

FTLPOA ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 18, 2022

9:30 a.m. Scandia Valley Town Hall

Board Members Present: Scott Schnuckle, President, Ron Nypan, Vice President, Gary Ziehmman, Treasurer, Paul Baker, Mike Meis, Doug Copley, Chuck Salter, Mary Hodges, Jon Scott Johnson and Mary Thibert, Secretary.

Board Members Absent: Brian Sams, Marie Hillard and Ron Markfelder.

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

1. Secretary's Report: The Secretary's minutes from the Spring Board Meeting on April 9, 2022 was submitted. There were no additions or corrections.

2. Treasurer's Report: Gary Ziehmman submitted the Treasurer's report. The report was accepted as presented

Total membership of the FTLPOA for 2022/151, 2021/220; 2020/219; 2019/216; 2018/213. 52 property owners (PO) have prepaid for 2023. There are approximately 329 property owners. Some property is owned by the DNR. Membership has decreased slightly.

3. Guest Speakers:

A. Morrison County (MC) Representatives;

1. Karl Kleman, MC Sheriff's Department: Karl has lived on Fish Trap Lake for 4 years. He shares the duty of water patrol with the DNR. When the DNR is on the lake he isn't. The DNR can use undercover boats. Karl has seen boaters using the CD3 cleaning station. It is the only one in MC. He reported boaters and jet skiers are coming too close to docks. Jet skiers have to be 300 feet from a dock and boaters 100 feet. Boaters need to keep 50 feet from other boats. Jet skiers have to be off the lake 1 hour before sun set and water skiers ½ hour after sun set. A jet ski is supposed to have a whistle on board. This law has been in effect for 10-12 years. All buoys have been placed. Property owners (PO) reported some buoys have broken loose by Campfire Bay Resort and the rock on Lover's Point still needs a buoy. If a PO needs assistance they need to call the sheriff's department and the sheriff will contact Karl. Wake boats need to empty the water in their ballast when they exit a lake. Most don't because it takes a long time to refill. Due to high water on Pine Lake and Lake Shamineau they have a no wake zone of 300 feet from shore. The DNR is responsible for determining when a lake level is high and when to designate a no wake restriction. A lake's level has to be high for 30 days before the DNR will call a no wake zone. POs and lake associations can't make this designation.

2. Mike LeMieur, County Commissioner: Mike reported taxes are up roughly 30 % in both Sandia Valley Township and in MC due to house sales. The percentages are based on MN law. The railroad crossing closure is proceeding but he was not sure of the timeline. He reminded the FTLPOA to continue to apply for grants available from MC and the state of MN. Mike reported due to retirement, moves or new job ventures there has been some turnover to MC's staff. Due to the redistricting, which occurred this year Mike has to rerun for his position.

3. Matt LeBlanc, County Administrator: Matt has been MC's County Administrator for 6 months. He was raised in MC, joined the service and then returned to make his home here. He is excited to have this position and eager to learn his role/duties. There has been a 10% increase in population in MC, which was determined by the census. The storm of May 12th caused \$800,000 in damage. A state of an emergency was called. The Highway Department had a fire and lost 3 trucks. 2 of these trucks were used for plowing snow. MC received monies from the federal government to fight the Opioid crisis in the county. Public Works received 15 million for road construction. They usually receive \$9 million in a typical year.

4. Amy Kowalzek, Land Services Director: The Shoreline Ordinance was rewritten last year. PO's whose lawns stop at the water's edge are technically allowable, but it is not a desirable buffer zone and is not nearly as protective as other landscape designs. Adding vegetation with native plants is beneficial. MC has a new Shoreline Specialist, Darrin Welle. Shannon Wettstein, the District Manager for the Water and Soil District and Darrin will help POs design an individual plan, specific for their property. The design will consider the soil type and available light and match it with native plants-grasses, flowers or shrubs. 15 ft of native plants will protect shorelines from wave action and muskrats. Muskrats love grassy shorelines. Native plants make it difficult for them to dig their tunnels. If a PO is having problems with erosion, call Darrin. He will provide technical assistance and develop an action plan. Shannon may also be involved. The solution isn't always rip rap. 99% of rip rap requests are denied. Some of these projects may require a permit from MC. 85% of MC consists of agriculture. Amy is working with the townships to update the Agriculture ordinance. There will be a public hearing in August. Amy gave an update on Shamineau's water pumping project. Shamineau's LID continue to work with the DNR, MN DOT and MC for permits. Shannon is working with MN Extension Office to combat Oak Wilt. Two-lined Chestnut Borer also attacks oak trees. More than 50 oak trees on Chuck's and Kate Salter's little island have been infected. Approximately, 50 trees were treated costing \$9000. 10 trees were removed. MC and the FTLPOA are working together to pilot an AIS project using the C3D water station. Last year MC purchased CD3 water station, which was placed at the public landing. FTLPOA purchased the optional software system. FTLPOA is tracking and sharing the data with MC. MC is using this data to determine if CD3 water stations will be beneficial for other lakes. Boat owners can use this water station to remove weeds from their trailers and boats upon entry and exit of Fish Trap. The Lake Improvement District (LID) treated curly-leaf pond weed this year. Signs were posted on the treatment areas. Amy did not know when the signs could be removed. Anyone who treats weeds needs a permit and are required to post signage. In 2014 MC and FTLPOA partnered on a septic tank project. All septic systems on FTL were inspected for compliance and was financed by MC. 50-60 systems failed and had to be upgraded. POs were responsible for the upgrades. The MN Pollution Control Agency monitors water testing on lakes. E-Coli, phosphate and nitrate levels are monitored. Scott Schnuckle stated FTLPOA does not test for E-Coli. The water quality has improved since all septic systems are in compliance. The project summary was posted on FTL's website. Scott was not certain if it is still available.

5. Jean Popp, County Assessor: Overall property values have increased in MC, including lake shore property. To assess property, MC uses a ratio system, which is required by the State of MN. Each lake has a different ratio. Stress property, bank property and property which is sold to a family member is not included in these ratios. This ratio is determined by averaging the selling price for all property which has sold. 34% of all properties sold over the property's value, which is considered high. Property values do not include dock, boats or furniture. The county has to adjust property values or the State of MN will do a blanket statement for all. Just because a property increases in value doesn't necessarily mean the

taxes will increase as well. School district's levies will affect taxes. Both MC's and FTL's website have a map of properties which have sold on Fish Trap this past year. It includes the listing price as well as the actual sold price. There were also a lot of property sales in Sandia Valley Township.

B. Terry Sandstrom, Scandia Valley Township (SVT): SVT purchased a new firetruck. They need more volunteer firefighters. Having a fire department helps keep property insurance lower by 20%. Most tax increases are caused by the school districts.

Old Business:

A. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Update, Tom Anderson/Chuck Salter: The LID has proposed to increase their yearly assessment fee to \$60 due to the increased cost of treating curly-leaf pondweed. Last year the assessment was \$40. 40 acres of curly-leaf pondweed were treated this spring. At this time the data received from the CD3 cleaning station revealed it had been used 230 times. The station has been in place since late October. Chuck thought this was a good number. One boater was observed to be using the station prior to launch.

B. Railroad Update, Paul Baker: Signs have been posted on Azure Road declaring the railroad crossing will be closed on 6/15/22. Only a few more weeks to endure the train's whistle. MC has almost completed all of their duties necessary to close the crossing. The railroad still needs to remove the crossing timbers. They also need to work with MN DOT in order to shut down the computer system which alerts the conductors when to blow the whistle. The railroad paid a total of \$450,000 to close the crossing. \$350,000 to Scandia Valley and \$100,000 to MC.

C. Initiative Foundation Endowment Funds, Gary Ziehm: Current value of the Endowment Fund is \$69,030.

Shoreline Buffer experience, Ron Nypan: Last fall Shannon Wettstein, Soil & Water District Manager, designed a landscape plan for Ron and Deana Nypan, who wanted to create a natural slope on their property. The Nypans removed 600 sq feet of grass. A silt fence was placed to decrease runoff. Plants and seeds were purchased from Morning Sky Greenery in Morris. Their plan included native plants, wild flowers, grasses and oats. A design map was provided by Shannon to the Nypans so they knew where to place the plants and seeds. It will take several years for this growth to be fully established. Minor maintenance will be required for the next 2 years. The FTLPOA's grant will cover a significant portion of their cost. The FTLPOA awards five \$500 grants/year to POs who wish to create a shoreline buffer zone. POs need to complete the necessary forms, obtain a design, an estimate, complete the work per plan, and receive an inspection from a designated board member in order to receive payment. The Soil and Water District also has grants available to POs who want to improve their shoreline.

D. Water Levels and Beaver Management Update, Brian Sams: Brian gave his report to Scott Schnuckle. Fish Trap had high water levels this spring. Brian is keeping Fish Trap Lake Creek open by managing the beavers and bogs. There are several more bogs downstream which Brian wants to remove. Beavers are a constant challenge and live in several areas on Fish Trap. They live by Grass Island and on the DNR's land. Several POs informed the board where there is new beaver activity.

E. Floating Bogs and Weed Management Issues, Scott Schnuckle: FTL had many floating bogs this spring. The Association has very limited jurisdiction for bog management. The DNR expects bogs to be moved where other cattails are established. If bogs continue to be an issue the Association may need to ask for assistance. No permit is needed to move a bog to a different location on the lake. However, if

the bog is going to be removed from the lake a permit is required. Lake Alexander's LID has a blanket permit, where they can remove bogs 150 sq. feet or larger. POs are responsible for removing bogs which are smaller. It is very expensive to use professional assistance for bog removal, \$250/hour. Scott wants the LID to proactively amend their Charter in order to be prepared to deal with a large bog if and when it occurs. Scott will discuss this with Tom Anderson, President of the LID. Wild celery, which is a native plant has been a problem for several years. There is a machine which can harvest the celery but it's very expensive-\$85,000. Then, there is the issue of what to do with the cuttings, i.e., transporting them and disposal and if the DNR would even permit such actions. Scott would like a new lake study done, if possible, to determine if there are other solutions.

6. New Business:

A. The Fisherman's Update: Mike Flanagan, PO: Mike has been working closely with Eric Altena, from the DNR. Because Eric believes there are too many northern in Fish Trap, he wants to discontinue the slot restrictions. At this time an angler cannot keep a northern between 24-36 inches. This spring's gill netting revealed no walleye fingerlings. Last year 1.2 million walleye fry and 14,000 fingerlings were released into Fish Trap. The last several years perch levels have been low but they have increased at this time. Mike reports fishing is good before 7:30 am and after 7:30 pm. Fish can be found in all depths. Walleyes, crappies, sunfish and bass are plentiful. There are a few muskies.

B. Long Prairie River Watershed Plan, Scott Schnuckle: Both Scott and Tom Anderson are members on this board. The Long Prairie River flows north. It originates in Lake Carlos, flows into the Crow Wing River and then into the Mississippi. Its journey flows through a great deal of farm land. The watershed management plan's goal is to manage the buffer zone in order to keep the river free from phosphate and pollution.

C. Other: Several POs wanted the Board to look at the muskrat problem. Muskrats have been destroying PO's shorelines with their tunnels. Scott stated he will investigate.

7. Future Board Interest: Scott Schnuckle, Ron Markfelder, Marie Hillard and Ron Nypan terms have expired. All have agreed to remain on the board. Scott would like to see new members on the board. He believes FTLPOA's members have expertise in many areas, which would be very beneficial for the Association. He would like to develop a group of individuals who would be available to serve on the Board when needed. Gary Ziehmman motioned to accept the renewal of these board members. Chuck Salter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

8. Door Prizes Donated by Campfire Bay Resort, Morrison County and 2 Tall Tavern

9. Adjournment: The Annual FTLPOA meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary B. Thibert

FTLPOA SUMMER BOARD MEETING

June 18, 2022

12N Scandia Valley Town Hall

Board Members Present: Scott Schnuckle, President, Ron Nypan, Vice President, Gary Ziehmman, Treasurer, Chuck Salter, Mike Meis, Mary Hodges, Doug Copley, Jon Scott Johnson and Mary Thibert, Secretary.

Board Members Absent: Brian Sams, Paul Baker, Ron Markfelder and Marie Hilliard.

Call to Order: Scott Schnuckle called the meeting to order at 12N.

FTLPOA Board's Officers for 2022-2023: Scott Schnuckle, will remain as President. Ron Nypan will continue as Vice President, Gary Ziehmman as Treasurer and Mary Thibert as Secretary.

Board Member Duties: Scott will discuss duties for board members at the fall board meeting. The duties will include who will be responsible for coffee, food, picking up/replacing the key to the town hall building and room reservation. Mary Hodges offered to be responsible for the key and room reservation.

FTLPOA Annual Meeting Date: The board discussed changing the date for the FTLPOA Annual meeting. The board discussed the issues involved with holding the meeting on the Saturday of Father's Day weekend which also coincides with Little Falls Dam Days. Because of this conflict, Gary Ziehmman motioned to move the annual meeting to the Saturday following Father's Day. Chuck Salter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Fall Board Meeting: September 24, 2022 at 9:30 am at Campfire Bay.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mary B. Thibert