



STAR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER

Board of Directors

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President

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Vice President

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Treasurer

Tyler Riley
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Richard (Dick) Fultz
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Jason Gorr
Director

Open Position
Director

Mailing Address:
SLPOA
PO Box 115
Dent, MN 56528

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Letter from your SLPOA President, Eric Peters

In the next few weeks or months, it may be the last time that you will have an opportunity to have your voices heard in regard to the proposed Star Lake Casino Development. Once the County Commissioners have deemed the Environmental Assessment Worksheet complete by the White Earth Nation, the public comment period for the Star Lake Casino proposal will be open for us to have the opportunity to voice our concerns. The decision will then be in hands of the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners. These are great opportunities for lake owners and surrounding residents to be active and be heard.

There are a lot of environmental concerns with this development proposal and future development on Star Lake and surrounding area. Development is not a bad thing and it's inevitable. But the message we need to send is that it needs to be an environmentally friendly development. The current proposed commercial development on the south bay will have a negative impact on the sensitive shoreline and will destroy critical wetlands. The SLPOA board and the membership expect the County Commissioners to make the right decision to elevate the current environmental review to an Environmental Impact Statement. The message I would like to convey is that we

need to be more active. We need to voice our concerns with our County Commissioners and State Representatives. We need to have a strong Star Lake membership that continues to grow and supports the mission statement of the SLPOA.

Star Lake has been fortunate enough to not have any Aquatic Invasive Species introduced to the lake. Every year the list of infested lakes grows and inches closer to Star Lake. We need to stay vigilant and persistent in following the laws and recommendation of the MN DNR. Here is link to the website to for more detailed information on what shoreland owners can do to help keep invasive species from entering Star Lake.

www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic/index.html

I want to end this letter with a sincere gratitude to all the people who have donated their time, effort, and money over the last year to ensure that Star Lake will maintain its sensitive shoreline, recreational opportunities, excellent water quality, bountiful fishery, natural wildlife haven, and orderly and proper development. We must remain committed to preserving our mission for our children and future generations. I look forward to seeing everyone at our fundraiser event and the annual meeting.

Welcome Back Fundraising Banquet

by Jason Gorr, Director

As I write this, I just came off a weekend of turkeys strutting, robins singing, and loons wailing, all of which I missed in the last several months. Spring is definitely in the air.

We at SLPOA would like to invite ALL our membership, their entire families, and ALL our neighbors, friends, and partners in supporting Star Lake's beautiful offerings to our 1st ever, **Spring Fundraising Banquet**.

We really hope to pack the building as this should be a great time for all in attendance and your way to kick off spring by giving back with much needed support of our favorite area – Star Lake!

WHAT? **SLPOA BANQUET**

WHEN? Friday, May 12th (the Night before Walleye Opener)
6 pm to 8:30 pm

WHERE? Dent Community Center – Dent, MN

INCLUDED? Free Picnic Style Meal included to SLPOA Members
Non-members can eat too for a small \$5 donation
All others are invited too!! Bring your friends and neighbors

State of the Lake Update – **Proposed Casino Status & Updates!**

Games, Prizes, and **SLPOA Gun Raffle Drawing**

- ◆ Get your Raffle tickets in advance (need not be present to win) and plan to partake in a variety of winning opportunities and prizes
- ◆ Full details on Raffle and Banquet found on www.starlakeassociation.com including gun details & pictures

WHY??? For the many of you who've asked how you can help with our EXTREMELY busy task of ensuring FULL environmental review and landowner rights, **THIS IS YOUR CHANCE!!**

Our efforts, although strive to be in the best interests and reflective our membership and mission, are certainly of interest to all in Ottertail County and those who visit and care about Star Lake. So please spread the word, and lets **PACK THAT COMMUNITY CENTER!**

Proposed Resort & Casino Update

So ... as we are all now crawling out of our hibernation dens or returning from your long migrations back to your summering grounds, you may be asking around "What's been happening with that Proposed Casino??"

Well ... let me assure you if you haven't checked in on the topic for awhile, there's plenty I'd like to point out.

- 1) Unlike what I'd heard many say over a year ago - **IT'S NOT A DONE DEAL!**
- 2) Despite repeatedly revised expectations and timelines by the Developer - NO CONSTRUCTION has begun to date.
- 3) Through ongoing support of the Star Lake Concerned Citizens Group and our parallel efforts and missions of protecting Star Lake's environmental quality, preserving for future generations, and standing up for the majority of members interests and their rights, we are happy to say we feel we are making a real difference!

Our goals remain the same in regards to the **PROPOSED** Casino - to push environmental review to the highest level possible, first and foremost. IF this application/permit process proceeds to the next level, it would of course be in the decision makers best interest logically to have the Regulating Governmental Unit (RGU) recommend this go to the Environmental Impact Statement. (In regards to the Fee Land portion, the RGU would be the Ottertail County Commissioners.) OTC recommending EIS would

allow for multi-agency experts to weigh in on each of their specialized fields whether it be Waters, Wildlife, Fisheries, Historical, Transportation, Clean Water, etc.

As the largest commercial development of its kind EVER in OTC, and especially when proposed to be located on such sensitive and critical shoreline and wetlands we feel it would be very prudent to elevate to an EIS and would fully support the OTC Commissioners in that decision. Although it is the SLCCG position to focus on Environmental Concerns, according to their research, and EIS would potentially focus on many more of the social-economic concerns into consideration that interested parties have also expressed.

One last thing of note is how our supportive community has grown, whether it be our 192 SLPOA members, Dead Lake Association's 300+ members, the over 700 signatures supporting the SLCCG Statement of Concern, or all of the retired biological experts, and White Earth Tribal Members supporting our efforts, missions, and statements. Don't be fooled, we are a strong, unified voice and we want yours to be heard!

Thank you for the support and please stay engaged, updated, and at the ready to continue to help protect our precious resource and to help ensure PROPER development on sites best suited and appropriate for them, THIS IS NOT ONE OF THEM!

by Jason Gorr, Director

Star Lake Concerned Citizens Group (SLCCG) Update

If you'd like to get REALLY caught up, read the SLCCG's most recent update including links to Newspaper, TV, & Internet Stories on the topic (see next page of this newsletter). If you are reading this newsletter in hardcopy, simply log onto the SLCCG.info website to check out more on this proposed development. *Continued ...*

A Message from SLCCG

Below is a quick recap of what's been happening ...

FEDERAL LEVEL: The US Army Corps of Engineers continues to process the responses received during the public comment period. The Corps will consider all comments and the developer's responses to those comments in making their decision on the federal permit request. Wondering what people had to say? Some of the comments have been posted on the Take Action-Federal Permit page of our slccg.info website.

COUNTY LEVEL: The next major step will be the comment period for the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). Once OTC receives a completed EAW it will be submitted to the MN Environmental Quality Board (EQB) to initiate the 30-day Public Comment period. Why is the EAW so important? The decision OTC will make on the EAW is whether or not an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is necessary. SLCCG's position is that an EIS is absolutely critical for understanding all the potential impacts of this particular project before any permits are considered. For more information about the environment review process, see the Take Action-EAW page of our slccg.info website.

RECENT MEDIA: Below are links to some of the articles that have run in local papers, radio and TV.

Mar 05: Fergus Falls Journal - Star Lake Casino has multiple sides to development
www.fergusfallsjournal.com/2017/03/star-lake-casino-has-multiple-sides-to-development

Feb 27: KVRN Local News - Done Deal? The Star Lake Casino Project
www.kvrr.com/2017/02/27/done-deal-the-star-lake-casino-project

Feb 14: KFGO Radio - Radio Interview
kfgo.com/podcasts/kfgo-afternoon-show/7992/ty-dayton-star-lake-concerned-citizens-group

Feb 08: InForum - Opponents say Star Lake Casino is far from a done deal
www.inforum.com/news/4214339-opponents-say-star-lake-casino-far-done-deal

Feb 01: DL-Online / Letter - White Earth should shoot down plans for Star Lake Casino
www.dl-online.com/opinion/letters/4209885-letter-white-earth-should-shoot-down-plans-star-lake-casino

Jan 29: The Daily Journal / Letter - Star Lake Casino project a bad idea
www.fergusfallsjournal.com/2017/01/star-lake-casino-project-a-bad-idea

Jan 27: SLCCG prepared this Press Release describing current status of the proposed casino development
www.slccg.info/images/docs/2017_01_27_press_release_final.pdf

Jan 19: Perham Focus - The waiting game: all's quiet on the casino front as processes play out
www.perhamfocus.com/news/local/4202089-waiting-game-alls-quiet-casino-front-processes-play-out

WE THANK YOU for your continued support! We have a lot of work ahead of us in 2017. As new information becomes available, especially the Public Notice of the EAW, we will let you know.

- Star Lake Concerned Citizens Group (SLCCG)

501(c)3 Update: To Be or Not to Be

TO BE OR NOT TO BE? That is a line that you most likely are familiar with. Although from a Shakespeare play, it can be applied to an action being proposed by your SLPOA Board of Directors.

Currently, we are a taxable lake association in terms of our organizational structure. At our 2017 annual meeting, the SLPOA Board will ask membership to approve the Star Lake Property Owners Association to apply for transition to a 501(c)3 Not-For-Profit status. Why?

As we look to the future, it appears there will be more proposed development on Star Lake. There continues to be concern with the spread of invasive species and plants and the need to control and, possibly, treat the spread of such species. There is a need to continue to develop the fishery and protect the quality of our water and its use. To do those things will require money beyond simple annual association dues. As a 501(c)3 organization, donations are tax deductible. That makes fund raising more attractive for some people. It also makes our ability to give money for charitable purposes and/or education or social benefit causes easier. We would also benefit from discounted mail fees and purchases as a formal not-for-profit. What are the downside issues?

There are some issues when you become tax exempt. The first would be that there are legal fees to get your Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws to comply with IRS regulations for non-profits as well as government application fees to get an IRS ruling. (approximately \$1,000 in total) There is also more accounting work involved as a non-profit must file an annual 990 IRS report and track all allowable dona-

tions. You also are restricted in using donated funds for “political” lobbying.

The SLPOA Board feels that now is the time to transition to a 501(c)3 organization. Our lake association mission and purpose certainly fulfill the requirements for tax exempt operation as outlined by the IRS. Be aware that to become compliant with IRS regulations will require changes to our Articles and Bylaws. Currently, our bylaws lack provisions for things like:

- A clear statement of purpose
- Conflict of interest
- Expense reimbursement
- Board member compensation for service (as in, there is no compensation paid for Board service)
- Board member payment for professional services rendered (based on Board review and approval)
- Nondiscrimination policy
- Defined fiscal year
- Director removal
- Director duties (loyalty, care, confidentiality)
- Books and records access
- Distribution of funds upon dissolution

Our plan is to have a proposed set of revised Articles and Bylaws that we feel will comply with IRS requirements for 501(c)3 organizations to members before our annual meeting to allow time for review and questions.

It is both an exciting and challenging time for Star Lake. THANK YOU for your continued support!

- Gary Miller, SLPOA Vice President

Mark Your Calendar:
SLPOA Annual Meeting - Saturday June 24
Camp Joy, Star Lake

SLPOA Treasurer's Report

As of 3/22/2017, the balance in our SLPOA checking account was \$9,806.27. For 2016-2017, the number of paid memberships totaled 192.

Your Board of Directors encourage all members to consider paying your 2017-2018 dues prior to the annual meeting in June.

The Membership Form can be found on the SLPOA website as well as page 9 of this newsletter. You can complete and submit the form online (and mail your dues) or you can complete the paper form and mail it, along with your dues, to SLPOA.

- *Peggy Maasjo, SLPOA Treasurer*

Adopt-A-Highway: April 29

We renewed our agreement with the county to maintain the ditch cleanup along Highway 41 from the Galaxy Resort to the Camp Joy Road. We are obligated to clean the ditch twice a year in the spring and fall. I wish to thank the previous volunteers who have helped with the clean up. It goes pretty fast when several people show up.

Our spring clean up is scheduled for April 29th at 10:00 am. We will meet in the parking lot at the Galaxy Resort. Bags and vests will be available. Hope to see you there!

- *Peggy Maasjo, SLPOA Treasurer*

Fundraiser / Gun Raffle: May 12

SLPOA Gun Raffle

\$20 tickets for a chance at eight guns!

DRAWING AT SLPOA FUNDRAISING GATHERING - FRIDAY, MAY 12TH!!

DENT COMMUNITY CENTER, DENT, MN

DOORS OPEN AT 6 - PICNIC STYLE LUNCH SERVED FREE TO MEMBERS

NEED NOT BE A SLPOA MEMBER TO ATTEND!

MORE DONATION PRIZES AND FUND RAISING GAMES AT GATHERING

RAFFLE WINNERS NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN & CASH OPTION AVAILABLE!

CONTACT ANY DIRECTOR FOR A TICKET

2017 Annual Meeting: June 24

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This year's annual meeting will take place at Camp Joy for the second year. We had a great turn out for the pancake breakfast and we are grateful to Shayne Hollenbeck and Camp Joy family to allow us to host our annual meeting on Star Lake once again.

The meeting will be held on Saturday, June 24th, breakfast will be served at 9 am with meeting to follow.

Note: The new directory will be available at the Annual Meeting.

Look forward to seeing you all there!



Lake Wide Picnic: Need a Volunteer to Host

We are still looking for a host for the 3rd Annual Lake Wide Picnic for 2017. The previous two years that the lake wide picnic was held were a great success. It is a good time to meet your lake neighbors and enjoy time at Star Lake.

It is a potluck event so all you need to do is pick a date and provide a location. The first year we were on the north side of the main lake and last year we were in the west arm.

Please let one of the SLPOA Directors know if you would be interested in hosting the 2017 picnic and we'll help get the word out.



SLPOA Board of Directors

The responsibility of the Star Lake Property Owners' Association board is to represent the interests of the association, as indicated by its members.

The Association has no paid employees, all duties are performed by volunteers who donate their time and talents to help protect Star Lake. Board members serve a 3 year term, typically attend 8-9 monthly meetings each year, and head one of the committees.

Please consider running for a board position or volunteering to help with ongoing projects.

SLPOA Membership

Membership in the Star Lake Property Owners' Association is voluntary. You can choose to be a Full Member or an Associate Member. Full membership is for those who own property on Star Lake (includes voting rights on association issues). Associate membership is available to persons who do not own property on the lake but are interested in lake issues. Annual dues are \$25 for members and \$20 for associate members.

The success of the SLPOA, in its ability to protect Star Lake, is dependent on its members to voluntarily contribute their time and resources to association projects. The benefits of being becoming a member:

- ◆ Protect your property value. Your dues enable our projects to continue. There are expenses associated with running these projects that help protect our lake and your support by becoming a member, paying dues and becoming involved is your best investment to protect your property value as well as the health of the lake.
- ◆ Periodic communications of information on issues concerning our lake through mail/email and our website.
- ◆ An invitation to the Annual Membership Meeting and a vote on any issues brought to vote.

To become a SLPOA member, or to renew your current SLPOA membership, please complete and return the form provided or you can visit our website starlakeassociation.com and complete the online form (and mail your dues to us). Your Board of Directors encourage all members to consider paying your 2017-2018 dues prior to the annual meeting in June.

Mail membership form and dues to: SLPOA, PO Box 155, Dent, MN 56528

Star Lake Property Owners' Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 155, Dent, MN 56528

2017* Membership Information Form

(New _____ or Renewal _____)

*Please note: SLPOA Membership runs from Annual Meeting to Annual Meeting.

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s): _____ Date: _____

Legal Mailing Address: _____

Star Lake Street Address (if different): _____

Email Address **: _____ Phone(s): _____

**Please consider providing your email address – it will help reduce costs. Email addresses will not be sold or given to others, and will not appear in our directory without your written permission.

I/we certify that we _____ARE _____ARE NOT Star Lake property owners.

- Dues: \$25 -Star Lake Property Owner: Individual, Family, Corporation, Partnership. (Voting Membership)
 \$20 -Associate Member: Non-Property Owner supporting the objectives of The Association. (Non-voting Membership)
 \$ _____ Lake Protection Fund Donation. Consider making an additional donation to help us protect the interests of Star Lake.

I am interested in volunteering in Association activities as follows:

___ 1. I/we would be interested in working on the following SLPOA Projects:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ___ a. Water Testing | e. ___ Adopt A Highway Project |
| ___ b. AIS Monitoring | f. ___ Protect the Lake Project |
| ___ c. Membership & Publicity | g. ___ Volunteer Coordinator |
| ___ d. Water Safety (Buoy placements) | |

___ 2. I am interested in serving on the Board of Directors.

___ 3. I want to be a member, but prefer not to volunteer at this time.

Ideas or comments for the Board of Directors: _____

USE BACK OF FORM IF NECESSARY

This authorizes the Star Lake Property Owners Association to utilize my/our email address for official SLPOA communications.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM & MAIL WITH DUES PAYMENT TO THE SLPOA, P.O.BOX 155, DENT, MN 56528. It would be greatly appreciated if dues were paid by mail PRIOR TO the Annual Meeting. Thank You.

Star Lake Property Owners' Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 155
Dent, MN 56528-0155

STAR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

2017 SPRING NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Events:

April 29: Adopt-a-Hwy Ditch Clean Up
May 12: Fundraiser Banquet & Gun Raffle
June 24: Annual Meeting at Camp Joy

See the Newsletter for more information.

