

*Regular Meeting of the Five Lakes Association Board of Directors
June 13, 2011*

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Five Lakes Association was held at the Farwell Middle School Library/Media Center, 500 E. Ohio Street, Farwell, MN June 13, 2011. The meeting was called to order by President Dave Southworth at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call was taken:

Board members present: *President Dave Southworth, Vice-President Cory Gingery, Treasurer Steve Cochon, Secretary Chris Butche and Area Representatives, Dick Haynack, Bob Jeffords, Tim O'Neal and Ralph Greenfield.*

Board members absent: *None*

Association members present: *Ray Brusseau, Pam Cochon, Dan Connelly, Peggy Connelly, Don Dysinger, Lisa Harper, Scott Harper, Rich Henk, Vito Marinello, Ron Marrese, Onita Oles, Walt Plajstek, Cheryl Sharron, Jim Sharron, Linda Verarde and John Zemer.*

Minutes: *May minutes were distributed to all Board members, no corrections/changes - Steve Cochon motioned and Ralph Greenfield seconded to approve the May minutes - motion passes & Yes, 0 No.*

Treasurer's Report: *Treasurer Cochon distributed the June Treasurers report, no questions or changes. Steve briefly reviewed the initial 2011/12 proposed budget. He also noted the Lake weed services, web site charges (2 year cycle), and a portion of landscaping services paid (Jim Richmond) for 2011. He stated 118 Association member have paid dues totaling \$8,875.00. There is a place holder in the budget for silt trap cleaning and potential small claims court. Ray Brusseau asked if the \$12,000 law suit bills have been paid and how many CD's are left. Steve stated the law suit has been paid off and we have \$9203.34 in CD's. Chris Butche moved and Ralph Greenfield seconded to approve the June Treasurers report- Motion passed & Yes, 0 No.*

Area Reports:

Bob Jeffords: *Reported the shed is up and the house is being framed on the Kushmaul land.*

Ralph Greenfield: *Ralph received 3 e-mails from Tim Catman regarding:*

- *Lake treatment in West Bay (attachment a) - This will be discussed later during the meeting with an update on lake treatment.*
- *Status of gate for Dr. Langs property - Steve Cochon stated the gate has been purchased but it is the responsibility of Dr. Lang to install. Installation has been delayed due to questions on property lines. This is not an Association issue.*
- *Process to address unmaintained lawns - Dave stated the current process is for the Area Rep to speak to the property owner asking them to correct the situation. Corey stated he has had some experience in this area; if the property is for sale, there may be a Maintenance company to contact, if in foreclosure with no posting, there is no one to contact so, the adjacent property owners may want to mow, if in foreclosure and posted, the bank could be called. Ralph will get back with Catman to communicate the options.*

Steve asked if we see postings on the homes in foreclosure to please contact him with the banks information so he can contact them to collect dues.

Ralph also had a question from Mick and Paul Cort regarding the timing of the lake treatment - this will be discussed later in the meeting.

Dick Haynack: *Nothing to report*

Tim O'Neal: *Nothing to report*

New Business:

1. **Association dues increases:** *Dave Southworth asked for a motion to table the dues increase proposal until additional data is obtained. Dick Haynak motioned and Bob Jeffords seconded - Motion passed & Yes, o No.*
2. **Annual 5 lakes Garage Sale:** *Dave Southworth asked Chris to be responsible for the Garage Sale, Chris accepted. The sale will be the 3rd weekend in July, a week prior to the Clare City sales.*
3. **Annual Meeting:** *Dave has called a planning meeting for Monday, June 27th, 6:30 - 7:30 at his home. We will be working on the agenda for the Annual Meeting.*
4. **Area Representative Election Slate:** *Dave read the current slate:*
 - *Lone Pine (3)- Peggy Connelly and Tim Sharrow*
 - *Peninsular Drive (2) - Dick Haynak*
 - *Pebble Creek/Deepwood Drive (1) - Tim O'Neal*
 - *Five Lakes Drive (3) - Bob Jeffords, Bob Chamberland*
 - *White Birch (4) - Ralph Greenfield, Ray Brusseau**There are some potential additions including Dave Brender on White Birch.*

Onita Oles is the Election Chairperson. Onita noted she had volunteered to count ballots, not be the Chair but, has made some plans for the election:

- *Nancy Grover and Cathy Church will be assisting in counting ballots.*
 - *Ballots will be counted 3 times to assure accuracy*
 - *Proposed having candidates introduce themselves - this was supported by the Board. Onita will send letters to the candidates informing them of this expectation.*
 - *Stated two areas have only one person running which isn't in the spirit of an election runoff - she asked all to solicit additional candidates.*
5. **Guy Savin Conference Call:** *Tuesday morning Dave and Corey called Savin to discuss the high number of calls Savin has been receiving regarding lake treatment. Corey summarized the call:*
 - *West Bay treatment - Savin was waiting on the amendment from the State to treat the west bay milfoil*
 - *Lily Pad treatment - Savin will be increasing the treatment area, as he has done little by little every year.*
 - *Treatment of the lake, including these areas will be this week.**Dave also noted it will be announced at the Annual Meeting, as well as tonight, one person will be responsible for communication with Savin regarding lake treatment. If Association members have questions about lake treatment, they can contact their Area Representative and discuss the specific concerns utilizing a gridded map allowing for better communication. The Area Representative will discuss the concerns with Tim O'Neal who then can communicate with Savin.*

Dave read the e-mail letter from Tim Oatman to Ralph Greenfield, concerns over real estate values due to the health of the lake (weeds/fishing) and unkempt properties - letter attached. Dick Haynak took exception to Tim's comparison of our lake to Lake Shamrock in Clare. Dick stated Lake Shamrock, by design, is a no-wake lake thus the problems in that lake cannot compare to any issues on Five Lake. Ralph Greenfield stated he believed Mr. Oatman's comments referred to the west bay area. Prior to the addition of the silt trap in this area, silt accumulated over the past 25 years, similar to Lake Shamrock. Ralph also noted the west bay issue is compounded by the loon nesting area and the requirement for a special amendment for early treatment. The amendment was not consistently utilized in the past therefore the area has not been properly treated. The area is currently taken over by the duckweed and milfoil limiting the ability to get boats out. Ralph stated many residents in that area are calling him wanting to know what can be done. Ralph did get the loon pictures to Savin to apply for the amendment. Ralph also noted, after canvassing the area, he marked the stumps and asked if others see stumps, let him know and he will mark those as well.

Dave stated in a conversation with Savin and Greenfield, he authorized Savin to move forward with procuring the amendment, Greenfield confirmed. Savin forwarded a copy of the request to Dave and Tim O'Neal. Dave and Ralph also discussed Lily Pad treatment with Savin where Savin stated a modification to current treatment (systemically treating lily pads) would cost an additional \$3,000. Because of this potential additional cost, Dave asked Savin to have a lunch meeting with three Board members to finalize treatment plans, costs and payment.

6. Guy Savin Lunch Meeting with Southworth, Cohoon, O'Neal and Gingery:

Dave noted the current contract with Savin is very specific, requiring lily pad treatment. Last year, the milfoil was systemically treated so Dave asked why systemic treatment of the lily pads would be an additional cost. Savin took exception to the questioning and the result was an agreement to disagree over the additional cost of the systemic treatment. But, during the discussion, it was determined the lily pads are not the problem, the problem in the west bay is the Eurasian milfoil. Steve Tchoon stated the milfoil can be treated in the fall and it will not be a problem in the spring. He also stated this treatment should not be an additional cost and if Savin insists it is, we should begin looking for other service providers.

Dave stated Savin will be treating this week and will systemically treat the Eurasian milfoil in the north west bay, "knocking it down" (burning the top, not the root system). Savin also proposed he would return in September/October to treat the milfoil in the north west bay eliminating the milfoil in the spring - this would be an extra charge. Dave sees this as a tradeoff - extra treatment in the fall would negate the treatment in the spring, therefore there should be no extra charge. This is the position that will be taken with Savin. Ralph asked why two treatments are necessary - why can't Savin treat the west bay similar to the dam area last year where the weeds were killed. Steve stated it is probably a timing issue - spraying wasn't done early enough to kill of the milfoil in the west bay. Dave asked what type of chemical was used last year by the dam, is it the same as being planned this year - per Tim O'Neal, the report has not yet been supplied. Dave asked for Tim to follow up.

Ralph asked for clarification on current plan and next year. Current plan is for Savin to treat the lake by 6/15/11, which is the latest date per our contract. Next year, in order to expedite treatment, Ralph has been authorized to send pictures of the loons off their nests directly to Savin, with a copy to Tim O'Neal. When sending these pictures, Ralph should note the pictures are sent, per the Board's request and authorization, for Savin to move immediately for State approved amendment for lake treatment. But, with further discussion, Dave asked Ralph and Tim to determine if asking for the request directly through the DNR would be a better option. Onita Oles stated there is a potential cutoff date for the DNR to process the request; this should be considered with follow up. If we can request the amendment directly through the DNR that would be the best most expeditious method for approval.

Ralph discussed the problem of muck in the west bay caused by the lake of a silt trap for many years. Options are dredging, aerating and/or promote boat traffic. By eliminating the weeds, boat traffic could be increased. Ralph asked all Association members to travel through this area as they boat on the lake; this is the most economical way to improve the area over time.

7. **Five Year Plan:** We currently have 5 projects for our 5 year plan - weed control, east bay silt trap, west bay silt trap, landscaping and dam inspection. The Board needs to organize these projects having detail planning, timing and budget. Once these are completed, we can look at other options to further improve our neighborhood, continuous improvement. One option to consider is participation in a Lake Board. We have asked Linda Verardi to investigate the pro/con's of a Lake Board (attachment b).

Group Discussion regarding Lake Board:

- Lake Board is responsible for weed treatment in the lake - cost driven by bids.
- Projects are funded by a tax assessment in the District (in our case, by those who have deeded lake access which would include South end residents).
- Commented Surrey Lake has a lake board - the project to dredge the lake was \$976,000 or \$4,500 per property owner. This included the ability to remove the silt in the lake through a tube to adjoining farm

property. It was asked if Surrey property owners were happy with the Lake Board - Ralph commented they were happy with the dredging and worth the money spent.

- A lake feasibility study is estimated at \$20,000 - \$30,000.
- Question if, being a Non-Profit, could we take a bond to support projects - Steve to follow up.
- Group discussion proved unfavorable to participate in a Lake Board.

Audience Comments:

- Walt Plajstek commented on the silt trap history and supported increasing boat traffic in the west bay.
- Ralph Greenfield asked if the Association could take over the responsibility for lake weed treatment. He will follow up investigating permits, license, liability insurance...
- Linda Verardi noted the health of the lake is effected by the treatment of the surrounding land - grass clippings, birds spreading seeds, fertilizer...
- Onita Oles asked:
 - Is there a schedule for the east bay silt trap - Corey Gingery is working on the plan.
 - Is there a plan for dam inspection - yes, the dam is inspected every 5 years
 - Why did we table the due increase proposal - Didn't have the financial data to support the increase, that data is being collected.
- Scott Harper thanked the Board for serving. He is new to the lake and agreed there is a connection between the health of the lake and home sales. Lisa Harper reinforced the issue with muck in the west bay.
- John Lemer questioned what has happened to our fish?
 - Corey asked John, and others, to contact Baker and tell him you support a fish survey
 - Dave noted we are working on weed habitats in the lake
 - John will work with Corey on some options regarding improving fishing in the lake
- Vito Marinello and Peggy Connelley voiced concerns about the creek at the picnic area, it needs raked. Ralph stated a permit is required to rake in the lake.
- Pam Cochran thanked those who worked on the Beach Clean-up.
- Ben Marrese thanked the Board for their work on the lake, supporting the misfoal kill.

Adjournment:

President Southworth asked for a motion to adjourn, Dick Haynack motioned and Bob Jeffords seconded. Motion passed - meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Submitted by

Chris Butche, Secretary