

FTLPOA Board Meeting

September 19, 2015 at 9:30 Am
Scandia Valley Township Hall

Board Members present: Chuck Salter, President, Scott Schnuckle, Vice President, George Heroux, Treasurer, Mike Flanagan, Newsletter, Peg Hartung, Peggy Swalm, Jon Scott Johnson, Gary Ziehmman, Brian Sams, David Thibert and Mary Thibert, Secretary.

Guests: David Thorsett and Al Welden.

David Thorsett and Al Welden brought a concern to the FTLPOA board and requested help with their issue. They informed the board that someone recently purchased property with no lakeshore access and now wants to place a dock at the end of the fire road (Lincoln Beach Road). This road lies between David and Al's property. According to David and Al, this fire road allows the fire trucks to obtain water from FTL. The new land owner received permission from Scandia Valley Township on a trial basis to place a dock. David and Al don't want Scandia Valley to allow placement of the dock for a variety of reasons. Board members recommended that David and Al first check to see if the township road is actually just an easement and not property owned by Scandia Valley which is typical for most city and county roads. If Scandia Valley does merely have an easement, they likely have no authority to grant permission for a dock.

1. **Secretary's Report:** The secretary's minutes from the FTLPOA annual meeting was submitted by Mary Thibert. Scott Schnuckle motioned to accept the minutes. Gary Ziehmman seconded it. The motion carried.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** George Heroux submitted the Treasurer's report. He told the board that FTLPOA membership has increased to 200 out of approximately 327 possible memberships. Two property owners paid their membership dues for 4 years. A memorial for Michael Puetz (who had been a member of the FTLPOA for many years) was received for the Endowment Fund. Mike Flanagan suggested that the balance for the Endowment Fund be reported on the Treasurer's Report. The Endowment Funds and FTLPOA funds are required by law to have separate accounts. FTLPOA can't use any monies from the Endowment Fund without permission from the Initiative Foundation. Except under exceptional conditions, the principle from the Endowment Fund can never be used and accrued interest may only be used for lake projects. George continued with his report stating that there are several checks which he has issued over the last several years that have never been cashed. Scott Schnuckle stated that after 5 years by law the money needs to be turned over to

the State of MN. Peg Hartung suggested that George contact the recipients to find out if they received the check and whether they want to donate the money or have the check reissued. It was decided that George will contact these individuals. Blue Water Science received \$2,200 from the Endowment Fund and George is waiting to receive a bill from RMB Labs. Chuck Salter noted that the Treasurer's report was received.

3. **Old Business:**

a) \$6000 Grant and CLP Treatment Update:

Chuck Salter reported that FTLPOA received a \$6000 grant from the DNR to treat Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP). The funding received is based, in part, on how many acres of CLP are treated. There has been a decrease in the number of acres being treated each year. This year the LID spent \$8000 to treat 8 spots on approximately 4 acres of CLP. The fee to treat CLP does not include the cost for the pre and post treatment surveys. The LID has been treating CLP for about eight years. The first year 60-70 acres of CLP was treated. Last year 4 acres were treated. The DNR wants to revert FTL's status from lake wide to a maximum amount of about 60 acres. If FTL is assigned this new status then the pre and post-test surveys will no longer be required. With changing the status, however, it may be difficult to transition back to lake wide if necessary. Generally, the DNR does not want lakes to be classified as lake wide. The question was raised that if a pre survey wasn't completed how would we know where to treat? Ron Napan, the LID President, and FTLPOA board members want to keep the lake wide status.

b) Water Quality and Water Study Updates:

In 2007 the MPCA declared FTL's water quality as impaired. Until recently the MPCA has classify FTL's water quality as unable to rate due to insufficient data available because the MPCA requires 10 years of monitoring the Secchi disc level, phosphorous level and chlorophyll-A levels. Because Jim Fogelberg has been sampling FTL's water for 10 years the MPCA now has enough data available. In order to rate the status of water quality in FTL it is compared to other lakes in the ecoregion. FTL is on the southern end of the Northern Lakes and Forest Ecoregion which has some of the best ecoregion water quality in the state. Blue Water Science (BWS) confirmed that FTL's water quality is good and that there has been a steady improvement in its water quality since 2007.

c) Initiative Foundation Endowment:

FTLPOA had voted to approve endowment funds to hire Blue Water Science to conduct a lakeside study. Scott Schnuckle reported that he just

received the report from Blue Water Science (BWS) of FTL's water analysis. The report was very positive. BWS used data from many sources such as the DNR, MPCA and Jim Fogelberg's data from the last 10 years. They also looked at FTL inflow (FTL is partially spring fed), the dissolved sodium levels and identified at least 37 aquatic and shoreline plants. They indicated in their report that 43 parcels could improve their natural shoreline buffer. Steve McComas from Blue Water Science recommends a 15 to 25 foot deep growth of native vegetation along at least 50% of their shoreline. The native weeds that are present may be a challenge for property owners but are very good for wildlife and fish. During BWS evaluation Steve was informed of the zebra mussel infestation. Steve McComas's opinion regarding the zebra mussels is that their growth will be explosive for a couple of years and then they will likely become food limited and their numbers will decrease. FTL has low levels of algae which is a zebra mussel food source. Because of the low levels of algae, zebra mussel growth will be light to moderate. FTL's clarity levels are at good levels. BWS complete analysis can be found on FTL's web site.

d) Train Rail Expansion and Train Noise:

Paul Baker reported that Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) wants to close the Lincoln crossing. Sandia Valley Township historically wanted to keep the crossing open. However, at the last meeting Scandia Valley Township was more open to the idea of the crossing closing. BNSF is working on a pump station so that the Fire Department will have access to water. Paul is bowing out of this discussion to let BNSF manage it because he feels it will be more beneficial. Scot Schnuckle noted the advantages of having a speed zone regulation due to the added risk of derailments at higher speeds. It will be a challenge to negotiate speed with BNSF, however, if FTLPOA, Sandia Valley, the Fire Department and the 1st Responders all agree, it may be possible. The double track will be completed in 18 months. BNSF is not planning to improve the Lincoln crossing.

e) Website Update:

Mike Flanagan reported that the website has been busy. There are close to 1200 hits a month. 80 % are individual users. The website users spend one to two minutes at the site. He believes that individuals who are visiting the site are looking for new information regarding zebra mussels, buffer zones, lake restoration and any recommendations. Chuck Salter suggested that FTLPOA try to decrease the cost of maintaining the website. Maintaining the website is FTLPOA greatest expense. FTLPOA

- pays almost \$500/year. April, the current webmaster has provided instructions on how to add new information but the process is time consuming. Ideally the website should be updated weekly. Several board members thought they knew someone who has the expertise and would be willing to assist with the site.
- f) Trash/Recycling Proposal: Mike Flanagan reported that there is nothing new.
 - g) Region Wide Meeting of Lake Associations Update:
Shamineau is concerned about losing shoreline because of high water levels. This past spring they lost 7 homes because of ice damage. Shamineau is a basin and has no outlets.
 - h) Campground Expansion:
The board in July decided not to appeal Morrison County's decision to deny a petition for an Environmental Assessment Worksheet due to cost and low probability of success on appeal. The Morrison County Board did place conditions on the Campground's expansion to monitor run off which Helen McLennan, Morrison County Soil and Water Conservation District Manager, addressed and to follow MPCA regulations. A member noted that Campground septic system flow monitor was not completed this year so it will be done next year over the 4th of July week. Morrison County ordered the Campgrounds to remove 16 dock spaces by May 31, 2016. No one has seen any expansion progress at this time.
 - i) Board Duties, Responsibilities and Projects:
 - j) Chuck Salter submitted a report which lists board members duties. He believes that some of the President's duties need to be dispersed to other board members and that the LID needs to assume some duties for grant applications, LID annual reports, etc. Due to time restraints this list will be discussed at the Spring Board meeting.

4. New Business:

- a) Zebra Mussels September Panel Discussion Review:
The FTLPOA board members discussed the Zebra Mussels panelist meeting. At this meeting the panelist not only discussed the zebra mussel but also several other AIS. The board members cited different opinions about the meeting. The panelist concluded that there would not be a great impact to FTL because of zebra mussels. One board member disagreed with this conclusion citing that Christine Jurek, from the DNR did not have a favorable opinion. Mike Flanagan summarized the panelist discussion in this way. Zebra mussels will change fish patterns. Eurasian milfoil will effect recreation but is good for the fish and spiny water fleas are the worst AIS. The minutes to the panel discussion can be

found on FTL's website. FTLPOA board plans to ask Steve McComas from BWS to speak at the 2016 annual meeting. There is the possibility that his fee may be paid by the Endowment Fund.

b) Signage at DNR Access:

Chuck Salter and Jon Scott Johnson reported that the DNR agreed to FTLPOA signage proposal. The largest sign available costs \$2000. There are some free signs available on line. The DNR does not allow painting signage on the road. The DNR determines where the signage will be posted at the access. FTLPOA board felt that the association needs to do more to protect FTL from AIS. FTL needs extra protection because there are many accesses to the lake and because FTL is downstream from Lake Alex. Christmas Lake spent over \$60,000/year for inspectors to be present at their one gated access from the hours of 6:00 am to 10 pm. FTLPOA board wants to make sure that boats are clean before the boat is launched into FTL to prevent other AIS introduction. This year due to a grant from the State of MN each county in MN received funding to be used to prevent the spread of AIS. Morrison County received \$130, 000. Morrison County's focus was on education. One of their projects included giving away T-shirts with signage on it. Crow Wing County used a different approach. They used their funding to develop programs where they hired 8 inspectors to monitor their lakes accesses. The zebra mussel panelist suggested that Morrison County should participate with Crow Wing County and utilize Crow Wing's current infrastructure but increase the number of inspectors and include Morrison County's lakes in the inspection program. Morrison County would benefit from being able to use an existing program and Crow Wing would benefit through further efforts to prevent the spread of AIS to lakes in close proximity to Crow Wing County. Several board members wanted to piggyback with Crow Wing Country instead of waiting for Morrison County. All board members agreed that there needs to be more signage at the DNR access. There needs to be inspectors at the DNR access and the LID needs to be involved. Chuck Salter stated that he will contact Joe Shneider from Christmas Lake to get a breakdown of the costs for their inspectors. Mike Flanagan and Jon Scott Johnson volunteered to speak with Jeff Hardy about placing signage at his boat access. Crow Wing Power Company can install electrical power at the public access for a power washer and decontamination station at a cost. There have been AIS awareness grants available to assist with cost of installations thru Wendy Crowell at the

DNR. The deadline for the 2015 grant was in March. This grant may not be available next year because of funding cuts.

c) Fall Newsletter:

Mike Flanagan is giving FTLPOA a 12 month notice that he will no longer head the Newsletter. He has been in charge of the newsletter for 5 years and believes there should be a change. The editor of the newsletter receives \$250/year for their time. Mike offered to help the new editor. Scott Schnuckle stated that he will write a summary of the Blue Water Science study for the Newsletter. Gary Ziehm will submit a paragraph on ember ash borers and pine beetles, two insects that threaten our trees around the lake.

d) Lake Development:

All FTLPO had their septic systems inspected in 2014. The last inspection was completed 11/4/14. 64 septic systems were found to be non-compliant. Those who have failed systems had 12 months to bring their system into compliance. All septic systems should be in compliance by 11/14/15. Amy Kowalzek, Morrison County Zoning and Planning Administrator had sent out reminder letters to property owners who have not had their septic system corrected. The board members also discussed the new house that is being built on the north side of the lake. Several board members felt that the house was not following the 75 foot set back regulation. They also stated that there were no posted building permits. The board members were concerned because there have been several building projects in the past that have not followed the current regulations and because individuals have different interpretation of the laws and it has been difficult to enforce them. FTLPOA board members would like the County to develop a plan to help deal with these inconsistencies. Morrison County is looking for input and is collecting information with specific examples where regulations have failed. Scott Schnuckle will follow up with Amy regarding all of the above issues.

Beaver Dams: Brian Sams reported that there have been 2 fly overs to check for beaver dams. No beaver dams were seen. He plans on walking the creek in the near future to get an accurate visual of the area. He also told the board that he plans on building an activity building on his property. It will not be visible from the lake. There will be a public hearing on September 23rd.

The Spring FTLPOA Board meeting will be April 2nd at 9:30 at Scandia Valley Township Hall.

David Thibert motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Scott Schnuckle seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary B Thibert