

Sugar Lake Association Meeting  
4/21/12  
Corinna Township Hall

**Board Members Present:** *S. Dixon, R. Elsner, KJ Gusaas, B. Hanson, M. Kutz (arrived 8:07), D. Williams, M. Borgeson, S. Brown, M. Hiscock, T. Pugh, A. Welter, J. Juntunen, M. Mengelkoch, D. Peterson, C. Quiggle, P. Ramme, C. Shreiner*

**Members Absent:** *T. Nimmo*

**I. Meeting called to order** at 8:01 AM. (President Ron Elsner)

**II. Attendance//roll call** (Secretary Welter)

**III. Acceptance of October minutes**

**-motion to accept(Borgeson)/2<sup>nd</sup> (Williams)/motion carried**

**IV. Open Microphone-(no participants)**

**V. Treasurer's Report** (Jon Juntunen)

\$200,469	Total assets
\$38,880	General Fund
\$136,670	Invasive Species
\$24,920	Lake Improvement Fund

J. Juntunen asked board members to sign ING signer paperwork

- **motion to accept report (Williams)/2<sup>nd</sup> (Kutz)/motion carried**

**VI. Committee Reports**

**A. Chairman's Report** (Elsner)

Reviewed 2012 Goals:

- Participate in development of Wright County permanent high water ordinance if/when the county board takes up the matter.
- Raise zebra mussel awareness
- Actively participate in the Wright County Coalition of Lake Associations (WCCOLA)
- Re-activate the Sugar Lake water patrol
- Implement lakeshore restoration projects.
- Maintain standards of excellence

Recap of Winter Meeting (Feb 4, 2012)

- 45 members in attendance
- Joe Jacobs from Wright County Soil & Water spoke regarding the Mississippi River-St. Cloud watershed and lake levels.
  - Explained the effects of the size of the inlet (36") and outlet (24")
  - Stated that lake levels will always fluctuate

- Talked about the elevation drop from Sugar to Limestone Lake (10 feet) and the possibility of creating enough velocity for a rapids to act as a carp barrier.
- Paul Diedrich from the DNR spoke about fisheries
  - Discussed regulation changes
  - Shared info regarding stocking
  - Netting scheduled for shortly after ice out and again in July

**B. Membership** (D. Peterson)

- Sent invoices earlier
- 196 paid as of 4/20/12
- Don/Tom have created a database
- Don shared historical information for comparison to previous membership.
- Down slightly
- Would like to drum up an effort to try to contact and reclaim members who have dropped off
- D. Williams suggested forming a committee to call people who are on the lake but not members.
- M. Kutz added that greeting them in person and handing them an informational packet/brochure might be more effective

**C. Fisheries** (M. Kutz)

- M. Kutz requested \$1000 for stocking (no motion necessary-already part of 2012 budget)
- DNR site reports that Sugar was stocked in 2011
- Will receive 356 lbs of muskie this summer.
- May 30<sup>th</sup> is date for fishing contest-Lynn Bonine will host if house is not sold yet.
- P. Ramme shared that he recalled that if you put bass restrictions on you get bigger bass.
- M. Kutz suggested we post the regulations on a board at the landings.
- D. Gustafson agreed but recommended to wait for the North access remodel to be done before posting any signage
- P. Ramme suggested we add Asian Carp to our 2012 Association goals.
- B. Hanson and M. Borgeson volunteered to host fishing contest if L. Bonine is unable.
- Discussion about closing carp trap:
  - Important to assign a crew to keep trap cleared of debris
  - S. Brown stated trap usually closed on May 1<sup>st</sup>, but this year it may need to be done earlier due to the early warm weather.
  - Agreement to close trap
  - Decision to add carp trap to monthly fisheries report every month to determine when it should be reopened
  - Maintenance crew volunteers sought. S. Brown volunteered to coordinate and close the trap on his way home from the meeting today.
  - We don't have the passive barrier option like Cedar Lake due to natural topography differences.
- Remove Doc William's name from the fisheries committee.

#### ***D. Water Quality Report*** (D. Gustafson)

- Read report from Dan Erdmann
  - Inlet 19.25 inches
  - Outlet 24.25 inches
  - Water temperature (@11feet) 50 degrees F
  - Water clarity 11 feet
  - Overall score of 2 on a scale of 1-5 (1=good 5=poor)
- Addressed concern about the perceived failure of the Hollister project on the south end of the lake. This \$45,000 project was intended to fix the open ditch in the woods. Tall grasses were planted to slow down the water, but it was never designed as “flood control”.
- Soil & Water is working with area farmers to create additional runoff control, but it takes voluntary cooperation. We are letting the agency work with a family who is against plan.
- Wenck engineering did a design for a solution that would cost \$145,000.
- 2 projects are necessary and there is only a \$25,000 total budget
- no long term goal now other than to get in line for grants.
- Decades of runoff will be very detrimental to the lake
- Shared highlights of Don’s presentation at the Metro Area Lake and River Conference

#### ***E. Lakescapers*** (K. Sutherland)

- Attended the MN Erosion Control Association (MECA) seminar on March 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Shared successful and unsuccessful projects
  - Displayed new products
  - Discussed stabilization techniques
  - Recommended planting a variety of types of plants
  - Shared best time of year to plant
  - Otter Tail county has a great shoreland restoration site online for plant info
  - Owner involvement increases success
  - Most positive feedback is to showcase their project on a website (more powerful than a monetary prize)
  - Open up examples for viewing-people sometimes have trouble visualizing what it could look like.
- Plant exchange will be May 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at Karen’s house this year so that people can see her shoreline project

#### ***F. Lake Vegetation*** (D. Gustafson)

- Believes the DNR respects the level of expertise of people involved, but they don’t consult with us much. DNR already had 3 boats doing a survey to delineate, but did not notify so he could accompany them.
- First results will be the permit they issue. No clue how much will be treated or the cost.

- New rules: DNR will pay up to \$35,000 at the rate of \$150 per acre.
- Prices are scaled depending on how many different plants you are treating.
- Water temperature needs to be 50 degrees F.
- Plan is for an early treatment for curlyleaf
- We will still hopefully receive money, but it will likely be less as they are now spreading it around more.

**G. Picnic Committee** (M. Mengelkoch/B. Hanson)

- suggested we keep everything the same as last year.

**Motion to maintain the same raffle prizes for the 2012 picnic that were purchased for the 2011 picnic. (M. Borgeson)/2<sup>nd</sup> (Mengelkoch)/motion carries**

**H. Education** (Elsner).

- goal is to get scholarship reinstated. Nothing new to report yet.

**I. Communications** (D. Peterson)

- Send all pertinent information to Karen Sutherland. She is very timely about entering information. The website is only as good as WE make it.
- Newsflash problem is being worked on. Problem is with hostmonster who hosts our website. It does not recognize some ip addresses. If you have trouble receiving newsflash messages, try “whitelisting” Don or newsflashsugarlake.org

**J. Finance & Fundraising** (J.Juntunen)

- KJ Gusaas shared that there will be some new items available this summer such as towels. Collaborating with Snooty Fox in Annandale again. We receive a percentage of sales of Sugar Lake items.
- Jon stated that the taxes were filed, however he received a notice from the IRS stating we filed late. Contacted our accounting firm to get it straightened out, and we are good.

**K. Government Liason** (C. Quiggle)

- Corinna township wants to turn 123 (from county road 7 to county road 39) back to a township road.
  - The road is in poor condition and would cost @\$1.1 million to redo. Township wants the county to bring it up to code before turning it over to them.
  - Township has offered a \$300,000 loan to the county at 0% interest over 10 years.
  - Public meeting to discuss is set for May 2, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
- Corinna township held their annual meeting in March
  - @10 taxpayers were in attendance
  - voted on town budget
  - discussed possibility of doing a townwide garbage collection
  - no significant projects currently
  - accepted proposal of Bishop property to be rezoned and divided into 3 lakeshore lots plus a backlot which remain agricultural. Sent to County for final approval
- State and County have to redistrict.

- 10 different options are proposed. Some include small townships and rural areas within a district that includes larger towns like Buffalo and Monticello, while other options have 7-10 smaller towns chunked together.

***L. Wright County COLA*** (D. Peterson)

- May 5<sup>th</sup>-Water sampling training
- New invasive species talk
- Drum up membership
- Awarded a DNR communication grant

**VII. Old Business**

***A. Water Patrol leader***

**VIII. New Business**

***A. Fireworks***

- Issues:
  - Liability (insurance)
  - Collecting money
  - Advertising
  - Conclusion—we are sponsoring
  - Insurer’s comment is that there is a logical assumed risk
- funding piece (tax implications)
  - not part of our charter
  - we notified members the donation is not tax deductible, so we are ok from a tax perspective
- Ron asked Joel if he carries insurance (response was yes)
- Asked if SLA can be named as an insured, or if we should get an event endorsement on our insurance policy.
- We need a coordinator to help raise funds and work with Joel on logistics, including perimeter patrol to keep boats at a safe distance.
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**Motion-If/When there is a fireworks show the SLA will obtain a special events endorsement from our insurance. (R. Elsner)/2<sup>nd</sup>-(C. Quiggle)/motion carried.**

- D. Williams will write an article and newflash to ask for donations
- Send a newflash asking for a volunteer coordinator from membership
- Need money by Memorial Day (May 26<sup>th</sup>)

10:50-10:55 five minute recess

***B. Wright County “No Wake” ordinance*** (see handout)-R. Elsner

- County has assembled a group:
- Joe Jacobs (Soil & Water)

- County Sheriff
- Rose Thelen
- Presented at a county board meeting
- Procedures
- Wright county's adoption policy goes to the DNR water surface use manual
- The process to adopt goes through the DNR
- County is working with organized lakes (who have active lake associations)
- Individual ordinances for each lake
- Will hold one public hearing for ALL lakes in July in Buffalo
- All of those ordinances will go to the DNR

### **Motion to opt out (M. Borgeson) 2<sup>nd</sup>-B. Hanson**

Discussion:

- *D. Williams*-need to be good stewards-it wouldn't be the entire lake
- *R. Elsner*-not necessarily-1st decision is in or out. If we vote yes then the 2<sup>nd</sup> part is choosing the regulations-distances, length of time, and water level
- DNR told county sheriff the lakes will not be allowed to use their equipment to determine the water levels or for enforcement purposes.
- County crews would measure the lake levels and it will trigger the ordinance.
- Information will be posted at landings, Sheriffs can then enforce
- *M. Kutz*-we would lose control-keep control with the SLA. Wave dissipation theory?
- *D. Peterson*-instead of voting NO, vote yes so we can explore and define reasonable restrictions.
- *M. Borgeson*-expressed difficulty measuring distance from shore.
- *P. Ramme*-the key is the definition of high water. Stated that a no vote may be because of disagreement with part of the motion.
- Call for a vote on motion (*Borgeson*)-denied
- More discussion:
- *R. Elsner* reviewed statutes to determine if DNR could override what we recommend
- *Charlotte*-we need to use statistical data to help establish the ordinary high water mark. Believes they would go along with our recommendations because they are requiring us to do anything now.
- *C. Shreiner*-concerned they might combine several lakes together to establish common enforceable rules.
- *R. Elsner*-this process is not about the summer of 2012. It will be at least fall, possibly Thanksgiving, before the ordinance is complete.
- *S. Brown*-the DNR is the final arbiter for all surface waters and believes they can't enforce a patchwork of rules-they will want uniformity. If we opt out, somebody else is going to make the call. This is our opportunity to at least weigh in. Even though the county is enacting, the DNR has final say. Feels it will be input only, but if we say "no" we step out of the process completely. Joe from Soil & Water is putting together the info for a worksheet to be completed.
- Ron will send "options" for ordinances to membership before the May meeting
- Deadline to opt in or out is May 25<sup>th</sup>.

- Call for a vote:

**Motion to opt out of the Wright County procedures for enacting a permanent no-wake ordinance (M. Borgeson) YES=4 ,NO=12 Motion is voted down.**

- Ron will draft terms and language to send to membership before the May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

*D. WCCOLA dues* (D. Peterson)

**Motion to join the WCCOLA for \$25 and an additional donation of \$75 for a total of \$100 (D. Peterson) 2<sup>nd</sup>-D. Williams/motion carried**

Next meeting May 19, 2012 at 8:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. Motion (KJ Gusaas)/2<sup>nd</sup>-C. Quiggle

Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Welter, Secretary