

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

Saturday, July 25, 2015

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 25, 2015, at the Orr American Legion Post 480, in Orr, Minnesota. Directors Dan Donovan, Grover Gillespie, Pam Brink, John Poczekaj, and Keith Baker attended the meeting. Directors Tom Pelach and Jack Barrett were unable to attend the meeting. Keith Baker, Secretary of the Association, recorded more than a quorum of Members present in person and by proxy. Dan Donovan, President of the Association, acted as chairman for the meeting. Keith Baker acted as secretary for the meeting. Mr. Donovan called the meeting to order at 11:03a.m.

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Mr. Donovan, President of the Association, noted that more than a quorum of Members were present in person and by proxy. He introduced himself and the other four (4) Directors that were present and thanked the Members for taking the time to attend the meeting. Mr. Donovan urged all Members to become more involved with their Association. As in past years, he asked Members, especially year round residents, to volunteer to serve as Directors or at least serve in some volunteer capacity. Mr. Donovan also asked Members to visit with their lakeshore neighbors and encourage others to join the Association. New member forms and a great deal of historical and current information are available on the Association's website, located at www.pelicanlakeshoreowners.org. He then asked Director and Treasurer Grover Gillespie to provide the annual Treasurer's Report to the Members.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Gillespie referred the Members to the written Treasurer's Report distributed to them prior to the meeting. This year's Report covered the period July 21, 2014 (just prior to last year's annual meeting) through July 24, 2015. On July 21, 2014, the Association's account balance stood at \$2,081.31. Since that time, the Association received \$1,375.00 in dues and incurred \$1,543.97 in expenses, leaving a closing balance on July 24, 2015 (yesterday) of \$1,912.34. Mr. Gillespie noted that the food and beverage expenses for today's annual meeting expenses had not yet been paid. In addition, the July 4 Newspaper AIS ad expenses remained to be paid. However, \$225 will be received later this year from the Association's MN DNR AIS Awareness Grant. In addition, \$75.00 in dues payments were received at today's meeting. Mr. Gillespie echoed President Donovan's comments about soliciting more Members. Mr. Gillespie then detailed the Association's expenses by category. At the conclusion of his Report, there were no questions.

President's Report

Mr. Donovan related that Director Pam Brink will first update the Members on the Association's Secchi Disc monitoring activities. Then, Mr. Joel R. Peterson, MPCA Project Manager/Watershed Ecologist based in Duluth, will make a presentation to the Membership. The remaining portion of the President's Report will follow Mr. Peterson's presentation.

Water Clarity – Secchi Disc Measurements Project

Ms. Pam Brink brought the Members up to date on the Association's Secchi Disc project. Ms. Brink thanked a handful of Members who volunteered their time and have been recording Secchi Disc depth/water clarity readings this year in two places on the lake. General results were reported at the meeting, with some fairly deep (clear) readings in the early part of the season (with one in excess of 18 feet). A signup sheet was available at the meeting for those interested in learning more about this water

clarity measurement program. Data is collected and sent to the MPCA for its use. The Association also forwards the information to the DNR. Ms. Brink also thanked those Members who volunteered their time to help staff the Association's July 3 booth.

Intensive Watershed Monitoring – MPCA Presentation

Mr. Donovan then introduced Mr. Joel Peterson, Watershed Ecologist for the MPCA. Using charts and other materials, Mr. Peterson described a statewide effort and schedule for conducting testing and related monitoring for 81 watersheds in the State of Minnesota. Pelican Lake is part of the Vermilion River Watershed. This watershed generally includes lakes, rivers, and streams that drain into Crane Lake. Grants were given to some governmental partner organizations (e.g., Soil and Water Conservation Districts) to do some of this work. The MPCA itself is doing the testing work on Pelican Lake. MPCA employee Jesse Anderson has been and will be on Pelican Lake this year and again in 2016 to complete the data collection. Monthly testing is done on several parameters, including total phosphorous, chlorophyll-a (total algae), temperature (dissolved oxygen), conductivity (iron and other metals), pH, and even Secchi Disc readings. The MPCA will supplement Jesse's Secchi disc readings with those conducted by the Association's volunteers. The last monthly readings will be taken in September. Then, the readings will be repeated again in 2016 for another year. The data will then be reviewed to determine whether any potential water quality issues have been identified or may need to be addressed. At this time, however, Mr. Peterson suspects there will not be any issues for Pelican Lake. The testing is based on "WRAPS" – Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies. If a lake (or river, stream, etc.) does not meet water quality standards, then MPCA asks why and looks for sources of problems.

After concluding his presentation, Mr. Peterson responded to several questions from Members on a wide-ranging number of concerns and anecdotal issues, all of which Mr. Peterson appreciated – feedback from lake users, including anecdotal evidence, is deemed important by the MPCA. Questions/answers included algae concerns (the best thing Members can do for the lake is to not use any fertilizers [phosphorous issues]), the earlier emergence or quantity of weeds present in the lake (largely driven by water depth and sunlight penetration), the disappearance over 70 years of large snails and blood suckers (unsure of reason; likely natural changes), the presence of foam at times (not typically a sign of a phosphorous issue, but rather usually due to a natural source), and the relationship of algae to water depths (slight potential for more algae with lower water levels). Mr. Peterson also left a Citizen Monitoring signup sheet for the MPCA's Secchi Disc water quality program. There were no other questions. Mr. Donovan thanked Mr. Peterson for making the trip to Orr on a Saturday and meeting with Members.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Donovan resumed his President's Report to the Members.

Outlet Dam

Next, Mr. Donovan updated the Members concerning the outlet dam. Despite efforts by the Association, the DNR again opened the hole in the dam in December 2014. Three (3) weeks later, water was running over the top of the dam. On March 11, 2015, the DNR and St. Louis County once again closed the hole in the dam. Mr. Donovan suspects that if water is not running over the top of the dam in late November, the DNR will probably again open the hole. Years ago, after a significant investment of time and effort, the Association had been successful in raising the level of the dam 1 to 3 inches. The Directors will continue to monitor the situation with the dam, including the hole.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Mr. Donovan has attended a number of meetings (Lake Association Coalitions, County, Lake Vermilion Sportsmen's Club) related to Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). The Association applied for and received a DNR grant (50% of expenses incurred, up to \$225) to run AIS educational awareness ads in the

Timberjay and *Cook News Herald* in conjunction with Memorial Day and Fourth of July weekends. The ads are in standard DNR format, but also featured the Association's name and website address. The Association belongs to Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR); MLR has been a strong leader in organizing AIS efforts and in pushing for distribution of funds to local Counties for AIS efforts. Unfortunately, most Members have expressed no interest in volunteering their time for Association activities, including AIS efforts (e.g., going to training and making themselves available at public accesses on Pelican Lake to provide education to boaters entering and leaving the lake). Given the lack of interest, at this time it appears that the best the Association can do is continue to promote educational awareness. Sizeable grants were awarded to various organizations in St. Louis County. But, the grant application process required a minimum \$10,000 award. The Association does not have sufficient membership and volunteer interest to manage a grant of that size. Director Poczekaj observed that, since the Association's formation, the DNR, St. Louis County, and other groups listen to "our voice." Increasing membership will only reinforce our voice and make the Association more effective.

Questions

Mr. Donovan opened the floor to any additional questions from Members. There were no further questions and the meeting was adjourned at 12:05p.m.

Election of Directors and Luncheon

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

As a final reminder to all Members, please visit the 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