

LAKE MARGARET CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

Meeting was held on April 10, 2006

The following individuals were in attendance: Doug and Mary Miller, Sue and Steve Moline, Heather Baird DNR, John McNitt, Elaine Leach, John Terwilliger Mayor, Ed Koska, Roger Reynolds, Gary Severson, Dan Edblad, Karen Evens MPCA, Bob Toborg, Mark Ronnei Grandview/ETOC, Dave Loch

Minutes of the April 3 meeting were approved as presented.

The order of the agenda was amended to allow some members to leave for appointments.

Discussion ensued on the **Healthy Lake and Rivers Partnership** workshop which could be scheduled in the Nisswa area if 5 to 8 individuals sign up. The first session provides training in the approaches to planning and implementation of corrective measures for lake clean-up; the second session concentrates on plan development; and finally implementation is initiated. Five LMCA members volunteered to attend the workshop: Roger Reynolds, Doug Miller, Gary Severson, Bob Toborg and David Loch. The design of the workshop calls for as many as eight members, so the LMCA will look for an additional 3 to 5 volunteers.

Elaine Leach agreed to host the meeting of LMCA members to prepare for the April 22 GCLA Board meeting where LMCA proposes to affiliate with their group under the stipulations approved by LMCA earlier. Steve Moline, John McNitt, Bob Toborg, Rosemary Goff, Dave Loch and Elaine will meet on Thursday April.

Two Lake Shore City meetings were announced: the hearing on the proposed Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for Monday, April 17 at 7:00 PM, and the Environmental Committee will meet on Thursday, April 27 at 7:00 PM.

The draft work program was distributed by the Millers and Molines. Members were asked to review all the proposed task items and be ready to discuss them. Additions and revisions are welcome. A brief discussion was held on the June 3 meeting for all property owners. The Living Savior Lutheran Church has offered their facilities, an ideal

location since it is in Lake Shore. Several items suggested for the agenda: Best Management Practices, septic system inspections, and update on the analysis of data collected to date.

The Brainerd division of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has confirmed the attendance of MPCA Commissioner Cheryl Corrigan on June 3. They are planning a press conference with her re the condition of Minnesota lakes, especially Lake Margaret. We have been asked to find a location overlooking the lake for the meeting with the press. Mary Miller will contact the Public Information Officer of MPCA to coordinate the press conference and the presence of the Commissioner at the LMCA June 3 meeting.

Karen Evens of MPCA was present to discuss the procedures for analysis of the data collected over the years. It will be imperative to follow the requirements of MPCA and the federal Clean Water agency in the analysis and modeling of the sources of pollution and potential remediation efforts. The City Administrator, Teri Hastings, is working with MPCA to prepare the request for proposals (RFP) to be issued in September to the engineering firms capable of conducting the analysis and modeling.

Ms Evens mentioned a training session in May in St. Paul on building alliances and keeping citizens/groups/organizations involved in the lake clean-up process. The key to success is sharing the same vision and following the plan of action. The training is open to all lake associations.

Gary Severson offered the services of the Structures International website staff, Dan Edblad, to work on the LMCA website. The address: *Lake MargaretConservation.org* has been reserved. The site will have links to other critical sites such as Lake Shore City, GCLA, etc.

Heather Baird of the DNR presented the agency's Shore Land Habitat Program. The general idea of the program is reinstatement of natural vegetation and lake shore restoration. Funding is available from the Legislative Committee on Minnesota Resources (LCMR), the DNR, and others whether to groups or individuals. The program is an essential element and perhaps the first part of "best management practices" to introduce to the property owners around the lake. Heather distributed valuable information on the program which should be distributed to all property owners.

In conversation with Ed Feiler of the DNR, Dave Loch was informed that the agency will begin a weed inventory of the lake this summer. Mr. Feiler

suggested that the association initiate efforts at completing a Lake Management Plan asap. The planning process takes about a year and the mapping of the lake vegetation will be timely for completion of the plan. Other lake associations have completed plans so suggestions and help are available from them.

The City of Lake Shore is preparing to send a letter to all Lake Margaret property owners indicating the requirement to have all septic systems on the lake inspected within the next year. The city plans to inspect all system within three years.

Mark Ronnei reported that his firm has opened the advertisement for an intern specializing in environment to work on shore land issues for the company and to be made available for public information for the Lake Margaret project.

Mary Miller discussed the newsletter and thank you letter to be sent to property owners and those who paid dues to LMCA. The newsletter should go out no later than May 15 as it will announce the agenda and particulars of the June 3 meeting, among other things. The thank you letter should be sent to the LMCA members ASAP, especially to inform people of the ongoing work of LMCA and hopefully enlist the services of many property owners.

It will be important to explain to citizens the essential aspects of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) in layman's terms. (From MPCA: *A TMDL...is a primary tool for addressing impaired waters...A TMDL is the maximum amount of a pollutant a water body can receive without violating water quality standards. The TMDL process identifies all sources of the pollutant and determines how much each source must reduce its contribution in order to meet the quality standard...*)

The membership was informed that the cycle for several grants is coming up. In particular, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR, Bowser for short), a match for BWSR grants from the DNR and other challenge grants.

The next meeting is set for Monday, April 24, at 10:00 AM at the American Legion Club in Nisswa. Several items for the agenda: Report on the GCLA meeting, Agenda and notice of the June 3 meeting, status of the website, etc.