

June 30, 2010

LAKE CARLOS AREA ASSOCIATION

REVIEW OF ANNUAL MEETING

(June 24, 2010)

Call to Order

The 2010 Annual Meeting for the Lake Carlos Area Association was held at Luther Crest on Lake Carlos on June 24, 2010. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and the three special guests were introduced to members and attendants:

Dave Rush, Director of Douglas County Land and Resource Management
Keith Dougherty, President, Lake Le Homme Dieu Association
Dennis Cin, Vice President, Lake Le Homme Dieu Association

Board Introductions

The following LCAA Board members were then introduced:

Derek Trosvig
Steve Eisele
Rebecca Perdue
Al Grundei
Dave Butler
Jon Halvorson
Dave Holtz, Association President (unable to attend)
Stan Pickett (unable to attend)

Presentation

Dave Rush, Land and Resource Management Director discussed Douglas County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan. It was a work in progress with a target completion date of 2011. The comprehensive plan will include land use issues, parks and trails, and transportation. On July 15, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. there will be an information meeting at Lake Brophy Park. LCAA will provide a link on its website to the county's comprehensive plan. Mr. Rush also discussed Douglas County's septic program for lakes and areas off the chain not be serviced by the ALASD central sewer system.

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) and the channel closings at the Geneva/Victoria and Darling/Cowdry channels were also reviewed. Zebra mussels have been discovered on lakes Le Homme Dieu, Geneva and Carlos in the past year. These critters filter the water and could result in improved water clarity. However, their overall impacts on the lake are uncertain. Fish could be adversely affected by their presence and they could cause a nuisance to lakeshore owners by attaching to docks and lifts, and possibly clogging water in-take pump screens. They cannot be eliminated and have been in the eastern United States heading west for the past thirty years. Many lakes in Minnesota now have zebra mussels.

Secretary's Report

Association Secretary Paul McCarten reviewed the 2009 annual meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Association Treasurer Derek Trosvig reviewed the finances of the association and its membership. He reported that the association is in a good financial position and that membership is anticipated at approximately the same level number as 2009, 225 members. Membership applications and dues notice will again be sent after the annual meeting.

Board Activity Reports

1. Invasive Species

Zebra Mussels and channel closings were again discussed. It was thought that the zebra mussels were first introduced into Lake Le Homme Dieu by way of fishing boat live wells (it was noted that there had already been three major tournaments on the chain in 2010). LCAA joins the Douglas County Lakes Association, Douglas County Land and Resource Management, and the DNR to encourage responsible boating.

All residents and visitors are asked to clean their boats when entering and leaving the lakes to avoid the introduction of any AIS into any lake. LCAA supports signage, education, and other initiatives to help curtail the spread of invasive species. (LCAA has adopted a "policy" on AIS's and channel closings, published on the LCAA website: lakecarlos.org)

2. Walleye Stocking

It was reported that LCAA again contributed \$5,000.00 to the Alexandria Viking Sportsmen for walleye fingerling stocking in Lake Carlos. Reportedly, the walleye population is on the increase in the lake.

3. Water Quality Testing

Board member Dave Butler is heading up LCAA's effort to continue water quality testing. He reported that water clarity is at the highest level for lake clarity measurement. Testing has shown that water quality on Lake Carlos has been maintained and has not declined over the past twenty years. He also reported that the DNR is conducting more sophisticated testing of Lake Carlos. (There are seven lakes in the state monitored for water temperature changes giving the state an indication of global warming impacts on the lakes in the state.)

There is also encouraging news in regard to the recent report of zebra mussels. The Minnesota Pollution Control scientists suggested that Lake Carlos may not be heavily impacted by zebra mussels because of its clean water, and the physical caricatures of the lake.

4. Tent Caterpillars (Worms)

Membership was again advised that LCAA secures a permit for aerial spraying but does not coordinate the effort. There were several areas where tent caterpillars were identified. Neighborhood groups were able to get together and have spraying conducted in numerous areas around the lake with reported success. Ground spraying was also completed with success.

5. Chain of Lakes Committee

The lakes associations for Lakes Carlos, Le Homme Dieu, Darling, Geneva and Victoria have joined together to form the Chain of Lakes Committee with representatives from each of the lake associations. The committee will identify common issues of concern allowing the five lake associations to act more closely together in their mutual benefit.

6. DCLA Activities

The Douglas County Lake Association (DCLA) represents all of the lakes in Douglas County. LCAA is an active member of DCLA. DCLA works with the Department of Land and Resource Management, and other county and state agencies to represent all of the lakes in the county.

7. County Road 42 Road Project

The highway department will start Phase II of its road project, from Blakes by the Lakes and north to the Carlos/Le Homme Dieu Bridge, on or about August 1, 2010. The bridge will be closed to all traffic. The area south of the bridge will be open to local traffic, allowing residents and commercial activities to continue. The

boat landing and beach on Lake Le Homme Dieu will be closed during construction.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is upgrading the boat landing to provide asphalt parking and porta-pottie facilities. Drainage systems to prevent road and parking lot run-off are planned and will be coordinated between the Douglas County Department of Public Safety and the DNR. Final plans for the road project are being completed and the road will be ready for bids in mid-July 2010.

(LCAA was involved in a lengthy dispute with the highway department over concerns regarding the environmental impacts of road development in the proximity of the lakes. Because of the efforts of LCAA, and the Le Homme Dieu and Darling Associations, extensive rain gardening and holding ponds were included in Phase I of the project. Water management will again be a part of the next two phases of the project.)

LCAA reminds all that the economic distress caused by road construction threatens our neighborhood businesses. Three Havens Store and Eddy's Interlachen Inn will again be most impacted by road work. Please keep these establishments in mind this season.

8. ALASD Update

The Le Homme Dieu Association continues in its efforts to influence the Alexandria Lakes Area Sanitary District (ALASD). This central sewer system has provided a great benefit to our area. However, the sewer plant discharges into Lake Winona. From there, the water flows downstream into Lake Le Homme Dieu and then into Lake Carlos. LCAA supports Lake Le Homme Dieu in its continued efforts to encourage responsible plans to minimize discharge pollution. The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy continues to work with the Le Homme Dieu Association on this challenging issue.

New Business

Board member Al Grundei reported that "public access monitoring" to help control the spread of AIS's will take place this summer with the assistance of the Minnesota DNR. The monitors will help inform boaters about responsible methods to reduce the spread of zebra mussels and other transportable species when entering and leaving Lake Carlos. Anyone interested in working on this program may contact LCAA via lakecarlos.org for more information.

Board Elections

Region 2 board member Rebecca Perdue announced her retirement from the Board. She was thanked for her six years of service. Region 2 resident Bill Verschaetse was nominated to fill the vacant position on the board. He was elected unanimously.

Member Drawing

Three establishments contributed to the LCAA Annual Meeting member drawing including:

Three Havens Store

Eddy's Interlachen Inn

Ace Hardware of Alexandria

LCAA thanks each of these businesses for their contributions. Three lucky meeting attendees went home with prizes.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Paul McCarten, Board Secretary