

# **Lake Shamineau Association Fall Meeting Minutes**

**Saturday, August 30, 2014, 9:00 AM Lincoln Evangelical Free Church**

**Board Members Present:** Al Doree, Pat Held, Randy Heltemes, Randy Kevern, Bob Ingle, Bob Koll, Jane Kraemer, Jacquie Rognli, Rick Rosar, Kim Salisbury

**Absent:** Mike Fedde, Sandy Williams

## **Open Forum – Questions and comments from members**

Looped slides of high water pictures were shown during open forum.

Q: Is “No Wake” posted at the public landings?

A: Yes. The sign at the east landing is somewhat torn up.

Q: Is there enforcement of “No Wake”

A: It was understood that the DNR gave permission to enforce, but Morrison County said they didn’t have manpower to enforce, so they didn’t enact the mandatory No Wake. President Randy Heltemes expressed his disappointment that the Lake Association wasn’t notified of the meeting where this was decided. Comments: There were remarks about only residents and farmers have a local vote or voice in local government. Concerns expressed about the administration of the LID funds by the county. (Clarification: LID funds are controlled by the LID whose board is elected by LID members.)

Q: Are there any representatives of Morrison County here?

A: County Auditor Treasurer Russ Nygren who has been helping the LID formation volunteers; Steve Messerschmidt, Financial Risk Manager-Deputy Auditor. District 1 Commissioner Kevin Mauer has also attended the past few meetings.

Comments: There was mention that we all need to complain to legislatures about the need for help with the issues facing our lakes. Pat Held shared copies of an example of a letter that people could use to write or email elected representatives. There were many questions about the LID, but those were delayed until it came up on the agenda later when there wasn’t a time limit on discussion. Minutes of May 24, 2014: Approved

**Treasurer’s Report:** Approved Treasurer Pat Held pointed out that we have spent \$429.44 more than we have taken in as money has been spent on milfoil removal and lake surveys. He said in 2011 we had \$24,000 in savings (although some was Initiative Fund grant money) and in 2014 we now have \$14,000 in savings.

## Lake Shamineau Association Balance Sheet as of August 29, 2014

ASSETS		
Randall State Bank-Checking	\$1,019.01	
Randall State Bank-Savings	\$14,559.60	
Total Checking/Savings	\$15,578.61	
TOTAL ASSETS		\$15,578.61
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Opening Balance	\$7894.28	
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$8,113.77	
Net Income	\$-429.44	
Total Equity	\$15,578.61	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		\$15,578.61

Pat also provided copies of a full report with transactions.

**Fishing Report** – Rick Rosar Rick said that some nice walleye were being caught. In view of his boat last night, he saw fisher persons catch four walleye on leeches and red tails.

**Water Quality Report** – Al Doree Currently the lake is a record 1.07 feet above the ordinary high water level (OHWL). Al reported 27.01 inches of rainfall so far this year. Secchi disk readings were good, with 15 feet in May, 10.5 feet in June, 15 feet in July and 12 feet in August. Asked about if he sees any trends, Al said that the Trophic State Index (TSI) has been steady. Asked where testing is done, Al replied at a consistent location off his shore near the end of East Shamineau Drive plus in the 55-foot hole, deepest part of the lake. He said that at 8 meters there is a sharp thermocline and dissolved oxygen disappears below 8 meters. More concerns were raised about high water level and no power locally or help from the County. There was a comment about lots of taxes with low services. Pat Held drew attention to the sample letter to legislators the encourage them to be sensitive to lake issues and proactive.

**Membership Report** – Bob Ingle Bob thanks all of the captains for their good work. He needs captains for Oak Lane as Marlene Freidel passed away after covering that road for many years. They also need help by Auger's with Axis and Angle. Please send emails to Bob I. who now has an email address for membership: [member5hi9@gmail.com](mailto:member5hi9@gmail.com)

**Communications Report** – Jacquie Rognli Jacquie said that the newsletter is sent to property owners, all advertisers and some local newspapers, one of which generated a reporter's inquiry. She reported that 130 membership links to the fall issue were emailed with 6 unresolved bounce backs. There were 208 hard copies mailed with 8 returned to sender. Jacquie also noted that when legal notices are sent from Morrison County for the LID, they will go to the official owners for the property (probably the person who gets the tax notices) not to the people we contact for the membership newsletter.

**Eurasian Water Milfoil and Aquatic Vegetation Report** Divers from Waterfront Restoration, LLC were hired to pull Eurasian Water Milfoil from the northwest bay. They began on July 16 using a pontoon donated by Shamineau Acres Resort for their use and stayed overnight at one of their cabins. Infestation was heaviest in front of Shamineau Acres and was thicker and more widespread than last year. They reported it was a successful outing and the bay was as 11 0 Fall

Membership Minutes continued milfoil free as possible. The invasive species had spread more along the docks and shore on the west end. The Lake Association also hired an aquatic vegetation survey of the lake from 17-foot depth to the shore. They used GPS coordinates and a rake toss method. They found no Eurasian Water Milfoil anywhere else in the lake. However, in the bay where the scuba divers had been, they found two stalks of a milfoil that is a hybrid of our native northern milfoil and the invasive Eurasian were found south of the landing. GPS coordinates of that were recorded. No one is yet familiar with the implications are of the hybrid. Samples could be sent for analysis, but it would be expensive. Non-native invasive purple loosestrife was also found. The property owners have been told. It is not yet an issue, but should be monitored. There are possible biological controls available for this wetland plant that displaces cattails and other native shoreline plants that are needed to filter water entering the lake and for shore protection. When the survey report is completed, the Lake Association will post a copy on the website.

**Lake Improvement District (LID)** Guest speaker Russ Nygren, Morrison County Auditor since 2004 explained the formation of the LID process and answered questions. Nygren has been attending meetings of the LID Committee volunteers and helping them. He will be retiring Jan 5, 2015 and brought Morrison County Financial Risk Manager/Deputy Auditor Steve Messerschmidt with him to ensure some continuity for the process. Nygren explained that he has worked on several LIDs. The county has four. The LID is a form of government. You have the right to vote in the LID as a property owner. There are government accounting standards that must be met. Money on special assessments goes only to the LID. The LID must file reports annually, come to the County Board to request the assessments every year. The LID board is elected by the property owners and must hold an annual meeting. Payment of the assessment is part of the property owners' tax statement. Examples of things the other LIDs have used money for are control of aquatic invasive species. The LID must prepare a plan for the use of the money with the soil and water and water quality departments. District Manager Helen McLennan of the Morrison County Soil and Water Conservation District will work with the committee to make a plan. Assessments are by ownership. Multiple properties under the same name would have only one assessment. Crookneck, Fishtrap, Sullivan and Alexander lakes all have LIDs. In the LID formation process, the County Board can call for a public hearing. They will notify every owner. The hearing could be as early as spring 2015. This is your chance to speak up and give your input. The LID could possibly be created by next summer. Funds raised in the fall would be available in 2016. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) legislation funds have been designated by the DNR for education, not treatment. There was \$60,000 this year and will be \$130,000 next year. The county doesn't know what to expect yet from those funds. Morrison County Planning and Zoning Administrator Amy Kowalzek is in charge of finding out what the county can do with the money. Water level and erosion control concerns: Shamineau is a landlocked lake with a large watershed. Alexander and Fishtrap lakes both have outlets, but are facing the same problems. The Lake Minnetonka Association was able to enforce the no wake there because they hired their own law enforcement. More counties are helping form LIDs. Morrison County was one of the first. A disadvantage of not creating a LID is that the county has no authority to work on lake improvements. Advantages are that perhaps the LID will be more eligible for grants; with the LID, all property owners pay. The elected board of the LID sets the budget and members vote at

the annual meeting. If it appears the lake owners have a majority of support for forming the LID, the county will proceed to help set up. If people send in the Statement of Support, that will demonstrate to the board that there is a positive interest (55 signed statements were collected to pass on the County Board). Would the district restrict landscaping? The DNR and Planning and Zoning are in control of land use. People were urged to contact their legislatures for more help from the state. Summary of process to form the LID: • Turn in your signed statement of support to the county for formation of the Lake Shamineau Improvement District. • Morrison County will set a public hearing and notify property owners. • The County Board passes a directive to form the LID. • The first Board of Directors is appointed. • There is an election of board members (by mail or at annual meeting). • The LID board submits a plan every October. Anyone interested in joining the volunteers to organize the LID should contact Bob Koll: bckoll@brainerd.net; 218-575-2577. Bob emphasized that it will be a lot of work, and the LID board needs to be different people than the Lake Association board willing to put in the time and effort.

**Other New Business** There was some discussion that ice-jacking may be becoming more of a problem with the higher water level. Bob Ingle recommended the bubblers that he and adjacent property owners have installed in the lake in front of their cabins.

Adjourn 10:45 AM

**Respectfully Submitted by Jacquie Rognli**