

**FTLPOA BOARD MEETING**  
**April 9, 2022**  
**9:30 a.m. Campfire Bay Recreation Center**

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

**Invited:** Tom Anderson and Chris Ziehmman from the LID

**Guest:** Mark Ruffino attended

**Via Phone:** Paul Baker, Doug Copley, Mary Thibert, Mike Meis

**Absent:** Brian Sams, Chuck Salter

Meeting was called to order at 9:30am.

1. **Secretary's Report** – Mary's minutes from the July 2021 Board Meeting and FTLPOA Annual Meetings were re-distributed 4/7. Gary Ziehmman motioned they be accepted, seconded by Ron Nypan. Approved.
2. **Treasurer's Report** – Gary reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Continuation of fees for positions were reviewed (\$250 Secretary, \$250 Newsletter Editor, \$300 Treasurer, \$500 Creek Monitor/Beaver Dam Control & \$750 Beaver Trapping and Removal). Ron Markfelder motioned to approve fees and Mary Hodgins seconded. Approved. Recognition and thanks to all those who contribute to the foundation (since 2012).
3. **Old Business**
  - A. Railroad Crossing Update – Paul Baker: End of August 2021 the county board voted unanimously to close the crossing. Steve Backowski and BNSF Railroad worked on wording of the agreement from September to the end of the year. Backowski retired and was replaced by Tony Hennen, BNSF contact replaced by Alex Fiorini, and Deb Gruber, County Administrator also turned over, so starting in January the new team had to be brought up to speed. The amended agreement from BNSF was submitted to the county end of February and has been signed the first part of March. Tony says the agreement is now in the hands of County Attorney and it could be a few months to finalize. Anticipate mid-summer to have the crossing closed. The Township anticipates receipt of \$300,000 funds in June.
  - B. CD3 Boat Cleaning Station Update (Chuck). The CD3 software should be recording usage so we'll review at the June annual meeting. LID to provide \$750 funds for cost of the software.
  - C. Aquatic Invasive Species Updates – Tom Anderson: The LID received a \$5,000 grant which included \$500 for brochures. In the past, brochure expense was only \$150-\$200 so we have an opportunity for additional printed materials. Discussed adding an additional card holder at CD3. We'll ask Chuck to see if there is a standard CD3 brochure (they may use at trade shows) we could use rather than creating something from scratch. They'll explore other brochure options as well. Any unused funds will go back. Also discussed with snow cover and late ice-out we anticipate fewer weeds this summer.
  - D. Lakeshore Rules Compliance Observations – Ron Nypan: Discussed some of the lots that are out of compliance with lakeshore rules and if/how issues have been resolved. The lot that clear-cut all the trees has put a silt fence along the water line but so far, no trees have been re-planted. There were a few properties that went to court and in those cases, the court agreement overrides the county. There is still inconsistency with permits and variances and everyone is encouraged to go to the county for permits. Amy Kowalzek, Land Services Director, is our contact for issues of compliance.
  - E. Lake Shamaineau Project Update – Gary Ziehmman: They are through the process of getting all the permits for the pumping site and hope to start moving water by this fall.
  - F. Initiative Foundation Endowment Fund – Gary Ziehmman: Ron Nypan is intending to apply for the grant for native waterfront plant landscaping. Hopefully he'll have progress by the June meeting to promote the waterfront improvement buffer to all property owners. New home construction with rip-rap require a 10' buffer of native plants. These natural buffers serve the lake really well so it will be promoted at the spring meeting with a reminder of how people apply for the grant.
  - G. Website/Newsletter – Chris Ziehmman: Chris has solicited ads from local businesses for same cost of \$25 that association members pay for dues. We've averaged 20-24 sponsors in the past. To date we have about 13 (about half of normal). Chris anticipates at least five more from our traditional advertisers. She will update the ads in mid-May before our annual meeting. Hopefully we'll have more by end of month. On our website, Chris will add the link to Morrison County site with lake property sales maps so we'll have easy, on-going updated information.
  - H. Water Levels and Beaver Management – Brian Sams' Update via Email: Last fall, working with Morrison County, we were able to trap seven beavers from Fish Trap Creek between the lake and the bridge on Azure Road. This has resulted in fewer obstructions under the bridge on Azure Road. Brian also manually removed two small beaver dams on the Wielensky property on the west side of Highway 10. Water is moving nicely through the creek, though it is still slightly choked by cattails in a few different areas. Water levels are up considerably due to the amount of precipitation that we've seen this

winter and early spring, but are still at manageable levels. While it's impossible to predict how much rainfall we will have this year, it looks like we'll be in a nice place with our lake's current level.

- I. **By-Laws:** - During our fall meeting Mike Meis pointed out FTLPOA's Bylaws and Article of Corporation documentation, list Little Falls and Cushing as its place of business, respectively. Chuck Salter stated only one town should be listed. Scott Schnuckle will follow up with Chuck to amend the Bylaws to list Cushing as the place of business.

#### 4. New Business

- A. **Floating weed management:** Last fall was especially problematic with floating weeds; particularly Celery Weed which is a native plant. Scott Schnuckle received a \$6,000 estimate for cutting and removing celery weed just in his bay. Equipment to do this work costs \$85,000 and that doesn't account for labor or removing the weeds and hauling off-site. Since not everyone on the lake is affected by floating weeds (depending on wind direction and their location) it's unlikely everyone would agree to fund the equipment. Ron Markfelder suggested clearing weeds from the public access but the DNR won't allow it.
- B. **Warning buoys:** The rock pile off Hamm's Point (near Lincoln Hills Road) is wrecking props. Paul Baker has spoken to Karl Kleman, Water Patrol Deputy, and he's committed to placing a warning buoy there this spring. If one doesn't appear, Paul will follow up with Karl.
- C. **DNR Fisheries Study:** The DNR plans to conduct another fishery study on Fish Trap but part of their process includes an electrification study (which kills fish). Paul Baker will work with Mike Flanagan and the DNR to insist they explore other study methodologies. If there's a way to do the study without killing a lot of fish that would be preferred.
- D. **Scandia Valley Spring Cleanup:** Scandia Valley is looking for volunteers to clean roadsides in the township. Saturday morning, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 – meet at the Scandia Valley Town Hall to sign up and adopt a stretch of road. Chris Ziehmman will post the notice on the website.
- E. **Tax Assessments:** Everyone is painfully aware of the increase in our property taxes. Early April Gary Ziehmman shared an article from the Record that helps explain the state-mandated increases and the methodology behind the tax increases (excerpts below).

*Morrison County Assessor Jean Popp said her office looks at all qualified sales — those between a willing buyer and a willing seller — between that Oct. 1, 2020 - Sept. 30, 2021 time period. Those sales are compiled and studied to determine the market change for 2022 assessments, which are payable in 2023. The sales are also grouped into similar property types, such as use, classification and individual townships and cities. The Assessor's Office is mandated by the Minnesota Department of Revenue to have a median ratio within each area between 90% and 105%.*

*Commissioner Mike LeMieur asked Popp what would happen if her office did not adjust valuations to fall within the state's mandated median ratio range of 90% - 105%. Popp said, once the Assessor's Office has worked through all of the sales, they qualify or unqualify each individual transaction depending on the specifics surrounding it. Those numbers are then sent to the Department of Revenue, which informs the county what its median ratio is and how much it must change to be within the correct range, if necessary. If she were to not make those changes, the state could come in and make blanket adjustments that would not reflect specifics of each property.*

It was suggested that Chris Ziehmman upload a copy of the article to the website so property owners can reference it. Terry Sandstrom from Scandia Township will be at the annual meeting to speak.

5. **Date for Annual Meeting** Father's Day weekend – Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup> is the date for our annual meeting (going back to our pre-CoVid schedule). This date works for Amy Kowalzek who has a number of new team members she'd like to bring. Scott Schnuckle will add Terry Sandstrom to the agenda as well. The Lake Improvement District (LID) meeting begins at 9:00am, and the Annual Meeting begins at 9:30am in the Scandia Valley Town Hall.

6. **Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned at 10:52am

Respectfully submitted by Marie Hilliard, sitting in for Mary Thibert