

FTLPOA Annual Meeting June 10, 2017

9:30 Am at Scandia Valley Town Hall

Board Members: Scott Schnuckle-President, Mike Flanagan-Vice President, Gary Ziehmman-Treasurer, Peg Hartung, Ron Markfelder, Chuck Salter, Brian Sams, Dennis Smith, Jon-Scott Johnson, Ron Mash, Paul Baker and Peggy Swalm and Mary Thibert-Secretary.

Absent Board Members: Paul Baker

The Annual meeting was called to order by Scott Schnuckle and he welcomed Fish Trap Lake Property Owner (FTLPO) to the meeting. He informed Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association (FTLPOA) that Representative Ron Kresha and Senator Paul Gazelka were invited but were unable to attend. Scott introduced the guest speakers and asked them to present their information.

1. Guest Presentations and Updates.

- a. DNR Conservation Officer-Randy Posner: Randy Posner Conservation Officer, who patrols the Gull Lake area presented for Jeff Halverson, who was unable to attend. Randy has been a Conservation Officer for 12 years. He lives by Lake Alexander. He reported that there are rumors that Jeff has retired but Randy confirmed that Jeff is still this area's Conservation Officer. He did add that Jeff is close to retirement. He reminded FTLPO that Fish Trap Lake (FTL) has zebra mussels. The zebra mussels need to be controlled and research is being done to discover a way to do that. He stressed that we all need to be good stewards of the lake and need to make sure that our boats, water crafts and equipment are free for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) before transport. He reviewed some existing boating laws and a new law in effect called Sophia's Law. Sophia's Law requires all boats that have a cabin need to have a carbon monoxide tester to monitor the carbon monoxide level on the boat. This law was passed because a child died from carbon monoxide poisoning when she was sleeping in a cabin on her parent's boat. He reminded FTLPO that all children under 10 years need to wear a life jacket when boating unless they are in a closed cabin. A

pontoon boat is not considered a closed cabin. All boats 16 feet or greater need a throwable floatation device. This can be a square seat cushion or a classic ring design like the one on the SS Minnow on Gillian's Island. A life jacket is not considered a throwable floatation device. There must be a life jacket on board for all passengers. Boats greater than 16 ft also need to have a horn or a whistle. If the boat has an enclosed gas tank an operable fire extinguisher is needed. A FTLPO asked Randy how old does a child need to be in order to operate a motor boat. An individual needs to be at least 12 years of age to operate a 7.5 horse power motor. If the horsepower is greater than 25 and the child is less than 17 he/she needs a watercraft operator permit, which can be obtain on the internet. Randy continued to report that the DNR budget was doing well. Currently the DNR has the budget for about 150 conservation officers in MN. Due to retirements the state is down 80 officers. The DNR was able to get the needed funding for an approval to hire 28 conservation officers to replace these retiring officers. However, there are still shortages. Because Morrison County (MC) and the DNR do not want zebra mussels to spread they have partnered with the goal to prevent zebra mussels from leaving FTL. Randy spoke on the enforcement project that will be occurring at the public assess this summer. The DNR has hired watercraft inspectors, who are usually college students, who have had 2 days of training to inspect watercraft coming in and exiting the lake. The watercraft inspectors have a check list that they will review with each boater. If the boaters fail the check list the inspectors will send a message to the police or Conservation Officer. The watercraft inspectors are not law enforcement and they cannot physically stop a boater. A Conservation Officer will follow up every message and will issue a citation if necessary. Boaters could be issued a citation if they refuse an inspection or they may not be allowed onto the lake. The inspection is quick about 5 to 10 minutes. If there are more than 6 boats waiting for an inspection the watercraft inspectors will not check every boat. FTL sees a high volume of boating traffic on weekends and less than during the week so watercraft inspectors will be present only on

weekends at the access. There are watercraft inspectors stationed every day on Gull Lake.

- b. Morrison County Sheriff's Department-Chief Deputy Jason Worlie: Chief Deputy Worlie reported on crime in the area. Basically there has been no change in the numbers of crimes committed in MC. He suggested to FTLPO get to know their neighbors so they are aware what is considered normal activity. If anyone sees any suspicious activity or any suspicious people don't hesitate to call the police. 2 Tall Tavern had a break in and the suspect has been caught. Chief Deputy Worlie reminded FTLPO to remain vigilant with safety. Last year there were 2 near drowning of children in this area. The water patrol is out every weekend. They coordinate their schedule with the DNR. A FTLPO asked how many officers are patrolling at a given time. Chief Deputy Worlie stated that it varies but there are always at least 2 officers patrolling MC at any given time. He could not answer the question on the response time because it is too variable. He stressed that the officers go where they are called.
- c. Morrison County Commissioner- Mike LeMieur: Mike LeMieur was elected to MC Board after defeating Kevin Maurer last fall. He spoke about road construction and drivers who speed. MC will be increasing the patrol cars and increase the signage in these areas. Gary Ziehmman asked him to address the closing of the railroad crossing in Lincoln. Scandia Valley has given their approval for it to close and is waiting for MC and Santa Fe Burlington Northern Railroad (SFBN) to settle their differences. MC is requesting SFBN to give them an easement of land for the Veterans Trail and the SFBN wants it to be licensed so that they can have it back if they want. Because the closing of this railroad crossing has been discussed for 14 to 15 years Scott Schnuckle asked for Mike LeMieur assistance to get it closed as quickly as possible. A PO informed the board that Enbridge pipeline is expanding its pipelines. 3 potential routes have been proposed. One route proposed may affect FTL. There is a public hearing in Staples on 6/14/17 at 11 am to discuss these proposals. Mike LeMieur was unaware of this meeting and so was FTLPOA board. Scott Schnuckle stated he had not received a notice regarding this meeting. Scott stated that someone

from the board will try to attend. Scott continued saying that there already is a pipeline that runs by FTL and in his personal opinion it is safer than carrying the oil in railroad cars. Chris Ziehmman, requested Mike LeMieur, to follow Kevin Maurer's legacy in his vision to protect the environment first and foremost.

- d. Morrison County Assessor-Jean Popp: Jean Popp replaced Glenn Erickson, who retired after being County Assessor for 17 years. The Assessor office has merged with Planning and Zoning and is under the direction of Amy Kowalczk. Jean reported there have been no changes in the property values on FTL this past year. She looks at a 5 year history of sales. The Assessor's office wants property sales to be stable-no increase or decrease in the numbers.
- e. Scandia Valley Township Board (SVTB) Chair-Terry Sandstrom: Terry has been on SVTB for 2 and half years. He has lived in Scandia Valley Township near Shamineau for 6 years. There are 55 miles of roadway in Scandia Valley and 2 full time positions to maintain them. Scandia Valley has a 6 year plan in place for repairing these roads. The roads in worst condition are being repaired first. Pineview was repaired last year. Lakeview is being repaired this year and Fish Trap Lake Drive will be repaired in the fall of 2018. This resurfacing includes Hohler Bay Drive, Pan and 21st. Scandia Valley will begin the resurfacing on FTL Drive the weekend after Labor Day 2018. It will not be widened. There will be no special assessment for these road repairs. These repairs will be paid by existing taxes. The resurfacing will take 1 to 3 weeks to complete. The depth of the resurfacing will vary depending on the given road surface. Scandia Valley will be hiring an outside consulting company to supervise the project due to some problem they experienced with a steep slope on Lakeview. Terry reported Scandia Valley will be paying the Humane Society to care for a homeless mother cat and her 3 kittens that were found in the Township.
- f. Blue Water Science-Steve McComas: Steve McComas is an expert in MN and is known throughout the country. Steve reported that he was born in Brainerd and has been working with lakes most of his life. His education includes background in Biology, Geology, Engineering and Chemistry. He

works with the water shed which is water that runs off the land into the lakes. In the last few years there has been a change in the hydrology which will affect the watershed. Soils whether sandy, fertile or infertile and the decrease in the number of farms affect the watershed. Shorelines also have an impact to the run off into a lake. There needs to be a buffer area between the land and the lake. Native plants are the last line of defense to protect the lake. There needs to be a 15 to 25 foot buffer to filter out contaminants. Much of FTL's shoreline is in excellent natural condition. According to Steve's shoreline survey in 2016 there are 43 parcels which could improve their natural buffers. He recommended at least 50% of a PO's shoreline should consist of native vegetation. Last year Steve was asked to analyze why the stand of trees on the South end of FTL were dead. There was a concern that this kill off was due to a pollutant. His analysis found no toxic components were present or responsible. He concluded that the die off was the result of high water levels. Some trees are more vulnerable to high water levels than others. FTL is classified in the Northern Lake Eco Region which is a very distinct from the Southern Lakes because the northern lakes have low nutrient run off. Steve stated that the water quality is very good on FTL due to low phosphorus and low algae levels. It has good clarity with good native, robust and diverse plant growth which promotes good fish habitat. The only invasive plant life in FTL is Curly Pondweed (CPW), which is being managed on an as need basis. Unfortunately, the good water quality is beneficial for the growth of zebra mussels (ZM). FTL has good algae growth because most of the algae are simple cell algae, which, is ZM's food of choice. Blue Green algae is toxic for people and pets. It will also kill ZM. Steve reported that besides walleyes (with densities slightly above the average) there are 15 other fish species including bass, crappies, sunfish, perch, northern and tullibees. Tullibees are a rare fish in MN. They require high water quality. They are a good fish to have. Steve reports that expensive restoration projects are not needed on FTL at this time. Maintenance projects such as CPW control and protection projects should be considered. Steve gave an update on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in MN. There are 170 to 180 lakes in MN with ZMs.

10 lakes in Sterns County have Starry Stonewort, which have always been found by the lake's public accesses. Spiny Water Fleas are in Lake Mille Lac. They are worse than ZMs because they compete with the native fish for food, which will impact fishing. Steve discussed the ZM growth potential on FTL. ZMs were found on FTL 6/30/15. It is expected that their growth will be explosive for the next couple of years. The ZM most likely will be limited by food supply and their numbers will decrease. Steve submitted a chart which depicted the criteria needed for ZM growth compared to FTL water conditions. The chart compared 3 areas shell formation factors, food factors and substrate factors. Looking at FTL's water quality there are indications that ZMs will not maintain optimal growth status but be limited to light to moderate growth due to low algae population, which is their major food source. ZMs need high levels of calcium in the water along with alkalinity and conductivity for shell formation. FTL has moderate calcium levels and high alkalinity and conductivity, which is in the high level for ZM growth. A PO asked Steve if the calcium levels could be depleted with ZMs making so many shells. Steve responded "No". ZM growth won't affect the calcium levels in FTL. Conductivity is the dissolved salt in the water. The more salt present the higher the electric conductivity. A PO asked if it was possible to lower the conductivity. Steve responded "No" because it is due to all the limestone in this area. FTL's conductivity is 220 umhos, which is a natural condition of this watershed. If the level was greater than 700 umhos we would need to look for a salt input source. Rain conductivity is 1 umhos. The food factor was already discussed and FTL is in the moderate to high level for ZM growth in this area. The third area is substrate factors which is dissolved oxygen and sediment composition. 35% of FTL has high levels of dissolved oxygen at 0-15ft. 65% of FTL has poor dissolved oxygen which is found at water depths of 15-18 ft. And only 5 %of FTL has a favorable bottom substrate. 80% of FTL's bottom substrate is muck, silt and sand which ZM will be able to survive in but not flourish. Because of this lack in optimal substrate ZM will be found on aquatic plants. The plants will die in the winter. The ZM will detach and will need to find a new substrate. If no new substrate is found the ZM will die. The adult breeding

population will be found on rocks and logs in the lake. At the present time there are no good solutions to control ZM. There is a bacterium that can be introduced to the lake which would kill ZM but it is very expensive. Steve McComas answered questions from the POs. One question asked if fallen trees should be removed from the lake to help decrease the number of breeding areas. Steve responded "No". It would not help enough. Fallen trees are good for fish habitat. Dead fall is valuable. Another question was asked once a ZM is out of the water how long does it take for it to die? Steve replied it depends. If there is no moisture for 5 to 6 days the ZM could die. If there is rain or heavy dew it will extend their life. 20 days is a good guide. Another PO asked will fish eat them? Steve replied that fish do not recognize ZM as food. He thought that eventually they will and then the fish will eat them. A question was asked how will ZM affect the native mussel? ZM hurt/kill native mussels. The ZM will attach to the native mussels and the weight of the ZM will make it impossible for the native mussels to open. Will ZM affect snails? ZM have no impact on snails, or swimmer's itch. Will ZM affect fishing? No one knows. ZM will change fish habitat and fish's patterns. What are those green blobs floating on the lake? They are Filamentous Algae. It's a non-toxic "green" algae versus a blue green algae. It grows when the conditions are just right-warm water, good light and clear water. It has been wide spread this year. The phosphorus from a fire pit which washes into the lake does not cause algae but it is important to keep as much out of the lake as possible. In conclusion Steve's opinion regarding FTL 1. ZM they are not good or bad for a lake. They don't change a lake but they will affect fish habitat and change the fish's habits. 2. FTL is still at risk for other AIS. 3. There are 10 properties that have no buffer area and any buffer area will help and make an impact. Little improvements to the lake matter and can add up.

2. **Secretary's Report:** FTLPOA members can receive the Secretary's report in 2 ways. A condensed version is in the Newsletter and the entire report can be viewed on FTL's web site. The report is summarized in the Newsletter to reduce the cost of the newsletter. Mike Flanagan motioned to accept the

Secretary's report from the April Board meeting. Chuck seconded the motion and the motion carried.

3. Treasurer's Report: Gary Ziehmman submitted the Treasurer's report. He has changed the format. The checking accounts beginning balance on 1/1/17 was \$10,499.45. Income received from dues, web page ads and interest was \$3,702.70. \$4,520.00 was received from the Endowment contributions and transfers from the Endowment saving for a total \$8,222.70. There was \$3817.53 for expenses and \$4,520.00 for other disbursements for a total debt of \$8,337.53. The ending balance as of 6/9/17 is \$10,384.62. The Endowment Fund Savings account on 1/1/17 was \$641.55. After deposits and withdrawals the end balance as of 6/9/17 was 161.76. The current total balance on all accounts as of 6/9/17 is \$10,546.38. Current year contributions to the Imitative Foundation for FTL Endowment fund is \$2,020.00. Contributions are held here until transferred to the actual fund. The current value of the Fund is \$36,741.46. The Treasurers report was accepted because there is no need to vote on it. There are approximately 325 PO on FTL. As of 6/9/17 FTLPOA has 147 members. By the end of the year FTLPOA will usually have about 60-65% of PO as members. In comparison Shamineau has 600 PO. In 2016 they had 116 members in their association. George Heroux who was the Treasurer for FTLPOA for 15 years was recognized and thanked for his years of service by FTLPOA members. George resigned from his position last year.

4. Old Business:

a. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and Algae Update: Dave Brenzke from Lake Restoration presented. He reported that he has been in business since 1977. His business has been treated FTL for CLP for several years. PO can hire Lake Restoration to control some native weed species on their property. PO also can purchase chemicals from Lake Restoration and apply them themselves if they have the proper training from the DNR. CLP was introduced to the US in the mid1800s. It appeared in MN in 1910. It is fast growing and resilient. It usually grows in 8.5 to 10 feet of water but also can be found in 15 ft. It forms large bats on top of the water and dies off in July. It reproduces by turions, which are hard buds in the stem. The turions

fall to the sediment, sprout and will grow about 2 ft the first year. In the early spring they will resume growing. Dave Brenzke handed out a brochure which had the lifecycle on CLP. CLP is treated in late April to mid-May when the water temperature is 50 to 60 degrees. They want to treat before the turions reproduce. In 2014 4 acres of CLP were treated in 3 different sites on FTL. In 2015 8 acres were treated in 8 sites. In 2016, 28 acres were treated in 23 sites and this year 2017 1.8 acres were treated in 4 locations. The RMB instructs Lake Restoration where to treat. On Lake Restoration web site there is a map which shows the exact acres that they treated in 2016 and 2017. Larger sites are easier to treat than smaller sites. Because native plants are just beginning to emerge the chemicals do not kill them. However, Lake Restoration tries to keep the dispersant down. Last year they used 2 parts per million and this year the concentration was greater. After an area is treated there are no restrictions for swimming or fishing. But Lake Restoration still put up buoys in these treated sites.

- b. Railroad Update: The railroad was already addressed with Mike LeMieur's presentation. The railroad crossing in Lincoln has been approved to close but it is now a political game between MC and BNSF.
- c. Fish Update: Mike Flanagan reported that Eric Altena, MC Fisheries Officer was unable to attend the meeting. Last year FTL received 1.2 million fry and no fingerlings. In 2014 FTL received 600 thousand fry and some lakes did not receive any at all due to a poor fry hatch. Mike is concerned that FTL is receiving only fry and no fingerlings and wants to know why. He suspects it is because fry is cheaper than fingerlings. In 3 to 5 years the DNR may change how they stock lakes. In 2014 FTL had good fishing for bass and walleye. The number of walleyes netted during the survey was 6. The state's average is 5.6. FTL's walleye population is healthy. There are many 12-14 inch fish with a larger than number of large fish. There is no need to put a size limit on the fish that is caught because the walleye population on FTL is healthy and does not need it. There were no bass tournaments on FTL last year. Eric Altena controls which lakes host bass tournaments. There will be a bass tournament on FTL in August. Mike reports that there has been good crappie fishing this year.

- d. Initiative Foundation Endowment Update: Gary Ziehmman has already informed FTLPOA of the balance in the fund. See the Treasurer's report. Scott Schnuckle asked the association if anyone has any suggestions for the use of the funds. FTLPOA has already used some of these funds for the lake study and for signage at the public access. A PO asked if the money could be used during the fall at the public access to control the weeds. The access is DNR property and it is a DNR issue. Tom Anderson, President of the LID stated we can harvest the loose weed material only. Brian Sams told the FTLPOA that a PO could call him if the weeds are building up and he will take care of them. There is a possibility to continue to work on the signage. FTLPOA has to work with the DNR. Chuck Salter wants the signage to be more visible using the colors red, yellow and green so it stands out. Hennepin County has used this signage and it has been successful. Scott asked the Association if anyone opposed the use of the money for increase signage. There was no opposition. FTLPOA can use \$3400 per year from the Foundation and it won't harm the fund's balance.
- e. Newsletter/Website: Chris Ziehmman, the editor of FTLPOA's Newsletter and manager of the website. She reported that each spring all PO will receive a newsletter. The fall newsletter will only be mailed to paid members of FTLPOA. In the fall newsletter the financial report will be included. Chris asked the POs that if they have a story or any information that could be beneficial to all POs to let her know by email, email the website or let a board member know so that she can publish it. A condensed version of the Secretary's report will be in the newsletter but entire report can be viewed on the website. In April Chris changed the design of the website. It is now easier to navigate and mobile combatable. There are 32 businesses in the area, which provide services to PO that advertise on the website. They pay FTLPOA a small fee to be able to post on the website. A PO asked if the website could be used to post items for sale or to be rented. The Board will address this idea at the fall board meeting.
- f. Beaver Dam Update: Brian Sams reported that the beavers are getting smarter. They are now building dams on top of the pipeline so dynamite or

heavy equipment can't be used. It will have to be pulled out manually. He has removed it twice in the past several years. There is a huge beaver lodge at the outlet by Azure road which per the DNR we cannot remove. There are no dams that are causing any damage but there has been some damage on the shoreline from beavers. If a PO is experiencing this they may want to consider contacting a trapper. The water level on FTL is average/low.

- g. Quad Lake Update: Jon Scott Johnson and Tom Anderson reported the Quad Lake Association has been meeting to discuss signage at all public accesses and the prevention of the spread of ZMs. The Quad Lake Association includes the following lakes: Lake Alexander, Shamineau, Crookneck and FTL. Adolf Rabe, who is from Lake Alexander, is the President of Quad Lake Association. They have received a \$5000 grant and are working diligently to keep ZM from spreading to the other lakes in this area. He is trying to get other organizations involved but has been unsuccessful at this time. In addition he is trying to legalize the Quad Lake Association.

- 5. New Business:** a. Four board members on FTLPOA terms are up. They include Chuck Salter, Brian Sams, Peggy Swalm and Mary Thibert. All but Peggy Swalm have agreed to continue serving on the board. Scott Schnuckle stated that the board meets 3 times a year in the spring, after the annual meeting and in the fall. At times it can also involve some work throughout the year. He asked the FTLPOA for volunteers who are interested in serving on the board. Lisa Kajer volunteered to join the board. Jon Scott Johnson motioned to accept these 4 people as board members. Chuck Salter seconded the motion and the motion carried.

b. PO David Christianson, who has been on the lake for 27 years voiced his concern and the desire for the FTLPOA assistance to resolve a dispute with his neighbor regarding the placement of their dock. He stated that his neighbor has placed their dock on their lot line adjoining his property. David Christianson wants his neighbor to place their dock in the center of their property. MC and the DNR have no laws or regulations on dock placement. David wants the FTLPOA to

regulate where POs can place their docks. Scott Schnuckle responded the FTLPOA has no authority over this and can only make recommendations. He suggested that we all need to be good neighbors and to respect each other. We need to work with our neighbors. He posed the question to the FTLPOA if they wanted FTLPOA to make regulations regarding dock placements on their property. No one from the Association wanted this. Scott invited members to stay for lunch and thanked Peg Hartung for the meal preparation.

c. **Drawing for Door Prizes:** The door prizes were provided by Angler's Corner, The BP, Campfire Bay Resort and The Vineyard.

d. **Adjourn:** Chuck Salter motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mike Flanagan seconded the motion. The motion carried and the FTLPOA meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary B Thibert

FTLPOA Board Meeting

12N at Scandia Valley Town Hall

Board Members present: Scott Schnuckle-President, Mike Flanagan-Vice President, Gary Ziehmman-Treasurer, Peg Hartung, Ron Markfelder, Chuck Salter, Brian Sams, Dennis Smith, Jon-Scott Johnson, Ron Mash, and Lisa Kajer and Mary Thibert-Secretary.

Election of Officers: Officers were elected for next year. Schnuckle will remain as President. Mike Flanagan will remain Vice President. Gary Ziehmman will remain as Treasurer and Mary Thibert will remain as Secretary. Brian Sams motioned to accept the election of these officers. Ron Markfelder seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The Fall Board meeting will be Saturday September 9th at Scandia Valley Town Hall at 9:30 AM. Brian Sams motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ron Markfelder seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted by,

Mary B Thibert

