

**Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Members of
Pelican Lakeshore Owners Association**

Saturday, July 30, 2016

Pursuant to written notice in accordance with the bylaws of the Pelican Lakeshore Owners Association (the "Association") and applicable law, the annual regular meeting of the Members of the Association was held on Saturday, July 30, 2016, at the Orr American Legion Post 480, in Orr, Minnesota. Directors Jack Barrett, David Dabruzzo, Dan Donovan, John Metsa, Tom Pelach, and John Poczekaj attended the meeting. Director and President Grover Gillespie was unable to attend as he was recovering from surgery. Keith Baker, Secretary of the Association, also attended the meeting and recorded more than a quorum of Members present in person and by proxy. In Mr. Gillespie's absence, Keith Baker acted as chairman and secretary for the meeting; he called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Introductory Remarks

Mr. Baker thanked the Members present for taking the time to attend the meeting. Grover Gillespie, President of the Association, was unfortunately unable to attend as he was recovering from a very recent surgery. Those in attendance then took a moment to remember Pam Brink who passed away last November and her service over the years to the Association as a Director, Vice President, coordinator for the Secchi Disc water clarity work, and other volunteer activities. Next, two new Directors, David Dabruzzo and John Metsa, were introduced. After Ms. Brink's death, they agreed to volunteer and serve as Directors; Mr. Baker resigned his position as a Director to create the second vacancy on the Board since the Bylaws provide for seven (7) Directors. Mr. Baker thanked the new Directors and noted that the Association needs to have more active Member involvement, including some of the year round residents. This is a theme that Members have heard in past years and will hear again today – and in the future.

Next, volunteers helping with the Secchi Disc water clarity measurements and the July 3 Booth hosted by the Association each year in Orr were recognized at the meeting. Mr. Baker expressed the appreciation of the Board and other Members for these volunteers and several others in prior years for stepping up.

Mr. Baker noted there was no guest speaker this year. He reminded those in attendance that Association's most important purpose is to be ready and able to mobilize on important issues as they arise – whatever they may be, whether Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) or some other issue. Members and others interested in the Association and Pelican Lake should go to the Association's website, www.pelicanlakeshoreowners.org, for membership forms and historical and current information. Mr. Baker then asked Director and Treasurer Tom Pelach to provide the annual Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Pelach then presented the Treasurer's Report. A copy of the written Report was distributed prior to the commencement of the meeting. This year's Report covered the period July 25, 2015 (the day of last year's annual meeting) through July 29, 2016. For that period, the Association's account balance started at \$1,912.34. The closing balance as of July 29, 2016 was \$1,995.96. Revenues received at today's meeting and expenses for the food at today's meeting, as well as a donation to be made to the Pelican Lake Resort Association for hazard marker repairs, were not included in the report. Mr. Pelach provided information on the expenses incurred for this period (\$1,766.38) and the dues received (\$1,850.00). At the conclusion of his Report, there were no questions.

President's Report

With the assistance of other Directors, Mr. Baker then presented the President's Report to Members in President Gillespie's absence. In general, Association activities included a focused effort on new Member recruitment through an expanded mailing, continued Secchi Disc monitoring activities, a status update on an ongoing MPCA watershed water quality monitoring program, an update on hazard markers, the July 3

booth, the Pelican Lake outlet dam, meetings with the DNR, AIS matters, and possible ways to expand youth and young adult interest and involvement. Mr. Baker urged all who are able to please consider volunteering some time on behalf of the Association and to spread the word to other lakeshore owners who are not Members. The Association can now reach many lakeshore owners quickly to mobilize as an organized group. However, the Association could do more with more volunteers and Members. While it may not reach the size of the Lake Vermilion Sportsmen's Club with 2,000+ members, the Association could be significantly larger. The Board dedicated some time to that recruiting effort this spring and summer. Mr. Baker asked Director Jack Barrett to describe that effort.

Mailing and Member Recruiting Drive. Mr. Barrett presented an overview of the mailing and recruiting effort completed earlier this spring and summer. He created a mailing list of 280 lakeshore owners and sent out a flyer. As of today, fifteen (15) brand new, first time Members had responded and signed up – a great start! [*Secretary's update, post-meeting: through the fall, a total of nineteen (19) new, first time members had responded.*] A recap of membership (dues paying units) was presented: 2016 - 97 paid Memberships but several more paid today, so now over 100 [*Secretary's update, post-meeting: finally tally of 109 paid Members for 2016*]; 2015 – 78; 2014 – 93; 2013 – 90; 2011 and 2012 (combined 2 years together) – 96; 2010 – 91; and 2008 and 2009 (combined 2 years together) – 116.

Secchi Disc Measurements Project. Next, Mr. Dabruzzo described the Association's Secchi Disc efforts. The project is part of the MPCA's Citizens Water Quality Monitoring program and was relaunched last year by Ms. Brink. Mr. Dabruzzo has taken over her lead role. This year, with the assistance of four volunteers, water clarity (depth until the disc is no longer visible) measurements will be taken all spring, summer, and fall in at least one, and possibly two, locations on Pelican Lake. If any Members are interested in helping, they should contact Dave Dabruzzo. A signup sheet was left at the meeting.

MPCA Intensive Watershed Monitoring Program - Update. At last year's meeting, Mr. Joel Peterson, Watershed Ecologist for the MPCA, gave a presentation on an ongoing, two (2) year study of the Vermilion River Watershed. A detailed informational handout was distributed at the meeting. Pelican Lake is part of the Vermilion River Watershed. This intensive testing takes place over a two (2) year period – 2015 and 2016. The MPCA advised that there were no issues observed in the 2015 data from Pelican Lake. Testing is continuing and concluding this year. In early 2017, data will be gathered and studied. A report with final results should be published by the MPCA at some point in 2017.

Hazard Marker Update. The Association and a few Members were the driving force in getting a number of hazard markers approved by St. Louis County for Pelican Lake. Due to insurance and liability concerns, the Resort Association holds the permit for the markers and handles their deployment in and out of the lake. The Association is aware of issues with the placement of the markers and issues caused by drifting. The Board has gently tried to engage the Resort Association concerning the markers, but there are a handful of logistical and other difficulties working against those efforts. Directors may try again to mark locations for the buoys with GPS. The markers do provide a benefit for Members, other lakeshore owners, the resorts and their guests, and other folks who use the lake for fishing and recreation. The Association will work towards providing assistance to the Resort Association as may be accepted.

July 3 Booth. The Association hosted a booth during the July 3 and 4 celebration in Orr. The booth provides exposure of the Association to the public and new Members. Mr. Baker thanked those who have volunteered to help with this endeavor.

DNR Related Matters. Next, Mr. Baker and Director Dan Donovan recapped discussions or contacts had by the Board of Directors with various DNR representatives over the last several months. The hole (or opening or window) in outlet dam at Nett Lake Road was opened again last October at the DNR's request. The DNR, in particular the fisheries manager for the area, cites concern about "trapped fish" in the portion of the Pelican River below the dam is a reason for opening the hole. The Association

countered, again, that perhaps the DNR should work to improve and rehabilitate the river bed in this area as the DNR even suggested at one time. Plus, in the Association's estimation, the hole or window in the dam's center weir in and of itself constitutes a violation of the old, established legal runout elevation. By early December of last year, water was running over the top of the dam's weirs. It is difficult to tell because of higher water levels, but the Board suspects that the opening was not closed yet this year; significant flowage of water over the top of the weirs makes closing the hole difficult. The Board would like the DNR to honor its agreement to leave the window/hole closed as a "test case" year, but it appears that the DNR has decided instead to open and close the window. In general, the Board's exhaustive efforts over the years to raise the authorized level of the dam have met a dead end. As staffing has changed, the DNR has reached out to the Directors. Another meeting is scheduled for August 4, 2016 at which time the dam, the Pelican River and Elbow River, and other issues will be discussed. Given the Board's persistence over the years, the Association is recognized by the DNR and the Association definitely has the "ear" of the DNR.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Mr. Baker summarized recent, significant activity led by a few governmental agencies and lakeshore associations to help provide educational awareness and to stop the spread of AIS. St. Louis County received a very large allocation (almost \$700,000) of funds from the State's AIS Prevention Aid Program. The County has developed an AIS plan to spend those funds. Nearby associations such as the Vermilion Sportmens' Club and Burntside Lake Association received grant money. On Lake Vermilion, it appears that the Club formed partnerships with some resorts, a marina, the Bois Forte band, and governmental units. Using grant money, these groups have staffed and paid for two boat cleaning stations, boat landing inspections, water testing, and education. Grant applications require minimum expenditures of \$10,000. Because of a lack of interested volunteers, the Association could not begin to staff and manage projects of this magnitude. Perhaps funds can be used to hire other companies to provide staff, eliminating part of the oversight concern and solving part of the problem with a lack of volunteers. With more Member interest, the Association could do more; it could have volunteers trained to be at public landings on select days – even just to provide educational awareness, let alone active decontamination efforts. In 2015, the Association engaged in modest efforts with AIS educational ads in the *Timberjay* and *Cook Herald News* newspapers on Memorial Day and Fourth of July weekends. Less than \$500 was spent on the ads, with a grant from the DNR covering about half of that amount. That grant program was cancelled this year – due to the other money being awarded to counties via the AIS Prevention Aid Program, in Mr. Baker's opinion. With some volunteers, the Association could start some smaller scale AIS efforts on Pelican Lake. Sooner or later, one of these critters or plants will be in the lake. The spiny water flea is already on some large nearby lakes. Please check out the Association's website for several AIS-related links. The Directors encouraged everyone to educate themselves on what needs to be done with boats, trailers, lifts, equipment, and even decoys.

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers. The Association's membership in Minnesota Lakes and Rivers (MLR) was discussed. Director Donovan has attended several meetings sponsored by this group. MLR seems to be a productive force in the AIS area. The Directors reconsider membership in MLR each year. But, they feel it has been a good expenditure of \$150. Check out MLR's website some time. Mr. Baker advised there was information at the meeting on the 2016 Aquatic Invaders Summit, an event promoted by MLR, on October 5 and 6, 2016 for anyone interested.

Youth and Young Adult Involvement. Finally, the Board is contemplating ways to stimulate youth / teenager / young adult involvement and interest vis a vis Pelican Lake and the Association. The Board has discussed the idea of activities or endeavors to encourage children and young adults to get involved with Pelican Lake, its ecology and use. However, we will need some core level of interest from Members. And, in addition, we would need a couple of folks to lead the way – even on an initial small scale basis. Perhaps high school students or Boy Scout troops could be engaged? Take a kid fishing? Or incorporate the resorts on the lake in some way? Perhaps establishing a presence and education at some of the lake's boat launches on occasional weekends? Mr. Baker suggested that there is some real potential here, but, as

always, we need a few people to help. If you have any interest, please contact Directors John Metsa or Grover Gillespie, either locally or through the website.

Questions

Mr. Baker then opened the meeting to any additional questions from Members. There were a handful of topics and summary of a few discussion items follows. A Member asked about the presence of two (2) small buoys or markers located on the north side of an island in the west half of the lake. They appear to be DNR property. The Directors advised they would check on this matter. *[Secretary's note, post meeting: some of the Directors met with the DNR on August 4, 2016 in Grand Rapids. The DNR advised the blue buoys were gill net markers that are part of next year's fish study; the markers and gill nets are moved from time to time.]* Another Member related concerns with the etiquette of some boat users on the lake and, in particular, a possible incident involving loon chicks. A Director advised that Members should immediately contact the Sheriff's office concerning any such issues. The County, and not the Association, is the appropriate party to deal with improper boating behavior. The current Board does not feel that the Association should be involved with or used as a mechanism to deal with inappropriate or wrongful conduct. Another Member discussed a report that a tiger musky (hybrid musky and northern pike) was caught about a month ago. Was it possible that it was mixed in with walleye fry? The Directors did not know but would try to ask the DNR. Another Member - angler suggested that tiger musky are frequently misidentified, but anything is possible.

Election of Directors and Luncheon

As a final item of business, voting for Directors took place and the meeting was then adjourned. After all ballots and proxies were tallied, the seven (7) Directors were reelected. A complimentary luncheon was hosted by the Association after the meeting.

Please visit the Association's website (www.pelicanlakeshoreowners.org) and send any questions, suggestions, and other input to the Directors at any time by email (info@pelicanlakeshoreowners.org) or by mail (P.O. Box 52, Orr, MN 55771). Please be sure to update any spam or junk mail lists so that the Association's emails are not blocked.

/s/ Keith W. Baker

Keith W. Baker, Secretary for the Meeting