

ANNUAL 2006 MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES  
Lake Minnewawa Association  
August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006

1.1 The annual meeting of the Lake Minnewawa Association was called to order by President Beverly Rath at 9:00 am, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

1.2 The members of the board introduced themselves to the general membership and public in attendance at the meeting.

2.1 John Palmer read the minutes of the 2005 Annual meeting. Mike Zell moved that the minutes of the 2005 Annual Meeting be accepted as read. Lowell Bartel Seconded. Motion Carried.

3.1 Marge Marsyla, LMA Treasurer, read the treasurers report (incorporated into these minutes by attachment) A motion was made by Greg Meredyk to accept the treasurers report as read. The motion was seconded by Nita Newport. The motion carried.

4.1 Steve Olson reported on LMA membership numbers. As of this date there are 209 members in the LMA. 200 of these are individual members and 9 are business members. This represents an increase from previous years in the area of individual memberships which were around 160 in the previous year.

4.2 Mike Zell asked for an explanation of the business membership process. It was stated that business membership applications are sent to prospective business members in the spring of each year. A donation of \$200.00 or more qualifies a business for Business membership. Business members have their names listed on the LMA web page, at the LMA booth at Wild Rice days and other public events and on a placard in the Wild Rice days parade.

4.3 Previously, the names of the business members were also displayed on the weed harvester, but as pointed out by Lyle Marsyla, the billboard on the weed harvester was causing problems with directional control of the weed harvester in the wind, and they have not been putting the sign on the harvester this year for that reason.

4.4 Nita Newport reported that the advertising works, because people have called their business specifically because they support the LMA.

5.1 Greg Meredyk gave a water quality report for Lake Minnewawa for the 2006 year. He reported that Secci Disk tests taken on May 14<sup>th</sup> indicated water clarity to a depth of 8.5 feet at site 201 and to a depth of 7.5 feet at site 202. Secci Disk tests taken on August 11<sup>th</sup> indicated water clarity to a depth of 3.5 feet at site 201 and 4.0 feet at site 202.

5.2 A map was passed around to show the locations of the two test sites. A Secci disk was also passed around with an explanation of how the test is performed.

5.3 Greg reported that there are many factors that can affect the Secci Disk readings including sunny vs. cloudy and windy vs. calm. He stated that wind in particular stirs up the lake and results in lower clarity readings. This year we have been dealing with hot temperatures and lack of rain resulting in low water levels and increased levels of algae.

5.4 Mike Zell commented that algae growth has actually declined in the past four years on Lake Minnewawa. Pat McGinn commented that the water quality of Lake Minnewawa has in fact improved. Minnewawa is the only lake in Aitkin County that has improved its water quality and that the lake may fall off the DNR list of endangered lakes.

5.5 Rath thanked Greg for taking over the water quality reading project with the Secci disk. It was reported that Minnewawa has one of the longest standing histories of water quality readings in the State.

6.1 Mike Zell gave a report on the weed harvesting in Lake Minnewawa for the year 2006 to date. We are permitted by the DNR to harvest weeds from June to September. Logs are now in place on the harvester to indicate where weeds are harvested each day as well as fuel consumption and preventative maintenance or maintenance performed. Zell commented that in years past, the harvester took between 100-140 loads of weeds from the lake each year. In the past few years that number has gone up dramatically to over 200 per year in the last few years. In 2004, 205 loads of weeds were harvested. In 2005, 252 loads were harvested. In 2006, 161 loads have been removed to date, and we are on target to remove 200+ loads by the end of the harvesting season.

6.2 Fuel costs are a big factor this year. Diesel fuel has risen dramatically in price. In 2005 the total fuel used cost \$1900.00. This year we have already spent \$1700.00 on fuel with another month of harvesting to go.

6.3 Zell stated that the harvesting season runs from June 15<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup> according to the permit the LMA gets from the DNR. Harvesting may begin on June 15<sup>th</sup> but is determined by weed visibility. Weeds must be visible at the water line for the harvester to be effective, so the actual date to begin harvesting varies each year. Zell specifically thanked Jerry Maxwell, Steve Olson, Pat McGinn and Lyle Marsyla for their dedication to the weed harvesting program.

6.4 Ron Conzet reported that a study is ongoing to determine the effectiveness and cost of a chemical treatment program for weeds in the lake. Pat McGinn and Ron Conzet representing the LMA are working together with the Sportsman's Club and DNR to update the Lake Management Plan which will include some use for chemical treatment. It was reported that the approximate cost to chemically treat a 50 X 150 foot section of lake would be approximately \$600.00. The DNR is aware that there are probably individual property owners that are chemically treating weeds in front of their property without a permit and are probably using the wrong chemicals too.

6.5 It was reported that we won't know the true cost of chemically treating the weeds in Minnewawa, but the DNR has stated that any chemical treatment should be in addition to weed harvesting and not in place of weed harvesting.

7.1 Mike Zell reported that there are 5 open positions on the board and that there have been only four people indicating interest in becoming board members. Several calls for nominations or volunteers were made. Bill Warner volunteered for the 5<sup>th</sup> open board position. Greg Meredyk moved to elect Warner to the board by white ballot. The motion was seconded by Lowell Bartel and Warner was elected by white ballot.

8.1 President Bev Rath gave the Presidents report. She stated that being president of the LMA has been challenging at times but commented that the board was a wonderful group to

work with. She appreciates the knowledge she has gained on lake stewardship. Rath thanked all the board members for their service and specifically thanked Lowell Bartel and Mike Zell for their years of service as they step down from the board of directors.

8.2 Rath announced the second Shamrock Township cleanup day would be September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and encouraged people to take advantage of this day. Rath reported that the meatball dinner at the community center was a success. Rath reported that LMA participated in two "Take a Kid Fishing" days in cooperation with the Big Sandy Water Institute.

It was also reported that LMA had a successful 2005 garage sale, participated with a booth at the Hay Days festival and Wild Rice days.

8.3 Rath announced that LMA had applied for a grant for \$8580.00 from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to improve boat landings on the lake, plus providing education to property owners on the lake.

## 9.1 OPEN FORUM

9.2 Nita Newport asked why we didn't distribute information packets and membership applications earlier in the year than the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. She stated that the board should consider an earlier date in the Spring. There was discussion that any distribution date should avoid big holidays because everyone was busy with other commitments and company. An earlier distribution date was generally thought to be a good idea and will be discussed by the board at a later meeting.

9.3 Bill Warner addressed the group with concerns about the weed harvester. He stated that weed cutting caused cut weeds to float to shore within 2 or 3 days and resulted in a big cleanup job. There was considerable discussion about the source of the floating weeds with disagreement as to the actual source. Some emotional discussion took place until Mike Zell asked that Warner be able to finish his presentation. Warner continued and showed several photographs to illustrate the issue. Mike Zell asked for solutions to the problem. It was discussed that the weed harvester crew could be called if an unusual amount of cut weeds floated to shore and that there may be help available to remove the weeds, but that some weeds floating to shore is unavoidable.

Following discussion, Lowell Bartel moved that the Annual Meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mike Zell. The motion carried.

President Rath adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Palmer, Secretary LMA