



STAR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

Board of Directors

Eric Peters
President

Gary Miller
Vice President

Peggy Maasjo
Treasurer

Tyler Riley
Secretary

Richard (Dick) Fultz
Director

Jason Gorr
Director

Janet Moore
Director

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SLPOA
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Dent, MN 56528

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starlakeassociation.com

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Message from your SLPOA President

Well, I have to say it's been quite a different year than the last one. I had my dock and lift in, and our first boat, last year on April 8th. This year has been much different having to wait until May for ice-out! Therefore, we are all hopeful for warm weather to get us into summer to enjoy Star Lake.

It has been a much quieter winter for SLPOA and, with little news or action on the WEN Casino Development, we can focus on other important issues on Star Lake. We still need to be vigilant on Aquatic Invasive Species, continue to protect our water quality and fishery.

We will be looking to fill two board member positions this summer at our annual meeting. It is important to keep our association going strong and I encourage all points of views and diversity on our board. I just want to say a little thanks to our current board members who volunteer their time to protect Star Lake and its mission.

We will also be looking for someone to volunteer to host the annual picnic sometime this summer. We would like to keep this an annual gathering to bring neighbors and families together.

Enjoy your summer on Star Lake!!!

Sincerely, Eric Peters

2018 Annual Meeting

Mark your Calendar

The SLPOA Annual Meeting will take place on:

Saturday, June 23rd at Camp Joy.

Breakfast will be served at 9 am and meeting to follow.

Hope to see you there!



Proposed Resort & Casino Update

No news is good news! Remember Star Lake Concerned Citizens Group saying "It's Not A Done Deal?" Well that statement was a ray of hope for some, or a cafe debate for others.

Do you see why we felt it so prudent to require a full EIS to ensure the major environmental issues were thoroughly addressed?

Status update:

- The Environmental Impact Statement Scoping costs have not been paid to date (proposed developer responsibility). Without this, the EIS scoping (determination of what is to be studied) is not even initiated. If funded, and process completed, scoping could be set.
- Keep in mind that's not even the actual EIS proper. This elaborate process is pretty involved and quite expensive. IF it were to be funded and completed, it would still have to be approved or project modified enough to be approved by the County (Regulating Governmental Unit), and this is only a first step.
- Next the State and Federal Primacy Agencies Permitting Processes could begin.

Keep in mind also there is a huge political campaign going on at White Earth aimed at ousting the former majority. They are primarily demanding fiscal accountability and clarity. Not to mention the former Tribal Attorney Joe Plummer recently resigned after WE Treasurer was Censured and prior to the upcoming election.

Not a done deal by any means, in fact many of us are not seeing it happening at all. Don't take that as a letting down of our collective guard, but rather relief in our efforts helping protect this lake we all love.

- Jason Gorr, SLPOA Director

MN DNR: Northern Pike Zones



New Regulations:

In the north-central zone, anglers will be able to keep 10 northern pike, but not more than two pike longer than 26 inches; and all from 22 to 26 inches must be released. Northern pike taken by spearing follow the same rules except one pike may be between 22 and 26 inches or two larger than 26 inches.

For more info, refer to MN DNR website:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/pike/index.html>

Adopt-A-Highway: May 19

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Spring is finally here! With that comes ice out, fishing opener, and Ditch Clean-up.

We have an obligation to clean the road ditch on Highway 41 from Galaxy Resort to 380th St. We will be gathering at Galaxy Resort at 9 am on Saturday, May 19th. Safety vests and garbage bags will be provided. The more people, the less time it takes to complete the project.



The SLPOA feels this is a worthwhile project. It shows our continued concern for the environment and helps us preserve the beauty of Otter Tail County. Come join us as we clean the ditch. It would be great to have a good turnout!

- Peggy Maasjo, SLPOA Treasurer

SLPOA Board Member Needed

We will be looking to fill two positions on the board this year.

Our current secretary Tyler Riley has decided not to return for another term and Director Janet Moore's term will end this June. We thank them for volunteering their time and both have provided valuable input and contributions to Star Lake.

So we need two people to step up and volunteer to fill a 3 year term. If you have an interest in serving on our SLPOA board, please feel free to contact any board member.



Lake Wide Picnic: Need a Volunteer to Host

We are looking for a host for the 4th Annual Lake Wide Picnic for 2018. The previous three 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, the second year we were in the west arm, and last year we were on the Camp Joy side of the main lake.

Please let one of the SLPOA Directors know if you would be interested in hosting the 2018 picnic and we'll help get the word out.

Boat Ramps: Shall we 'light the way'?

The Board of the Star Lake Property Owners Association is always looking for way to enhance the environment of Star Lake and make the total experience more enjoyable for all users of 'our' Lake, from doing water quality assessments to placing Buoys that mark areas of shallow water to enhance the safety of all users of the Lake.

The Board is now looking into placing lighting at the boat ramps, one on Beaver dam road and one on MN. Hwy 108. With increased usage and more night-time fishing occurring, the Board felt that a lit ramp and prep area at the ramps would aid boaters and make the area safer, especially when leaving the water after dark.

It appears that the most cost effective way is the installation of solar charged lights at the ramps. With the development of more effective, efficient lights with increased reliability, these represent a great way to light the ramps with minimum maintenance, and without the monthly fee associated with standard high voltage lighting.

This technology is not inexpensive, with the projected initial cost estimated at \$3500 per light and that is with a donated pole and volunteer installation labor. As a point: the cost of electrical installation to the sites would be approximately \$3-4,000, plus a monthly fee for service and electricity. Make no mistake, there can be maintenance on these solar lights....nothing lasts forever. But, in consulting with a Park Manager who has installed them, it is minimal. That is his experience.

Because of the initial expense, the Board is investigating installing a light at the Hwy 108 ramp first, as a test. With no neighbors adjacent to the light and heavy usage of the ramp, we feel

it would be a perfect test. We are aware that a light could affect the Lake atmosphere and would not want to create a nuisance as an unintended consequence of trying to make an area safer. There are no neighbors or cabins within 100 yards, give or take a few yards, of the ramp.

We have entered into discussions with the Minnesota DNR, Parks and Trails, who govern the ramps. The time frame, at its best, would result in a late summer 2018 install. As we proceed with it, we would like your input. This will be on the agenda at the annual meeting and we sure want your input. We are not going to proceed until we have informed you, as members, and have your positive 'advise and consent'. After all, the Board represents you, as members, and we want to do projects that you find positive.

Please feel free to email me through the SLPOA website with your feelings and thoughts. I will be making a presentation at the annual meeting, hopefully with some enlightening visual aids, no pun intended, that will show you what we are proposing.

I hope to see you at the annual meeting and look forward to discussion of this project.

- Dick Fultz, SLPOA Director

Email: director2@starlakeassociation.com



Proposed By-law Updates

SLPOA is now 501c3 tax exempt status. With that comes a couple additions that need to be included in our By-laws by vote at our annual meeting.

The 1st paragraph addition is at the beginning of the by-laws, and the other addition is at the end. Below are the two proposed paragraphs; the additions are highlighted.



- Gary Miller, SLPOA Vice President

Proposed Addition (first page of By-laws)

BYLAWS OF STAR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC. (As approved June, 2017)

Star Lake Property Owners Association, Inc. is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, scientific, or environmental protection purposes. Including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations described under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future tax code.

Mission Statement:

The Star Lake Property Owners Association and its Board of Directors are committed to preserving this natural resource to include but not limited to ...

Proposed Addition (last page of By-laws)

ARTICLE XVI. (Dissolution)

Section 1. Dissolution. Upon the dissolution of this corporation, its assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or to a state or local government, for a public benefit purpose.

Any assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of a competent jurisdiction in the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located. Exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which is organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Note: The complete By-laws document can be found on our SLPOA website starlakeassociation.com

SLPOA Membership

MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASE

If you are a poker player, you know that having three 10's can be a good hand. In fact, it may well be a winning hand. When you deal with lake association membership fees, three ten's or thirty dollars can also become a winning amount. This is my way of introducing you to the fact that the Board is proposing we increase our membership fee to \$30.00.

I believe when the SLPOA was formed, the membership fee was set at \$25.00. In 2008 the membership approved giving the Board of Directors the ability to increase the membership fee up to \$10.00 at a time the Board deemed an increase necessary. With the continued per year slight increase in association expenses like printing costs, insurance, annual meeting breakfast expense, buoy replacement, communication expense, etc., the Board feels a \$5.00 increase in our membership fee to \$30.00

is now appropriate. Therefore, for the 2018/2019 association year the Board is proposing an increase in our membership fee to \$30.00. It will represent the first implemented increase in fee since our association was formed. You will have the opportunity to discuss and vote on this again at the 2018 annual meeting.

The dollars from our membership fees are the primary source of revenue for the association. All dollars generated from membership fees go towards our mission. Therefore, please know that the dollars (the total amount) will apply towards preserving Star Lake according to our mission! Also, NO membership fee money has been used or is planned to be used to pay for items relating to the Casino project. Those dollars have come from either specific donations or our 2017 fund raising event. Thank you for your support!

- Gary P. Miller, Chair Membership Committee



Star Lake Property Owners' Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 155, Dent, MN 56528

2018-19* 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:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <u> </u> a. Water Testing | <u> </u> e. Adopt A Highway Project |
| <u> </u> b. AIS Monitoring | <u> </u> f. Protect the Lake Project |
| <u> </u> c. Membership & Publicity | <u> </u> g. Volunteer Coordinator |
| <u> </u> 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

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

OTC Invites Input on Dock, Lift Ordinance

In efforts to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species, OTC commissioners and members of the county Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force periodically evaluate rules and regulations.

To that end, the county board is planning an open meeting when county residents can provide input on proposed changes to the county's dock and riparian use ordinance.

A riparian zone includes the interface between land and water. All docks, piers, wharves and boat lifts must remain dry for 21 days before being placed in another body of water.

The public hearing will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, June 5, at the County Government Services Center in Fergus Falls. This will be part of the regular county board meeting agenda.

Assistance is Available for Shoreline Restoration

I think everyone is ready for spring, and so are we at the East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District! We still have some room available for more shoreline restoration projects to be installed this spring.

Did your shoreline have damage from high water? Were the waves cutting into your yard? Or maybe you had a water path from the hillside down to the lake? Perhaps you have rip rap, but want to do more to strengthen your shoreline? These are all common scenarios that our shoreline restoration program addresses, using native plants and biodegradable erosion control material.

We also design rain gardens to help control water runoff and sediment from entering the lake. Every project begins with a site visit, so give the East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District a call, and you don't have to wait until your snow melts! We can do site visits in the snow, as long as you can see the tips of the grass blades in your lawn.

Our typical installation season is May-June and the fall. There's currently funding available to help with up to 75% of the cost of eligible projects.

You can reach the East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District at (218) 346-4260 ext 3 to set up a site visit; ask for Aimee or Liz. If you're located in West Otter Tail, you can still call Aimee or Liz or you can call the West Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District at (218) 739-4694 ext 4.

Be sure to like our Facebook page to see photos of past projects and what they look like now!
EOTSWC Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eotswcd/>

Aimee Zimmermann Shoreland Specialist
East Otter Tail SWCD
(218) 346 – 4260 Ext. 12
Email: Aimee.Duchane@EOT.mnswcd.org

Become an Aquatic Invasive Species Detector!



Join a network of citizen scientists and learn how to identify and report AIS.

www.AISdetectors.org



MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES
RESEARCH CENTER *in partnership with*
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | EXTENSION



Ideal for:

- Anyone interested in AIS issues with a desire to learn more and get involved
- Lake association members, Master Naturalists, AIS inspectors, and committee members
- Must be 18 years or older



How it works:

- Complete 16 hours of training – self-paced online courses and one in-person workshop
- Workshops held across the state from April – June
- Get outdoors and help protect lakes!



What you'll do:

- Search for new AIS infestations
- Provide helpful outreach
- Help AIS programs and researchers in the field



Ready to get started?

- Enroll in the online course where you will learn to identify AIS, follow up on reports, and track activities
- Attend an in-person workshop
- Contact AISdetectors@umn.edu with any questions

Funding for these programs is provided in part by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Clean Water Fund, and private donations.

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

STAR LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

2018 SPRING NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Events:

May 19: Adopt-a-Hwy Ditch Clean Up

June 23: Annual Meeting at Camp Joy

See the Newsletter for more information.

