



# FISH TRAP LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION



“To preserve our wildlife and water quality and promote safe recreation for the  
Fish Trap Lake Community”

Fall 2016

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## Note From the President

Summer is over and fall is fleeting quickly into winter, the Vikes were as hot as July and now seem colder than our Fish Trap Lake ice in January. Life goes on and I hope you have made the most of the year and opportunity to enjoy our beautiful lake.

We had another year of tremendous activity for the Association with the completion of our lake study, wrapping up the septic inspections and remediation process, monitoring water quality, levels and invasive species invasions. We maintained our connections with BNSF, the County and Township in hopes of closing the Lincoln crossing and reducing the risk of derailment near our lake. We have also been working on signage and monitoring the landing as best we can to prevent further spread of aquatic invasive species in and out of our lake. The growth in the volume of zebra mussels was discouraging but expected and if you read the report by Blue Water Science, you will find some positive news.

I personally appreciated the great turnout at our Annual Meeting in June and the spirited discussion we had on multiple topics. It clearly shows your engagement in preserving the quality of our lake and community of lake shore owners. At that meeting we said good-bye to George Heroux after nearly 20 years of active service on the Board and 14 years as our treasurer. At the same time, we welcomed new members, Denny Smith and Ron Markfelder to the Board and Tom Anderson took the reins of the Lake Improvement District (LID) from our founding leader, Ron Nypan. Thanks again to George and Ron for their outstanding service to our lake and continued concern for our future.

We welcome your input, ideas and support. Your generosity continues to grow our Initiative Foundation investments and allows for projects like the lake studies we conducted the last two years. Thank you to all who have donated. Every dollar matters and every member makes a difference.

I wish you all a safe, happy and fulfilling holiday season and wonderful New Year.

Scott Schnuckle

**Mark your calendars:** The Fish Trap Lake Property Owners Association Spring Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 1, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. at the Scandia Valley Town Hall.

## Summary Review of the Fish Trap Lake Evaluation from 2015 and 2016 by Blue Water Science

**Inflow Water Quality into Fish Trap Lake:** An incoming flow at the south end of the lake was an inflow of concern and was tested for pollutants during the summer of 2016. Results determined no toxic components were present. In the last decade stands of trees have died in the watershed. In 2016, sample results indicate that toxic compounds in the runoff are not a likely cause. It appears a more probable explanation would be high water levels resulting in the drowning of susceptible trees.

**Shoreland Conditions:** Much of the lake shoreland is in excellent natural condition. However, a shoreland survey indicated a total of about 43 parcels could improve natural shoreline buffer conditions with a 15 to 25 foot deep growth of native vegetation along at least 50% of their shoreline.

**Groundwater Springs:** Two areas of major groundwater inflow apparently were detected. Ground inflow, or springs, are likely common in Fish Trap Lake.

**Water Quality:** Water quality as measured by clarity (using a Secchi disc), nutrients (phosphorus), and algae (measured with chlorophyll) are within ranges of unimpacted lakes in the Northern Lakes and Forest ecoregion. The water quality in Fish Trap Lake is very good.

**Aquatic Plants:** A good diversity and at least 37 aquatic and shoreline plants have been identified. This diversity supports excellent water quality and fish habitat. Curlyleaf pondweed, a non-native plant, is present and is managed on as-needed basis.

**Zebra Mussels:** The first observation was on June 30, 2015. A follow-up two-day survey by MnDNR found zebra mussels at 21 locations. They are past the point of eradication. Their growth will be explosive for a couple of years and then they will likely become food limited and their numbers will decrease.

**Fish:** Several gamefish species such as walleyes, largemouth bass, and northern pike are present at regional densities and walleyes are slightly above average. The 2014 fish survey found 15 fish species indicating a good diversity.

**Lake Protection Projects:** Fish Trap Lake has good water quality. Expensive restoration projects are not needed at this time. Rather maintenance projects such as curlyleaf pondweed control, and protection projects such as installing and maintaining shoreland buffer strips are recommended. Ongoing monitoring should also continue.

### 2016 Results from July 18, 2016 Sampling

**Water Quality Analysis of a Watershed Inflow:** The main objective of the 2016 lake-related activities was to evaluate the chemistry of runoff water for priority pollutants to determine if hazardous constituents were present that may have contributed to the death of stands of trees in the watershed south of Fish Trap Lake.

A water sample was collected at a site where water was flowing out of an area where dead trees were observed. The water sample was analyzed for hazardous waste parameters that included metals and organic compounds. Out of 148 parameters tested, all results were below detection.

On the sample date of July 18, 2016, following previous storm events, compounds in the watershed flow were not contributing to a tree-die off. The cause of dead trees in the watershed are likely due to other factors.

Methods used for hazardous waste parameters, the number of parameters analyzed and results of the water sample collected on July 18, 2016.

Method	EPA Method	Number of Parameters Tested	Results
Trace metals (Met ICP)	EPA 6010C	12	all parameters were below detection
Mercury	EPA 7470A	1	below detection
Semi-volatile organics (MSSV)	EPA 8270D	68	all parameters were below detection
Volatile organics (VOC)	EPA 8260B	67	all parameters were below detection
Total	--	148	all parameters were below detection

## FTLPOA Annual Meeting

June 18, 2016

Scandia Valley Township Hall 9:30 am

**Board Members Present:** Scott Schnuckle-President, Mike Flanagan-Vice President, Mary Thibert-Secretary, Paul Baker, Peg Hartung, Ron Mash, Brian Sams, Peggy Swalm, David Thibert, Gary Ziehmman

**Board Members Not Present:** George Heroux-Treasurer, Jon Scott Johnson, Chuck Salter

**President's Welcome and Introduction of Guests:** Scott Schnuckle welcomed the FTLPOA members and introduced the guest speakers: Senator Paul Gazelka, Representative Ron Kresha, Morrison County (MC) Sheriff Shawn Larsen, County Commissioner Kevin Maurer, MC Planning and Zoning Administrator Amy Kowalzek, MC Assessor Glenn Erickson and Koch Pipeline representatives.

- a. **Legislative Update:** Senator Paul Gazelka and Representative Ron Kresha reviewed various legislative issues related to transportation, education and budget. They stated that the Senate and House are well aware of the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) issue and are allocating funds to the counties and DNR to develop their protection plans
  - b. **Regional Activity:** Sheriff Larsen reported on police calls, thefts and drug traffic. The news regarding calls and thefts was positive for the lake and region, but drug traffic via Hwy 10 is a concern, especially heroin, which generally follows prescription drug abuse. He encouraged everyone to lock up their medications and properly dispose of extra or expired medications at their Fall's office. DO NOT flush medications down the toilet, as it will seep into our lake water and affect fish. Larsen reported a second Deputy added; previously, there was only one patrol car for the entire township from 4 pm to 8 am. One deputy covers all of MC lakes and they coordinate with the DNR to provide the best coverage.
  - c. **Commissioner Update:** Kevin Maurer reported that MC now has 5 Lake Improvement Districts (LID) with the recent addition of Lake Shamineau. He is very concerned with the spread AIS. The State of MN has awarded funding to the counties to find solutions to prevent the spread of AIS. The counties are working together with the LIDs and the DNR. He indicated there has been an increase in the amount of nitrates found in MC's wells and free water testing is offered by Soil and Water in the spring and fall. MC is continuing to work with the Railroad (BNSF), Scandia Valley Fire and Township to close the Lincoln crossing. BNSF wants to close the crossing.
  - d. **Planning and Zoning Report:** Amy Kowalzek reported that two years ago 253 septic tanks on FTL were inspected for compliance. 64 of these systems were found to be in noncompliance. None of these failed septic systems posed an imminent danger to public health. At this time 56 septic systems have been corrected. Of the 8 noncompliant sites, 7 are in various stages of correction but 1 property owner has not responded to MC. MC received \$25,700 from the State of MN to work with lake associations to prevent the spread of AIS. They will be conducting research to determine the risk factors for each lake to help guide MC on how to spend the money most efficiently. MC is planning on revisiting the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. She reminded the audience if a property owner wants to build or change a structure on their property, they need to apply for a permit and it may require a variance and public hearing. She recommended first using the Develop Review Team at no cost to help alleviate potential problems and unnecessary costs.
  - e. **Sales Activity and Real Estate Values:** MC Assessor Glenn Erickson reported on the 10 property sales last year on FTL. There are maps on line at the Beacon site that report all sales.
  - f. **Koch Pipeline Construction Plans:** Koch Pipeline representatives spoke on the pumping station construction plans. Koch has 4 pipelines that run from Clearbrook to Minneapolis and 2 refiners. In 2008 a new line was placed but its flow rate was not reliable and it needs a pump station for a more reliable flow rate. The pump station has been approved. Koch has 7 acres in Lincoln where the pump station will be installed 1/8mile east of Hwy 10. The construction will begin in about a month. The pump station will be completed by 2017.
1. **Secretary's Report:** The secretary's report from the fall Board meeting was submitted. David Thibert motioned to accept the Secretary's report. Brian Sams 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The Secretary's report was accepted.
  2. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report was submitted by George Heroux.
  3. **Old Business:**
    - a. Lake Improvement District (LID) President Ron Nypan reported that 28 acres on FTL were treated this spring for Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP). 12 acres of the 28 were treated by the Public Landing. Last year 8 acres were treated. The LID did not receive a grant this year from the DNR to treat CLP. Because of the increase in treated acres and no grant money the LID assessment will increase to \$60 this year. Tim Lenox and Ron Nypan's terms have expired and they will be leaving the LID board. Tom Anderson replaces Ron as President and Chris Ziehmman replaces Tim as Treasurer.
    - b. Zebra Mussels Update: There is no new news from DNR rep Chris Jurek regarding the Zebra Mussel infestation. Chris told Scott Schnuckle that once a lake has been determined to have Zebra Mussels the DNR does not return to check on the lake. No other lakes in the area have Zebra Mussels. Mike Flanagan stated that the DNR has been present at the public landing 11 days out of the last 45 checking boats for compliance. 119 various watercrafts have been inspected. The DNR powered washed all boats that exited the lake.
    - c. Septic Systems: See Planning and Zoning section.

(Annual Meeting - continued next page)

- d. Water Quality Update: Jim Fogelberg performs Seechi Discs tests every 2 weeks to assess water clarity. He does water sampling 5 times a year and sends to RMB Labs in Detroit Lakes for analysis. These results are shared with the Pollution Control Agency. The first Seechi test was completed on 5/2/16 and was 11.5 ft. Last year it was 25 ft. On 5/19/16 it was 11 ft. Memorial weekend it was 15 ft. Jim stated that for the last 3 years it has been 15 ft. on Memorial weekend. He sent a water sample to RMB Labs on 5/17/16 and reported that it was not as good as last year. The ice on this year was 12/19/15. The 2<sup>nd</sup> latest per FTL history. Jim said that the ice was not good this year. It was not very thick. Ice out was 3/29/16 and was the 2<sup>nd</sup> earliest.
- e. Water Level and Beaver Dams: Brian Sams reported that he found a large beaver dam on Fish Trap Creek that he removed. He believes that the lake's water level is at a high normal. He measured the water level at 22 inches at the dam site. His highest recorded level is 30 inches which occurred about 5 years ago.
- f. BNSF Railroad Activity: Paul Baker reported that the crossing at Lincoln most likely will close. BNSF is providing funding for a well on the west side of the tracks. They are also working with MC to fund the MC Trail Program. The Lincoln crossing should close by the end of this year.
- g. Invasive Species Signage: Scott Schnuckle reported for Chuck Salter that a grant was awarded to the Quad Lake Association to be used for signage. Presently there are brochures at the public landing on all 4 lakes. They plan to have a larger sign by 7/4/16, which reminds boaters to clean their boats.
- h. Initiative Foundation Endowment (IFE) Update: Scott Schnuckle reported that the Initiative Fund has \$29,000. The IFE Committee hired BWS to analyze the inflow water to determine if there have been any changes to FTL's water quality since last year's report. This is scheduled for July. The Initiative Committee also plans to invite BWS Steve McComas as a guest speaker next year. All are encouraged to continue to contribute to the Endowment Fund. The contributions are tax deductible. Scott and the Committee are open to ideas for future projects.
- i. Website: Mike Flanagan reports the website has been active with 600-700 visits per month; each lasting 2-3 minutes. Chris Ziehmman will now oversee the website.
- j. Fishing Update: The DNR checked lake fish levels this spring to determine if their walleye stocking has been successful. They reported a high abundance of game fish plus a lot of feeder fish present. In 2013 the DNR did not stock FTL. In 2014 and 2015 they cut the fry numbers in half. They split 3.5 million fry between FTL, Lake Alex and Shamineau.

#### 4. New Business:

- a. Koch Pipeline: Already addressed.
- b. FTL Campgrounds (Scenic View Resort) update and discussion: Scott Schnuckle provided a recap of last year events. The Campground asked for a variance for expansion in spring of 2015. MC approved the expansion with a series of conditions that included dock space reduction. In the spring of 2016 Jeff and Julie Hardy, the owners of Scenic View Campground, asked for a variance to retain the original docking. MC denied it. Jeff Hardy then addressed the audience to explain his rationale for requesting the dock space variance. He also stated that he has met all the conditions of the approved expansion. He also put forth a request from the Campground residents to be allowed to become full voting members of the FTLPOA. The request would require amending the association bylaws to allow non-property owners voting rights. A vote was taken resulting in 17 against amending and 3 in favor. Scott said the FTLPOA Board would consider the matter at the fall meeting.
- c. Appreciation/ Recognition: George Heroux resigned his 14-year long position as Association Treasurer. Thank you George for your service and all that you did for FTL!
- d. Election of New Board Members: Mike Flanagan, Scott Schnuckle, Peggy Swalm and Ron Mash terms are expired. All agreed to serve again. David Thibert stepped down for Mary Thibert to remain as secretary and to comply with the bylaws. Two positions open. Denny Smith, Jeff Hardy and Ron Markfelder were nominated. Jeff Hardy declined. Denny Smith and Ron Markfelder accepted the nomination. The FTLPOA unanimously approved their nominations.
- e. Boat Parade: There will be a boat parade July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Meet at the bay by the campground at 12 Noon.
- f. Door prizes from Campfire Bay Resort and Peg Hartung's BP-she also provided a great lunch.
- g. Reminder that Scandia Valley Township is having its Summerfest the 1<sup>st</sup> week in August.

#### 5. The FTLPOA meeting was adjourned.

The FTLPOA Board meeting followed the Annual meeting.

- a. Leadership for next year. Scott Schnuckle - President, Mike Flanagan - Vice President, Mary Thibert – Secretary, Gary Ziehmman accepted the position of Treasurer. These positions are 1-year appointments.
- b. Newsletter: The newsletter will be mailed to all property owners in the spring. There will be no published financial data. The fall newsletter will be mailed only to dues paid Association members and will include financial data. The board will discuss whether FTLPOA financial data should be available on the website at their next meeting.
- c. It was approved to give George Heroux a recognition gift for his 14 years of service to the FTLPOA. A gift certificate to the Landing and a coffee mug were agreed upon.
- d. The fall board meeting will be September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 at Scandia Valley Township Hall.

Respectfully submitted - Mary B Thibert

**FTLPOA Board Meeting**  
**September 10, 2016**  
**9:30 am Scandia Valley Town Hall**

**Board Members Present:** Scott Schnuckle-President-via phone, Mike Flanagan-Vice President, Mary Thibert-Secretary, Gary Ziehmman-Treasurer, Paul Baker, Peg Hartung, Jon-Scott Johnson, Ron Markfelder, Ron Mash, Dennis Smith, Peggy Swalm

**Absent Board Members:** Chuck Salter and Brian Sams

**Visitors:** George Heroux, Cordy Heroux, David Thibert, Chris Ziehmman and Tom Anderson

**Secretary's Report:** Mary Thibert submitted the FTLPOA Annual Meeting minutes. Following review, Paul Baker motioned to accept the minutes as submitted. Peg Hartung seconded it. The motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report :** Gary Ziehmman submitted the Treasurer's report. The Treasurer's report was accepted. A transfer of \$3,300 to the Initiative Foundation was approved per request from Scott. Gary recommended that another board member also oversees both the checking and savings accounts. Scott volunteered to be that person. Scott asked Gary to review the Initiative Foundation charter and records to ensure the Association was in compliance and had accurate accounting.

### 1. Old Business

a) George Heroux: George stepped down as Treasurer. He was recognized by the Board for his 14 years of dedicated service. He will continue to manage the membership until September 30. There are 325 property owners on the lake. As of 9/10/16 there are 170 Association members compared to 184 in 2015 and 196 in 2014.

b) Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Update: The inflow analysis conducted by Steve McComas of Blue Water Science (BWS) in August was discussed. The report revealed no contaminates. However, a bit of clarification of the individual test results was requested. Paul Baker motioned that Steve McComas address this request. Peg Hartung seconded the motion and it carried. There was discussion on whether FTLPOA should submit the analysis to the DNR. No decision was made. The board decided to invite Steve McComas to the annual meeting in June to speak on AIS.

c) Quad Lake Association (QLA) Update: The QLA received a \$25,000 grant to prevent the spread of AIS. To date, \$19,000 has been used for signage and brochures at both public and private landings on each lake. Starry Stonewart is an AIS that is spreading. It has been found in Lake Millie Lac, Lake Winnibigosh and Turtle Lake. It is more harmful than Eurasian Milfoil and can kill a lake. LID Chairman Tom Anderson stated that a property owner asked him why the DNR does not allow Fish Trap's LID to treat Curly Leaf Pondweed at the public landing. Tom Anderson stated he would further investigate the matter.

d) Railroad update: Paul Baker reported that MC has agreed to close the railroad crossing in Lincoln. The closing timeframe is unknown because MC wants more property from the railroad. Paul Baker, Scott Schnuckle and Jon-Scott Johnson will call MC commissioner Kevin Mauer to get his assistance to get the crossing closed.

e) Initiative Foundation Endowment Fund (IFEFF): Scott Schnuckle reported this year's contribution to the IFEFF has exceeded any other year since the Foundation's inception. Contributors to the Fund will be recognized in the Spring Newsletter.

f) Website: Chris Ziehmman will be meeting with April Powell for website training in the near future. April will continue to maintain the website/domain. Chris will take care of common updates.

g) Newsletter: The Fall Newsletter will be mailed before Thanksgiving. There was much discussion about who should receive the fall newsletter. Last spring FTLPOA board members proposed that only paid members would receive the fall newsletter. Now some board members thought the newsletter should be mailed to all property owners. Mike Flanagan moved to readdress this issue at the next board meeting. Gary Ziehmman seconded the motion and it carried.

### 2. New Business:

a) Peggy Swalm has served on the board for 10 years. She has enjoyed serving on the board but is willing to give up her position if another person wants to serve. Ron Markfelder 1 year term will finish Peggy's 3-year term and Peggy will now have a 1-year term. Dennis Smith will complete David Thibert's 2-year term.

b) Spring board meeting will be April 1, 2017 at 9:30 Scandia Valley Town Hall

Adjournment - Paul Baker motioned to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Peg Hartung and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Mary B Thibert



FISH TRAP LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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We wish to recognize and thank those businesses in the community who continue to support us. Their complete information is also posted on our website <[fishtraplake.com](http://fishtraplake.com)> under "Lake Information" drop down "Partners". Please contact them for your lake home needs.

Action Dock & Boat Lift Service	218-296-2721	Altrichter Sand, Gravel & Excavating	218-575-2124
Altrichter Septic Services	218-575-2222	Aspire Realty	320-631-8197
Ballou Plumbing & Heating	320-749-2190	Campfire Bay Resort	800-677-7263
Crookneck Lake Construction	218-839-0800	Dairy Queen-Motley	218-352-6152
Edina Realty - Judy Altrichter	877-820-4847	Galston Construction	320-630-7852
Hilltop Sports Center	320-749-2055	Hitchin Rail	218-575-3013
Horizon Painting	218-639-2996	Ideal Construction	218-894-3105
Kathy's Kut & Kurl	218-575-2519	Kim's on Pacific Ave	320-749-2994
Lahr's Septic Pumping	218-575-2546	Lincoln Gas & Bait	218-575-3137
Lincoln Lakes Liquors & Motel	218-575-2076	Not a Problem Handyman Service	320-248-7185
Peterson's Welding	218-746-3295	Randall Building Supplies	320-749-2721
Scandia Valley Vineyards	218-575-2336	The Shante	218-746-4412
Sportsman's Plumbing & Heating	218-831-8720	Sweetwater Resort	218-575-2744