



September 10, 2009

Coffee at 6:30, Meeting Start at 7pm at MSCTC (hwy 34)

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order and Introductions

Additions to the Agenda

Secretary's Report – Keenan July 9 Board Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Report – Lee

Report of Executive Committee Meeting

Nominating Committee Report - Brantner

Monitoring Committee Report – Taylor

Communications Committee Report – Tuominen

Environmental Committee Report – Postovit

Letter advocating adopting new Shoreland Rules

Response to Request for Support of County Recreation Plan

Other Old Business

New Business

Announcements

October Meeting - October 8th –

What next for monitoring program

News on the invasive species front

PROGRAM

Minnesota's Environmental Quality Board (EQB) – what is it? who is it? what does it do? how does it relate to lake development? Clark Lee will make the presentation.

IDEA EXCHANGE

Lake Association Reports



The Becker County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) met Thursday, July 9, 2009 at the Minnesota State Community & Technical College in Detroit Lakes. President Dick Hecock called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Dick Hecock began the meeting with roll call. There were 24 members present representing the following lake associations:

Island, Lars-Nels-Ros, Middle Cormorant, Bijou, Long, Turtle, Tulaby, White Earth, Two Inlets, Maud, Bad Medicine, Big Cormorant, Big Toad, Upper Cormorant, Buffalo-Rice-Rock, Lake Detroiters, Melissa, Straight, Floyd, Little Toad.

One item was added to the agenda under old business: Results of the Executive Committee Meeting

Secretary's Report – Marietta Keenan

The minutes of the June 11, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved as presented with no corrections or additions.

Treasurer's Report – Wayne Lee

The Treasurer's report dated June 1, 2009 was reviewed and approved.

Checking account balance as of June 1, 2009 is \$6,264.62.

The \$2,600.00 Billboard expense has been billed to the DNR and will be reimbursed by them.

Monitoring – Bob Taylor

The last water sample collection went well at all sites. Samples must be done Sunday in order to use the drop off sites or you may drop off your samples directly to RNB Labs.

Communications – Fred Tuominen

5000 copies of The *Becker County Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship* were ready for distribution. Smaller lake associations picked up their copies after the meeting. Larger associations may pick their supply up at the Pelican River Watershed office on the second floor of the Wells Fargo Bank building. There were discrepancies in the Island, Maud, Pickerel, Round, and Ice Cracking lake membership lists so the quantity may not be sufficient. Additional copies of the guide may be purchased at future meetings for \$1 each.

Environmental – John Postovit

The Shoreland Rules Update is posted on www.mndnr.gov/waters/shoreland.html.

The current rules are over 20 years old and inadequate. Currently the DNR has no responsibility for enforcement. If the new rules are passed, look for this to change. The new rules would also provide more consistency in the application of standards throughout the state.

Please contact the DNR Commissioner, Mark Holsten, 500 Lafayette Rd, St. Paul MN 55155-4040. Urge him to support the standards as published.

Other Old Business

The Lake Detroiters are trying to obtain funding to address the flowering rush problem on Big and Little Detroit Lakes. This will be pursued with local legislators and the DNR.

New Business

On Tuesday July 14th at 8 a.m. Big Toad Lake will voice their concerns about a project before the Becker County Board of Commissioners under the *Open Forum Guidelines*. Persons wishing to make an oral presentation will be allowed 5 minutes to speak. (A copy of the open forum guidelines were distributed.)

Changes in communications were discussed at the Executive Meeting.

Bad Medicine brought newsletters to share.

Announcements - Our annual meeting will be held August 13th at 5:00 at Dunton Locks. It will be hosted by Clayton Jensen of Lake Melissa. The program, by SJE Rhombus, will feature new septic technology. A picnic will follow.

Program – Don Blanding

Don Blanding spoke about Rice-Rock-Buffalo Lake and a development that had been proposed on Rock Lake. A developer purchased a parcel with 7000 feet of lakeshore for \$800,000. The parcel consisted of bluffs and wetlands with no reasonable lots to develop. In an effort to moderate development Don tried to gain support from residents to re-classify the lake as “natural environmental”. This was not supported by most of the residents. They were afraid the DNR might be too restrictive in use of the lake. A narrow township road was located right next to the lake which also limited development as the township was unwilling to make improvements.

All residents that attended the hearings and township meetings were against the project which called for 40 lots. An EAW (environmental assessment worksheet) was done and the developer reduced the number of lots it was requesting. The 2nd and 3rd revisions were also opposed. The developer would now like to purchase additional land to build a new road but the present owner will not sell. So far over a million dollars have been invested in the development and they are hoping to recuperate their losses by selling it off in four parcels.

Observations:

- If you make your lake a little less desirable for development and have a litigation fund you can go a long way toward protecting your lake from over development.
- We need to fix current zoning laws and consider re-classifying some lakes.
- Current laws need to be enforced.
- People will resist change but put their own interests first.
- It is important to do much more education and consensus building. Nearly all of the lake residents were uninformed about the proposed development.
- A “how to manual” on how to confront inappropriate development is needed.

Program – Bill Sherlin

Accommodating reasonable development is a multi-faceted matter. Individuals representing COLA do their best to represent us in the public arena and your support is invaluable.

Environmental Concerns Committee:

Bill is a member of the Environmental Concerns Committee as a representative of Maud Lake and Becker County COLA. This is a 3 year appointment made by the county commissioners. The committee provides an avenue of relief to owners asking for a reasonable development when it may pose a hardship to the land owner to follow proper shoreland development and use standards. The requests for deviation from the law can be approved and the decisions are very subjective. When a variance is granted it is forever and follows the chain of ownership.

Pre-application Review: Plans for development are presented to a technical panel. Environmental concerns are identified and mitigation may be recommended. The panel can also recommend that an EAW be prepared. Tom Riedman represents COLA on this panel. His number is (218) 532-2034 riedman@smurfit.com.

Public Hearings: Becker County notifies COLA of all variance and subdivision applications that will be scheduled for public hearing. Data, drawings and site information are provided to lake associations so that they can be alerted to possible impacts to the lake. These notices are distributed by Bill Sherlin (218) 439-3151 bsherlin@loretel.net.

If you have a question about a project you can ask zoning to state the ordinance that allows it. You can also consult with Bill or John Postovit (218) 847-1165 johnandardis@msn.com.

Environmental Review: An EAW may be initiated by the technical panel or by a citizen petition. The EAW committee reviews the project, a public review period is provided and at its conclusion the EAW Committee makes a formal declaration to the County Commissioners. Clark Lee represents COLA in this function (612) 963-9155 clark@leebrokerage.com.

Ordinary Advisory: Becker County has established a standing committee to address shoreland management. It compares case specific information to current ordinances and recommends revisions or updates to Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances. Johns Postovit represents COLA (218) 847-1165 johnandardis@msn.com.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marietta Keenan, Secretary



The Executive Committee Meeting of the Becker County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) met on Wednesday August 5, 2009, at the Wells Fargo Board Room in Detroit Lakes. President Dick Hecock called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present: Dick Hecock, Wayne Lee, Lanny Brantner, John Postovit, Bob Taylor, Fred Tuominen & Marietta Keenan

COLA Meeting Comments - Dick Hecock called the meeting to order and John led a discussion on how to encourage attendance at our regular meetings. Attendance does seem to be a little better than last year. Dick suggested that we list the individuals that attended each meeting in the minutes as positive reinforcement. It was also suggested that we might get more involvement if we could get associations to talk about what they are doing to improve their lakes.

Bob suggested that we encourage lakes having problems to discuss them and provide resources for possible solutions. Discussion followed on how we could confront some difficult issues (such as lake water levels) that might lead to conflict between COLA and the Lake Associations.

Dues Schedule – There was a discussion of the COLA dues structure. More work will be done on this during the next meeting.

Schedule for Remaining Meetings- It was decided that Dick should invite lakes to give presentations on their success stories or presentations on how monitoring has effected their lake.

Bob has been visiting North Twin Lake encouraging them to form an association and get involved with COLA. It was suggested that we invite new members to specific meetings, mentor new members and give them recognition for attendance. Suggestions for speakers included Don Blanding, Jeff Stillman, PCA, and Perch Lake.

Potential development problems on Rock-Rice Lake were discussed. Don Blanding is the president of their association. Maud has also had a conservation subdivision that is in danger of failing due to lack of sales. They may appeal to go back to lot and block.

Annual Meeting – Clayton Jensen and SJE Rhombus will be speaking at our annual meeting on August 13th. Dick will arrange a shelter for the picnic and busing to the septic site. It was suggested that we invite Patty from Zoning and the County Commissioners. There was also discussion on including some of the township officials that have a high concentration of lakes in their jurisdiction.

Nominating Committee – Recommendations for the nominating committee are Dick Alsop, George Wallman, Tom Reidman and Mary Schultz.

Enhanced Communications – To reduce mailing cost, it was suggested that we email or ask COLA Reps to be responsible for distributing the newsletters etc. to the lake association members. Big Cormorant has a privacy issue and will not give us their complete membership list and some lakes like to send information out to all lake residents, even if they are not members. If the lake associations have to do the work of COLA it might prove to be a disincentive toward COLA membership. It might also provide a means for special interest groups to hi-jack the associations and provide them with misinformation. Complete and accurate mailing lists continue to be a problem for Big Cormorant, Melissa, Sally and some other associations. It was felt that email was more effective in distributing time sensitive information but not appropriate for the newsletters.

Fred talked to Minnesota Waters about difficulties navigating their web site. He suggested that we have the nominating committee approach someone about taking over the job of Webmaster for COLA.

Meeting adjourned 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Marietta Keenan, Secretary