Lake Minnewawa Association Newsletter

Fall 2017

2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL BOARD MEETING LMA GARAGE OFFICE APRIL 14TH AT 9:00 AM

MAY BOARD MEETING LMA GARAGE OFFICE MAY 5TH AT 9:00 AM

JUNE BOARD MEETING LMA GARAGE OFFICE JUNE 9TH AT 9:00 AM

JULY BOARD MEETING LMA GARAGE OFFICE JULY 14TH AT 9:00 AM

AUGUST ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MINNEWAWA SPORTSMEN'S CLUB AUGUST 11TH AT 9:00 AM

AUGUST ANNUAL SUMMER BBQ BANN'S BAR & RESTAURANT AUGUST 18TH AT 1:00 PM

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING LMA GARAGE OFFICE SEPTEMBER 8TH AT 9:00 AM

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING LMA GARAGE OFFICE OCTOBER 13TH AT 9:00 AM

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President's Letter

Dale Kratochwill

Hello and welcome to the Fall Newsletter. I hope everyone had a great summer. This will be my last newsletter as President of LMA. Chuck Munson is the President-Elect and will assume the duties of the office. Five new directors were elected to the board at the annual meeting this year. The new directors are Gordy Anderson, Beth Blaylock, Arlyss & Tim Rinowski, and Mike Widseth. Including myself, Barb Bass, Jerry Bass, and Greg Pfeifer retired from the board this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the board of directors for their hard work and dedication to our lake. They are a great group of people and the membership can rest assured their lake association is in good hands.

The 7th Annual Summer BBQ was held at Bann's Bar & Restaurant on Saturday August 19th. What a wonderful day. The weather couldn't have been better for a summer BBQ fund raiser. Everyone seem to enjoy themselves that day. It is always good to see so many of our friends and neighbors at this event. I enjoyed talking with many of you that day.

Once again the BBQ had wonderful food, games for kids, and great silent action items. We thank you for your generous and enthusiastic bidding on the items.

Thanks to the hard work put in by the volunteer staff I'm pleased to announce that the summer BBQ fund raiser was a record breaking profit this year. I also want to thank Chris and Lisa and their staff at Bann's Bar & Restaurant who helped to make the BBQ a success. Remember to keep your calendar open in August next year for the annual BBQ.

If you have visited LMA website recently you have seen the new design. This fall the website was updated with new features and added information. You can find LMA website at www.lakeminnewawa.org

Continued on page 2

AIS Year End Report

This spring LMA applied for and received Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Grant from Aikin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) again for this year. The grant monies were used for watercraft inspections at the public boat landing, AIS educational materials for public awareness, and improved AIS information signage at our public boat landings.

LMA requested and received additional watercraft inspection days. Watercraft inspections started on fishing opener Saturday, May 13th and ran through Labor Day Holiday weekend. All watercraft inspections were done at the DNR controlled public landing adjacent to Aitkin County Road #6. This year a total of 489 watercraft were inspected at this site. The real total number of watercraft entering Lake Minnewawa this year is unknown because AIS inspectors were on duty only during the weekends and only at the DNR controlled public landing. A total of nine watercraft were found to have an AIS issue. AIS issues ranged from watercraft arriving with their drain plug in place to plants, animals, water, mud etc...

Dinner placemats with AIS information printed on them were used at Bann's Bar & Restaurant last year and was an effective way of educating people about AIS. Because of this success LMA decided to order 10,000 new place mats for this year.

LMA participated again this year in (SWCD) Zebra Mussel Veliger (larvae) testing program. Lake water samples were taken on August 20th and sent to a laboratory to be analyzed. The test results came back negative for Zebra Mussel Veliger (larvae).

As AIS threat continues to grow in our state all of us must be involved. What can you do? Follow the clean drain and dry procedure with you boat, and if you own a boat lift and dock check them for any evidence of zebra mussel when you take out of the lake. If you find something that you are not sure about contact a MN DNR expert. For our lake you can contact either Richard Rezanka at the Grand Rapids office 218-328-8821, or Tim Plude at the Brainerd office 218-203-4354

If you suspect a new infestation of an aquatic invasive plant or animal, note the exact location, take a photo or keep the specimen, and call the AIS specialist in your region. President's Letter continued from page 1

LMA will be accepting applications for harvester machine operator and truck driver for next summer season of harvesting operations. If interested visit LMA website where you will find job descriptions and an application form that can be downloaded.

Rick Bruesewitz Aitkin Area Fisheries Supervisor gave a presentation on Lake Minnewawa Walleye Stocking Program along with other details about the fisheries management in our area at the September LMA meeting. Rick answered a lot of questions about the different species of game fish in our lake. We hope to have Rick back some time in the future to give us an update on the fisheries program.

Enjoy the holidays and have a great winter.



- or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

Business Membership

Dale Kratochwill

The seasons may come and go on Lake Minnewawa, but our business sponsors donations support LMA throughout the year. They provide greatly appreciated funds and services to LMA, which in turn benefit all of us that enjoy Lake Minnewawa. When you are at their establishments or have a chance to talk with one of them, be sure to thank them for their support of LMA. Go online at <u>www.lakeminnewawa.org</u> where you will find links to these great local businesses.

Our 2017-2018 Business Sponsors:



From Humble Beginnings

Dale Kratochwill

Part of Lake Minnewawa history is the lake association, which will be celebrating its 40-year anniversary this December. Some may wonder how or why the lake association was started, and what does the lake association do. For myself I knew very little about the history of the lake association, however, this changed after having a conversation with Fred Guenther. Much of the information for this historical account came from lake association documents, newspaper articles, letters, and contributions made by Fred Guenther, Mike Zell, Beverly and Pat Rath.

People have been coming to Lake Minnewawa for over a hundred years now. From that early time it is easy to imagine that only a handful of people visited the lake and that most of the lake shore was uninhabited. Later, people from Minneapolis and St Paul. as well as elsewhere in Minnesota discovered that Lake Minnewawa had great fishing and was a wonderful recreational destination. Early visitors most likely camped at first, with some progressing to the point of purchasing land and building cabins. Development around the lake continued over the years, however, by the early 1970's people began to notice that the native aquatic vegetation in the lake was increasing in density. By the summer of 1976 the vegetation over growth had progressed to the point that navigation by boat was becoming impossible in some areas of the lake. In some of the bays the vegetation was so thick it was said by many that the ducks could almost walk on top of them. Some lake shore owners would pull their dock out of the lake by July because the over growth of vegetation.

The level of frustration by people that use the lake finally boiled over and in true grass roots fashion a small group of people came together to determine the feasibility of organizing a lake association to address the vegetation problem. Marcella Mollers took a leading role in organizing the group and on December 15, 1977 Save Minnewawa Association (SMA) was incorporated. The first board of directors where Bernard Mulvihill, Frank Dols, George Andrews, Harold Horner, Henning Larson, John Klobucar, Lorraine Olson, Marcella Mollers, Phyllis Hands, Robert Williamson, Shirley Curnow, Ted Warburg and William Nesheim.

Marcella Mollers with her deep passion for the lake and recognized as having excellent organizational skills was elected as the first president of the lake association.

So much needed to be done, but where to start? SMA Directors began by establishing goals, which included connecting with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and Aitkin County officials to initiate efforts to improve lake conditions. A water quality monitoring program was started for the purpose of collecting data on lake water nitrogen, phosphorus and oxygen levels. The monitoring data was shared with MN DNR, MPCA, and Aitkin County. In 1979 and again in 1980 nitrogen and phosphorus levels increased significantly according to MPCA. The figures showed that Lake Minnewawa rated at the bottom of the list of all area lakes. Another program SMA championed was working with MN DNR, Aitkin County and lake shore property owners in updating defective and noncompliant septic systems, which were feeding nutrients into the lake and adding to the vegetation growth problem.

SMA cooperated with MN DNR in getting the overflow dam rebuilt. This project was completed in the fall of 1982, which resulted in maintaining better lake levels throughout the year.

A big challenge for SMA was how to reverse the excessive vegetation growth in the lake. The straight forward solution was to remove some of the vegetation from the lake, but with limited funds and only simple equipment, the job seemed impossible. The MN DNR monitoring the lake endorsed mechanical harvesting control over chemical control of the aquatic vegetation because mechanical harvesting removed the vegetation from the lake, which results in lessening of the nutrient load in the lake.

One of the early methods used to remove vegetation from the lake was a device manufactured by Jari Products Inc. The aquatic vegetation cutter mounted on the front of a pontoon boat. The sickle cutting bars would cut the vegetation and the rake tines would hold the cut vegetation. When the rake tines were full the pontoon boat would return to shore where the vegetation was dumped. The cut vegetation was then hand loaded in to a trailer or truck and transported to the dump site. Not a very efficient method for removing vegetation, but it was a start.

By August 1981 with the vegetation in the lake appearing to increasing every year the SMA board with the support from the membership decided the best way to meet the association objectives was to purchase and operation an aquatic vegetation harvester machine. SMA started an aggressive fund raising program and set a goal of purchasing a harvesting machine within a year. The fund raising event was a great success, so in May 1982 SMA purchased an Altosar manufactured harvester machine complete with trailer for 33,000 dollars. The harvester and trailer were delivered in late July of 1982. The new harvester was christened "Marcella" in honor of SMA President Marcella Mollers who had given so much of her time, talents, and effort to make this dream a reality.

The harvesting operation got underway in August 1982 after the MN DNR had completed their fish survey of the lake. In that shorten season the harvester removed over 200 tons or 400,000 pounds vegetation from the lake. Over the next four years during the summer season the harvester machine operated on the lake removing vegetation. As a result navigation improved in areas of the lake that once were choked with vegetation by midsummer. In April 1982 the dissolved oxygen readings were low enough that a partial fish kill was possible. However, oxygen levels in the lake improved 200 to 300 percent over April 1982 levels during the same four year period of harvesting operations.

Harvesting operations required a minimum of a three person crew, which in the beginning was done by an all-volunteer crew. During the 1985 summer harvesting season SMA hired their first harvesting employee. This was necessary due to the lack of volunteers to keep the harvester operating five days a week. In the summer of 1986 SMA hired a second person for harvesting operations. This kept the harvester operating five days a week, but significantly increased SMA operating budget. After operating the harvester for several years it was clear that to do a more efficient job, a larger harvesting machine would be required. In October 1994 SMA purchased a used 1987 model Aquarius-Systems manufactured harvester and trailer for 58,000 dollars.

In 1995 after 18 years since the lake association was formed, lake conditions had significantly improved. The board of directors determined that the mission of saving Lake Minnewawa had been accomplished, so the lake association membership voted to change the name to Lake Minnewawa Association (LMA).

The lake association was successful in purchasing equipment necessary to run a harvesting operation. What was missing was a place to store the equipment during the winter and repair the equipment when needed. In 1997 land was purchased along Aitkin County Road #6. The following year a steel sided building was constructed on the land. This is still the current equipment storage and home office for LMA.

In May 2006 the LMA board of directors approved the motion to enroll in Aitkin County Adopt-A-Highway program to make contribution to the local community. Each year since 2006 LMA board members and volunteers pick up litter along a two mile section of Aitkin County Road #6, which begins in front of Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club and ends just east of Bann's Bar & Restaurant.

By 2008 the LMA board of directors realized the truck used for the harvesting program had to be replaced. The operating cost for the truck continued to increase, and because of the truck's age, it was difficult to find replacement parts. The truck had developed a significate oil leak and could not be fixed. A search was conducted for a used truck that would meet the needs of the harvesting operations. A used truck was found and purchased for 23,638 dollars, and is the current truck still being used today.

The trailer used for hauling aquatic vegetation from the lake to the inland site was wearing out and broke down often. In 2009 the lake association board of directors voted to move forward with the purchase of a new Aquarius-System manufactured conveyor trailer for 34,000 dollars. The purchase was made possible because of generous donations from lake association members and a bank loan for the remaining balance of trailer.

In this same year the old truck and trailer were sold with the money from the sale put towards reducing the new trailer bank loan. With successful fund raising events by September 2013 the bank loan for the trailer was paid in full.

Walleye fish population in Lake Minnewawa had decline for many years. LMA worked with the MN DNR Fisheries Department to start a stocking program in Lake Minnewawa. The Walleye stocking program started in the spring of 2011 and continues to present day. MN DNR Lake surveys combined with local fishing reports have shown an increase in the walleye population since the stocking program started. LMA will continue to work with the MN DNR to ensure further stocking and successful management of the Lake Minnewawa fishery.

In 2012 the harvester machine required a major rebuild of the front cutter head and conveyor. Most of the steel frame was rusted to the point of failure. The rebuild prompted an evaluation of the harvester's overall condition to determine if any other issues that needed to be addressed. The evaluation report concluded that there were no immediate needs, however, it was noted that the harvester reliability would decrease with each passing season of operation and a real possibility of major breakdown within five years.

The lake association relies on fund raising events and membership donations to finance all of the organization's programs. Occasionally in the past the lake association did not have sufficient funds available to continue seasonal projects. With the rising cost of the harvesting operations and the cost of replacing aging equipment the program was expected to eventually exceed the organization's annual income. In early 2011 the LMA board of directors approved a motion to petition Aitkin County to establish a Lake Improvement District (LID) for Lake Minnewawa. The purpose of the LID was to provide funding for projects and programs that made improvements to Lake Minnewawa such as the harvesting operation. The majority of the lake property owners voted yes on the measure. The LID was established by Aitkin County in October 2013.

During the LMA 2014 Annual Meeting the membership discussed the mechanical condition of the harvester machine and whether the lake association should invest in future rebuilds of the harvester machine, or instead purchase a new harvester machine. Some of the attending members announced pledge money to start a fund raising campaign for a new harvester machine. The LMA board of directors formed a committee to investigate the purchase of a new harvester machine. The committee presented a report and gave recommendations to the LMA board of directors during the October 2014 meeting. The LMA board of directors voted to move forward with the purchase of a new harvester machine and start a fund raising campaign to help with the purchase.

In December of 2014 LMA purchased a new Aquarius-Systems manufactured harvester machine for 171,639 dollars. The harvester was delivered in late July of 2015. LMA signed a bank loan for the harvester machine, but the loan amount was significantly reduced due to overwhelming financial support by the lake association membership. In May of 2015 the old harvester machine was sold and shipped to the country of India. The money from the sale of the harvester was used to reducing the bank loan.

Since 1977 the lake association main focus has been on the aquatic vegetation harvesting program, however, a new threat to Lake Minnewawa has emerged in the form of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Although Lake Minnewawa is not currently infested with AIS, in June of 2014 LMA board of directors approved the motion to create an alliance with Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District's AIS program. The program includes watercraft inspections at the public boat landing and funds for educational materials for the public. The lake association will continue pursue AIS prevention in the future.

For the past forty years the lake association has been a force for positive change to Lake Minnewawa. Countless number of people over the years have volunteered their time and talents in support of the lake association. Many challenges have been overcome, but other challenges lie ahead. With the continued support of the membership, the lake association will continue to be successful.

Words From Your Game Warden

CO Amber Ladd

Some of you know me, or at least have seen me around. If you haven't, our paths simply have not crossed yet, but might someday soon (which is not necessarily a bad thing)...so I want to introduce myself and let you get to know me a little.

I started in the McGregor station at the end of March 2014. I spent some time getting to know the area, which is quite large. I cover North to the Itasca county line, East to the Carlton/St. Louis County line, and West to the Mississippi in the North, Nature Ave in the South part of my station and down to County Road 27 as my Southern border. In this area there are numerous lakes and rivers as well as some of the most extensive amounts of public land in the area, not to mention all of the other private land that is used for outdoor activities. Needless to say...I keep quite busy.



Prior to taking the McGregor Station I was stationed in the Maplewood area covering Washington and Ramsey counties. This was a busy area with constant activity. Prior to this I was a deputy with Anoka County Sheriff's Office from 2009-2012 when I started with the DNR. There is a belief out there that Game Wardens are regularly rotated around. This is false, in general. Most officers that leave the station simply have chosen a different station that became vacant due to a retirement or promotion or other movement, or they were promoted or retired themselves. I initially chose the Maplewood station as that was where I owned my home. I later chose the McGregor station upon selling my home and having the flexibility to "get out of the city". Not long after moving up I met my now husband and we married in 2015. Last summer we were blessed with a baby girl. So, for anyone wondering "how long this one will stick around..." I do not intend to go anywhere; I'm dug in like a wood tick.

Given that pregnancy tends to limit one's ability as a Game Warden in the field, I was on light duty doing other assignments during that time and took a maternity leave afterwards. If you noticed my absence during this time, this is why. I had some folks thinking I had moved. I am also a Use of Force and Firearms instructor for the DNR Enforcement which includes extensive work at Camp Ripley for our officers and our academy as I am also an Academy instructor. These special duties also take me out of the station from time to time. But enough about me.

Minnewawa is one of my "priority" lakes, meaning it is high on my list for activity and thus, I tend to spend more time in that area then some others when possible. It is busy with angling and boating alike. This time of year, there are two main topics that I want to cover in regards to the lake.

First is AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species). If you have not heard of them, you have been living under a zebra mussel... I mean rock. When moving water related equipment (boat, dock, lift, canoe, duck boat, paddle board, PWC, or any other items that have been in the lake or are going to be in the lake). 1. Clean -visibly remove all vegetation or mussels from the equipment before leaving the access or shore area. 2. Drain- all the equipment including live wells and baitwells and keep drain plugs out while in transport. 3. Dispose- of all bait, debris, and trash accordingly. It is illegal to release any bait into a body of water and illegal to transport them in the lake water, you must drain the water and refill with bottled or tap water if you wish to keep your bait.

Especially with the "end of summer season" work going on, please keep these things in mind as you pack up your summer time lake gear. Do not hesitate to contact me with questions.

Speaking of the end of summer...onto my next topic: Fall boating safety.

Harvester Year End Report

John Montour

The harvester was pulled out of the lake on August 30th. All harvesting equipment performed very well this year. Harvesting operations recoded only two lost time days this season due to a hydraulic pump control problem on the harvester machine. The weather played less of a factor in harvesting operations this season. Six days were cancelled due to weather while a total of 19 days were cancelled due to marginal aquatic vegetation growth in permitted areas.

YEAR	TRAILER LOADS	AVERAGE WEIGHT IN TONS	AVERAGE WEIGHT IN POUNDS
2007	274	2,055	4,110,000
2008	116	870	1,740,000
2009	104	780	1,560,000
2010	108	810	1,620,000
2011	138	1,035	2,070,000
2012	49	368	736,000
2013	52	390	780,000
2014	72	540	1,080,000
2015	45	338	676,000
2016	44	330	660,000
2017	43	323	646,000

A total of 43 trailer loads were taken from the lake this year. Each trailer load has an average weight between seven and eight tons. The chart may indicate a reduction in the amount of aquatic vegetation removed from the lake over the past ten years, but it does not support a long term trend for aquatic vegetation growth in the lake.

Annual maintenance on the harvesting equipment is done and the equipment has been put away for the winter. All equipment is in good working condition and ready for the next season. From Your Game Warden continued from page 7

This time of year bring some fall anglers and hunters to the waters. Ducks float, duck hunters don't. Wear a life jacket. 10 lives could be saved in Minnesota each year by wearing a life jacket. Avoid alcohol since drinking and boating do not mix. Have a companion or group rather than going out alone. Have a float plan and be sure to let a friend or relative know where you plan to be, who you will be with, and when you expect to return. Watch the weather. Know the area. Carry a phone or radio for communication. Make sure the boat is fueled and in good running condition. It is always good to have paddles as well. Remain seated while underway and avoid overloading the boat. Secure items and if it is rough water, consider waiting it out before traveling through it.

The water temps are quickly dropping and so are the air temps. Even on a sunny day, the current water temp can cause a person to become hypothermic quickly. An unintended swim could become deadly. Wear your lifejacket.

I hope everyone has a safe and fun fall. My contact information is listed below. If you have any questions feel free to email or call.

Conservation Officer Amber Ladd (McGregor) DNR Enforcement amber.ladd@state.mn.us 218-429-2021 cell 1800-652-9093 T.I.P.

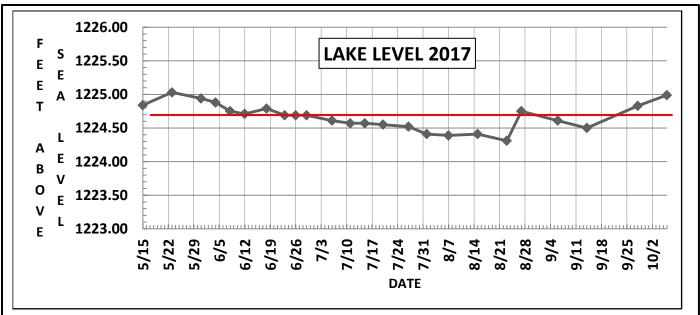


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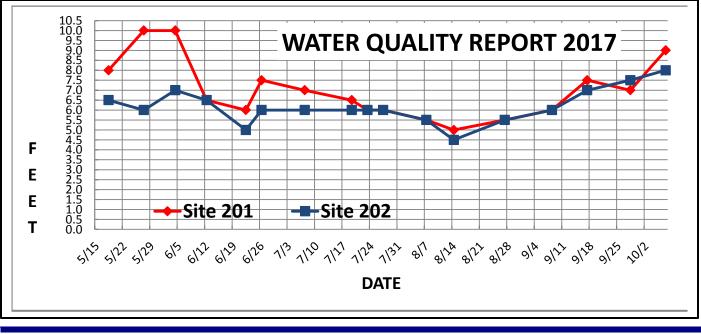
Lake Monitoring Report

Larry Antonsen / Ken Jensen

Lake level monitoring began May 15th with an initial reading of 1224.84 feet above sea level. As graph indicates the lake level was higher in the spring and continued to drop during the summer. Final Lake level reading was taken on October 6th and was recorded at 1224.99 feet above sea level. The red horizontal line on graph is the Ordinary High Water Level (OHW), which is at 1224.70 feet above sea level. Lake Minnewawa water level data is forwarded to Lake Level Minnesota, a program of the Minnesota Department of Natural resources.



Water transparency testing began on May 18th. The best reading was 10 feet at Site 201. The poorest reading of 4.5 feet was in Site 202. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has a gauge for transparency where less than 1.5 feet is 'Poor', between 1.5 and 3.0 feet is 'Fair', between 3.0 and 6.0 feet is 'Good', 6.0 to 12 feet is 'Very Good', and above 12 feet is 'Excellent'. Site 201 is located in the main part of the lake, while Site 202 in located the smaller northern portion of the lake. Lake Minnewawa transparency readings are forwarded to the Citizen's Lake Monitoring Program, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.



LMA Newsletter 9



Volunteers are what make Lake Minnewawa Association possible. Would you like to help Lake Minnewawa Association, but your time is limited? Do you have a talent or skill that could be put to good use in supporting Lake Minnewawa Association? Below are a few ways that you can contribute in a limited way but still make a difference. If you would like to help send your contact information to Chuck Munson at chuck.munson@gmail.com

Volunteer needed to write one interesting and informative article for the Lake Minnewawa Association Newsletter.

If you enjoy writing and want to learn more about Lake Minnewawa and its inhabitants, this is a great way to share with others. We have a few interesting topics to choose from but need a volunteer to pull the information together.

Volunteers needed for Lake Minnewawa Association Board of Director Positions.

The future of our organization and Lake Minnewawa is at a precarious spot. Like so many other nonprofit organizations these days, we are looking for volunteer board members. It is vital that we recruit new board members to help strengthen our programs and continue the work that has been accomplished in the past. Our lake is pretty healthy at the moment, and we all want to keep it that way! As current board members, we are clearly aware, and respect, that young families today have busy schedules and little time or energy to contribute, but our organization does not require a huge time commitment and does a great deal to protect our lake and our investment for future generations. So please consider becoming a board member, the position would be for a term of two years. Board meetings are held on the second Saturday for about two hours in the morning during the months of April through October. You will work with other lake property owners that are committed to good lake stewardship. Add your experiences and talents to the decision making process and help make a difference in the future of Lake Minnewawa.

Board of Directors

Chuck Munson – President	612-703-6224	chuck.munson@gmail.com			
Tim Rinowski – Vice President	763-546-4874	<u>tarinowski@gmail.com</u>			
Beth Blaylock – Secretary	651-592-6447	Bethblaylock7@gmail.com			
Robbie Danko – Treasurer	952-639-6532	robbie.danko@yahoo.com			
Gordy Anderson	651-245-5760	CgtAnderson2@msn.com			
John Montour	612-419-2388	<u>bjmontour@gmail.com</u>			
Sue Reinhart	763-370-1965	minnewawa2sue@scicable.com			
Arlyss Rinowski	763-355-7652	<u>tarinowski@gmail.com</u>			
Dave Warwick	612-210-0458	dave.warwick02@gmail.com			
Sue Westberg	651-587-2614	<u>swestb1069@hotmail.com</u>			
Mike Widseth	218-820-2426	mikewidseth@gmail.com			
Open Board Seat #1					
Open Board Seat #2					
Open Board Seat #3					
Open Board Seat #4					

Volunteer Agents

Mary Ellen Anderson – Payroll	651-332-4245	meanderson2010@hotmail.com
Larry Antonsen – Lake Monitoring		ljanton@frontiernet.net
Ken Jensen – Lake Monitoring		<u>kenjohnjensen@gmail.com</u>

Newsletter

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