

## FTLPOA ANNUAL MEETING

June 10, 2023

Scandia Valley Town Hall

9:30 a.m.

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

**Board Members Absent:** Brian Sams, Marie Hilliard

**1. Call to Order:** Scott Schnuckle called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Scott welcomed Fish Trap Lake Association Members (FTLPOA). Board members were introduced.

**2. Secretary's Report:** Chuck Salter motioned to accept the minutes from the Spring Board Meeting. Ron Nypan seconded it and the motion carried. The minutes can be found in the Spring Newsletter as well as on the website.

**3. Treasurer's Report:** Gary Ziehmman submitted the Treasurer's report.

Total membership of the FTLPOA for 2023/169, 2022/216, 2021/220; 2020/219; 2019/216. 55 property owners (PO) have prepaid for 2024. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

#### **4. Guest Speakers:**

**A. MN House Representative, Ron Kresha.** Ron Kresha no longer represents this District, but he owns property on Fish Trap Lake. Due to his familiarity with this area, he will continue to address any PO issues. A message can be left on his website, or he can be reached at phone number 651-297-4247.

#### **B. Morrison County (MC) Representatives:**

**1. Shawn Larson, MC Sheriff:** Sheriff Larson's main goal is to keep everyone safe. There are numerous lakes in MC. To alert Sheriff Larson to specific concerns, he can be reached at 320-632-0189. For nuisance calls, call the Sheriff's Office at 320-632-9233. And for all emergencies always call 911. Boat owners and Jet Ski owners need to check their vehicles for proper registration. Sheriff Larson reviewed incidents in Scandia Valley Township (SVT) from 3/1/23 thru 5/31/23. There were 128 incidents compared to 324 incidents for the same timeframe in the year 2022. The population for SVT is 1315. During the summer months the population double/triples. Some PO expressed concern about the noise from Jet Skis. Jet skis need to be 150 feet from shore, docks, anchored boats and swimmers. A youth Jet Ski operator, who is under the age of 18 is required to have watercraft permit and remain in the sight of a parent. The Sheriff Office consults with the DNR to determine if a 300 ft No Wake Zone is necessary. Last year's no-wake zone signage is still posted at the public landing. Sheriff Larson will remove it. It is not legal to drive golf carts on the roadways. MC does not enforce this law unless they are causing a problem. There are no speed limits for boats or jet skis. MC hires seasonal help. These persons cannot write citations or carry a gun, but they can call for support as needed. Dogs cannot run freely. If a dog is causing a problem, he suggested to work it out with your neighbor first if possible before calling the department. There are currently no reports of problem bears. To prevent bear problems don't leave food outside and take bird feeders in at night.

**2. Matt LeBlanc, MC Administrator:** Matt has been MC Administrator for 18 months. MC has a 1 percent employee vacancy rate. Scandia Valley Lakes Area 2022 sales was provided by Jean Popp. MC's Public Works has several large projects this year. They usually spend 9 million dollars annually. This year the budget is \$15 million. Their building, which stored their equipment/trucks was destroyed by a fire in May of 2022. The old structure has been removed and a new structure is being built. The cost for snow plows has increased from \$260,000 to \$330,000. There is little opioid traffic in MC. MC's Auditor/Treasurer resigned 10/22. Shannon Coyle has been appointed acting Auditor/Treasurer. Typically, this is an elected position and served for 4 years. Matt would like this position to be appointed rather than elected in order to secure more qualified personnel. This position will be on the ballot again in 2024. This winter was tough on Public Work's budget. Usually there are 27 snow events per year. However, this winter there were greater than 40. MC is repairing many potholes.

#### **5. Old Business:**

**A. Aquatic Invasive Species Control Updates:** Tom Anderson reported Lake Restoration treated 41 acres for curly-leaf pondweed. The treatment was more expensive this year, costing \$36,000. Lake Restoration has a 3-year contract with the LID. RMB was contracted for the vegetation survey. The invasive species starry stonewort was not detected in this spring's survey. The 2024 proposed PO's assessment has been increased from \$60 to \$100 because of increased CLP treatment cost.

#### **B. Initiative Foundation Endowment Fund Update:**

**1. Blue Water Science Study:** Scott Schnuckle reported Blue Water Science conducted a lake study in 2015 and 2016. Some POs are concerned about whether our treatment of curly-leaf pondweed is causing an increase in other weeds like celery weed. In August Blue Water Science will conduct another lake survey to determine what is changing with the lake, which weeds are present and how zebra mussels have affected the lake. The results of the survey will be reported to the Board at the fall board meeting. Steve McComas will present the results to POs at the 2024 FTLPOA annual meeting.

**2. Shoreline buffer grant opportunities:** Ron Nypan has completed his shoreline buffer project. He is the first PO to receive the FTLPOA grant. He encouraged PO to come and visit his garden. More grants are available. Grant money may also be available from MC.

**3. Water Levels and Beaver Management Update:** Scott Schnuckle reported for Brian Sams. This spring MC removed several bogs from under the bridge. Brian removed a beaver dam downstream in Fish Trap Lake Creek. Many beavers have also been trapped. If a beaver is causing harm to a PO's land it can be removed. At this time, the lake level is good and the creek is flowing well. Brian will continue to be on alert for beaver dams and bogs.

**4. Floating Bogs and Weed Management:** We discussed the growing concern regarding the number of bogs that are breaking free from various shorelines and what can be done when they do. There are limitations on their removal, but lakes that have serious issues have been allowed to remove them at property owners' expense. This can become very expensive when bogs are very large, i.e., tens of thousands of dollars. We are exploring the use of the LID for funding large bog removal and potential help with smaller ones. Our current permit enables us to remove bogs blocking Fish Trap Creek, so additional permitting would be required. At present, property owners are on their own to deal with the bogs. We would like to create a better and more equitable solution.

**6. New Business:**

**A. Comments from the floor:** Paul Baker stated the single biggest threat/damage to FTL is fertilizer. Shoreline buffers are the best way to protect the lake. A 15 ft deep shoreline buffer will keep it from entering into the lake. Steve McComas will report on phosphate levels. Mike Flanagan reported a week after the ice went out there was an algae bloom causing the lake to turn chocolate color and now there is green fuzzy stuff floating in the water. On fishing opener, which was 11 days after ice out the water temperature was already 61 degrees.

**7. Future Board Interest:** Scott Schnuckle reported board members Chuck Salter, Brian Sams and Mike Meis have completed their terms and would like to continue to serve. Gary Ziehmman motioned to re-elect all three board members. Paul Baker seconded it and the motion carried by a vote of the FTLPOA members present at the meeting. Scott asked POs to consider becoming a board member. There is always a need for a backup.

**8. Door Prizes Donated by Anchor North, Campfire Bay Resort and 2 Tall Tavern**

**9. Adjournment:** The FTLPOA Meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary B. Thibert