

LAKE MARGARET CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

September 11, 2006

10:00 AM

Legion Club, Nisswa

Members present:

Dave Loch
Rosemary Goff
Sue Moline
Steve Moline
Mary Miller
Ed Koska

Others Present:

Jim Hodgson, MPCA
John Terwilliger, City of Lakeshore
Jim Demgen, Cass County

1. Approval of minutes, August 14, 2006
2. Treasurer's report: \$5042.96 (Dave asked that we keep Roger's health in our thoughts and prayers)
3. Reports and updates:
 - Healthy Lake and Rivers Partnership/Lake Mgmt. Planning/Sept 23 Visioning Session: Mary read the checklist. The items still being completed are:
 - Doug - contacting local businesses.
 - Sue - mailing the postcards.
 - Dave - recruiting facilitators for the workshop tables.
 - Mary - contacting elected officials to attend.
 - MPCA activity: Jim Hodgson discussed the new policy for financing projects with local units of government to speed up the process. He also discussed a proposal to do a Contingent Valuation (Economic) Study of two watersheds (Horseshoe chain and Lake Margaret) to be done by Dr. Pat Welle of Bemidji State College. The purpose is to determine the perceived value of the water by watershed owners in terms of recreation, how often the water is used, etc. The results will be important in development of policy and public education. The MPCA will send out the RFP for the Lake Margaret TMDL in mid October to their list of approved contractors to begin analyzing historical data collected in the Lake Margaret watershed years ago. Hopefully, analysis will begin in late fall. The MPCA has contracted with the Science Museum of Mn. to conduct a paleolimnology survey this winter by taking sediment samples through the ice to compare with years past. (this study includes Lake Margaret)
 - DNR activity: no one present
 - LMCA website: the Visioning Session was added to the site but more improvements will be made to make it easier to access other sites
 - Membership: no additions this month
 - GCLA: AW Research presentation at their last meeting.
 - Lake Shore City activity re Lake of the Margaret project: RFP completed.
 - Secchi Disk/water testing: Ed missed this past week but continues to take samples regularly along with the U of M Extension Service Outdoor Corps
 - Grandview/ETOC: no one present but Craig Claggett will attend Visioning Session

- Sod Farm issue: owner was granted an exception in the drainage of a wetland on branch of Home brook Creek due to quirk in law regarding rotated crops. The County is taking the issue through a different appeal process. Ed spoke with the owners of the Koehler farm who are willing to work with the City of Lake Shore regarding a branch of Homebrook Creek. Ed believes that an impoundment dam might work to clean the water but others feel it may have a negative impact on the designated trout stream by letting pike and other undesirable fish species in the water. Ed mentioned that the degradation in water clarity earlier this summer may have been caused by land owners blowing out beaver dams in Homebrook Creek.

4. Grants:

- Laura Jane Musser Grant Application: Dave submitted with the help of Melinda Re
- Minnesota Waters grant for shore land habitat improvement & restoration grant is due 9/28 for \$5,000. Dave suggested using pictures of Lake Margaret to aid in restoration design.
- DNR: No grants available at present
- Jim Hodgson mentioned that instructors at the Central Lakes College (CLC) may be able to assist in grant writing and design of shoreline restoration/vegetative planting. Dave will check with CLC.

5. Other business:

- Dave suggested consideration of an election of LMCA officers in February or March. Furthermore, since LMCA is affiliated with GCLA as a Task Force, we could solicit membership for GCLA rather than exclusive LMCA. In that case, part of the GCLA dues could be designated to go to LMCA projects. This question along with a budget needs to be determined.
- Army Corps of Engineers meeting: Steve attended and asked that Gull Lake level be brought up from 3" to 6". He did not support their plan to increase minimum outflow levels from 20 cfm to 50 cfm. The 20 cfm output has been in effect for 40+ years.
- Portview Avenue development: Mary asked if anyone knew about this development. Since it is in Homebrook Township, Cass County has jurisdiction and all permits come from Cass County. Jim Demgen mentioned that before a development could go forward, the P&Z members visit the site and that had already taken place.
- Jim Demgen suggested getting the fishing organizations and guide associations involved with our plight to improve Lake Margaret water quality as their industry would certainly be affected by the outcome.

6. Upcoming meetings:

- GCLA: 2nd Saturday of the month
- Lake Shore City Meetings:
 - Board of Adjustment/Planning Comm: Monday, September 11 at 7:00 PM
 - Environmental Committee: Thursday, September 21
 - City Council: Monday, September 25 at 7:00 PM

LMCA's next meeting: Monday, September 25th at 10:00 AM at Adirondack (if available). If communication is needed for the Visioning Session, Mary will be in contact by phone.