initiative Foundation totaled \$35,175.00. Total debits for this period were \$38,808.92. The period ending balance was \$15,862.39. The Endowment Fund Saving Account from this same period had the beginning balance of \$6.58. After deposits, withdrawals and interest earned the ending balance totaled \$2,231.77. The total balance from all accounts was \$18,094.16.

Current year contributions to the Initiative Foundation Fish Trap Lake Endowment Fund (IFEFF) is \$2,225.00. Cumulative transfers to the Endowment Fund since inception are \$37,570.00. The current value of the Endowment Fund is \$64,232.81.

Total membership of the FTLPOA for 2021/161; 2020/219; 2018/213; 2017/212. 55 property owners (PO) have prepaid for 2022.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Guest Speakers:

- A. Chad Hadler, Lake Restoration:** Lake Restoration has been providing services to area lakes and ponds for 43 years. It is a MN based family owned business. They have three trained crews, with 3 boats equipped with GPS navigation. In 2020 they treated over 1000 acres of Eurasian Milfoil and 600 acres of Curly leaf Pondweed (CLP). Chad discussed the technique of application. The liquid herbicide is more successful than the granular form. The water temperature range has to be between 50-60 degrees. CLP is the first plant growing after ice out. It grows in varies depths based on water quality and nutrients. Because FTL has zebra mussels, which filter the water we will see vegetation that we have never seen before. In Mid-June CLP is reproducing; around July 4th it is at the end of its life cycle releasing seeds. Seeds can lay dormant for 5 years. The die off of CLP will create more algae. If there is low snow cover there will be an increase of CLP. CLP can't be eliminated. It takes long term management and consecutive years of treatment to control it. During the years of 2014 to 2021, we treated the following number of acres, respectively, 4, 8, 28.3, 1.8, 16, 9.2 and finally 48.9 acres of CLP were treated in 2021. 2021 was an abnormal year for plant growth and oddities on all lakes. All plants took advantage of the mild winter and elevated temperatures.
- B. Karl Kleman, Morrison County (MC) Sheriff's Department:** Karl lives on Fish Trap Lake Drive. He has many lakes to patrol but tries to get on Fish Trap one day of every weekend. The lake has been very busy this year. The crime level has been "very good". In the past 2 years water patrol has had only 1 complaint. The problems he has been seeing this year are boats running too close to docks, especially wake boats. A wake boat's wake can lift dock sections off their stanchions. Boats have to run 150 feet from the shoreline and from the ends of docks. This regulation does not include a boat which is out for a slow cruise. On Lake Shamineau, because of

the high water level boats have to be 300 feet from shore. He has also been patrolling the islands to discourage people from parking on the islands to swim. A person can anchor their boat in the water but cannot touch the land. People and pets cannot use the island for their bathroom or garbage. He clarified: a buoy marks where big rocks are. Jet skiers have to be off the lake 1 hour BEFORE sunset, while waterskiing must end 30 minutes AFTER sunset. In Minnesota, you need to be 13 years or older to operate a jet ski. However if an individual is below 17 years, he/she would need to pass a boaters' education class. He ended by saying if a person has a concern call MC Sheriff Department and they will contact him.

- C. **Amy Kowalzek, MC Land Services:** Amy discussed recent property sales on FTL. The Department of Revenue and the selling price of the properties drives the adjustments. MC takes a median percentage increase or decrease of the properties sold and adjust values up or down accordingly. Property values have been going up in the last 5 years. Properties are selling higher than what MC has them listed at. Property sales are listed on their Web site for all lakes in MC. Lake Shamineau water level is still over the high water mark. They want to pump water into a Todd County ditch which then flows into Long Prairie River. They need Todd County's permission. There was a public hearing 3 weeks ago. Due to the technical nature and large public turnout, the hearing went long and was adjourned before completion. Another hearing will be scheduled at a later date. Todd County also wants to collect their own data. According to Amy, this pumping project has a long way to go before it will be approved. In the spring of 2020, MC adopted a new shoreline ordinance to comply with DNR regulations. MC's previous shoreline ordinance was less restrictive than the state law. MC now has higher standards. This is the second season for these new shoreline ordinances. The biggest change is the density level for resorts. The biggest change for POs is for Recreation Vehicles (RVs). The old rules didn't make sense. There are a lot of RVs on FTL and the rules have become more restrictive. The purpose in regulating RVs is to consider the density on that property. With more people on the property there is an increase in pressure on the septic system and to the lake as well. Only a few properly permitted properties will be able to support additional dwellings or RVs. Most RVs are out of compliance with the new regulations. MC has been busy citing PO with parked RVs. 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 guest quarters no larger than 700 sq. ft, 1 cabin and 1 RV, or 2 RVs are allowed." If the RV is being used more than 10 days a year a PO needs a permit, a septic plan and a 75 foot setback. No permit is needed for less than 10 days or incidental use. These regulations are not addressing a camper stored alongside a garage. These new regulations are trying to protect the vegetation and topographical area of each property. Amy also addressed shoreline alterations. Any shoreline alteration whether minor or major requires a permit. If a PO is planning to do some landscaping and plans to hire a contractor or do the project themselves, a permit is needed. Amy stressed "do not rely on the contractor to get the permit. Before any work is started the PO should ask to see the permit." MC holds the PO responsible, not the contractor. The PO will be responsible for any fines and any orders to repair the landscape to its previous state. Amy reported there have been several violations on shoreline development on lakes in MC this year, including FTL. Amy stressed again before a PO starts a project call MC. Another change in the regulations concerns rip rap. Amy believes there is a place for rip rap and it is usually the first solution a PO wants to do. However, it is not a resource protector. It causes water warming and a decrease in vegetation. Rip rap can be used to stop erosion. The PO must provide documentation that there is an erosion problem. The PO must apply for a permit and approval would require the PO to include a minimum of 10 ft. of buffer vegetation. If a PO has existing rip rap MC will allow the PO to restore it but the PO still needs a permit. MC standards of rip rap are based on DNR's standards. The standards include what fabric is laid down, what rock is used, the slope of the rip rap, how far it extends into the lake and onto the shoreline. Some rocks for rip rap are very dirty and the PO is responsible to clean it up.
- D. **Shannon Wettstein, MC Soil and Water Conservation District:** Shannon began working for MC in 2018. She replaced Helen M. She graduated from the University of MN-Duluth. She also has a Master's degree in Business Administration. She worked with freshwater ecology for 12 years. Her district manages grant funding and offers technical assistance to PO at no charge. Their solutions are based on proven best management plans. Shannon reported that oak wilt has expanded in MC. It is now in Crow Wing. Little Falls was the last known site. To decrease the spread of oak wilt she stressed "do not prune oak trees in the summer and don't bring oak firewood in from other areas." Scott Schnuckle asked if her district provides grant opportunities for shoreline improvement. MC does. MC receives a small amount of funds from the state in August. It won't cover rip rap but helps with native plants, plugs, wild flowers and erosion control. Funding distribution is based on a 1st come

1st served plan. Shannon has reviewed data from the water shed plans and compares it to other lakes. According to Shannon FTL's water quality is improving and is excellent. The water shed very healthy. Shannon stressed what a PO does on their property counts. They have a saying... "Remove green from the landscape and you will green in the lake." By leaving some areas untouched there can be unbelievable benefits.

Old Business:

- A. **CD3 Cleaning Station Purchase and Installation:** Chuck Salter reported on the CD3 cleaning station. MC gave FTLPOA funding to purchase this unit. The station contains tools and a vacuum to clean a boat upon entry and exit from FTL. The DNR has given FTLPOA a lease. Before the CD3 Station can be installed several things need to be completed. The DNR needs to complete a Resource Report. This report will determine if the CD3 station will have a negative impact to FTL. The DNR will also designate the Station's location. At least one tree will need to be removed because 100 sq. feet is needed for the Station's location. The Stop, Remove and Go sign will need to be moved. Chuck hopes this unit will be installed by the fall.
- B. **Railroad Update:** Paul Baker encouraged FTLPOA members to attend the August 26th public hearing at Scandia Valley Town Hall about the railroad closure because MC's commissioners want public input. Paul believes FTLPOA has been working on this project for over 9 years. He reminded the POs, FTLPOA wants this railroad crossing closed because of the threat of a train derailment and not simply because of the whistle noise. It's an insurance policy against a potential disaster for our lake. MC is asking the railroad for \$500,000 to cover costs. The railroad agreed to \$450,000. One PO expressed a concern about the closing this crossing. After some discussion he was encouraged to attend the public hearing on August 26th.
- C. **Initiative Foundation Endowment Fund:** See the Treasure's report for the description of the financials. FTLPOA Board has had much discussion on how to use these funds. Gary Ziehmman proposed a Shoreline Buffer Grant Program. He proposed FTLPOA award a \$500 grant to a FTLPO who wants to create a shoreline erosion barrier on their property. 5 grants up to \$500 each would be available each year. 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 project. He suggested the following steps for applying for the grant. 1. PO should call Shannon Wettstein at MC Soil and Water who can assist the PO develop a plan. She will help create a design, suggest specific native pollinator plants and where to purchase them. The plantings can include water or land plants. 2. PO would then submit a grant request with the Soil and Water plan and the estimated costs to the FTLPOA. 3. PO completes the work per the above plan. 4. PO applies for grant funds by submitting the copy of the Soil and Water District plan along with final invoices and receipts for the work completed. 5. A board member will inspect the completed project for the final approval of grant funds. The board members overseeing and coordinating this project are Jon Scott Johnson, Mary Thibert, Scott Schnuckle, Gary Ziehmman and Mike Meis. To see what a shoreline buffer looks like both Tom Anderson's and Scott Schnuckle's property have a buffer strip. The PO will need a DNR permit as well. Gary added there is an additional incentive for a shoreline buffer strip "geese do not like tall grass!"
- D. **Water Levels and Beaver Management.** Brian Sams reported many beavers were trapped this year. 2 beaver dams were removed on Todd County's side of FTL creek. Not only do beavers decrease FTL Creek water flow they also cause damage to shorelines. Currently FTL Creek is flowing naturally. However, if the water stops flowing, cat tails will grow, which will cause the creek to slow down. At times due to the topography of the area the water moves slowly for about a mile. Currently, no water is flowing out of FTL. On a calm day 1/16 of an inch of water will evaporate from the lake. On a windy day as much as a ¼ inch will evaporate.

New Business:

- A. **Replacement of Vacated Board Seat:** Denny Smith has resigned his position on the FTLPOA Board. There were no volunteers at the meeting immediately interested to replace him.

Door Prizes Donated by Campfire Bay Resort and 2 Tall Tavern

Adjournment: The FTLPOA Annual meeting adjourned at 12 N.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary B Thibert