

Annual Meeting Minutes – 2023
Star Lake Property Owners' Association
June 10th, 2022 Camp Joy on Star Lake

President Dick Fultz called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

1. Dick introduced the current Board of Directors:
 - a. Steve Roth, Vice-President (2023)
 - b. JoLene Kerr, Treasurer (2025)
 - c. Gail Hagen, Secretary (2024)
 - d. Linda Dimitrijevic, Director (2024)
 - e. Yvette Lewis, Director (2025)
 - f. Vacant position

2. The minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting were provided to attendees. Dick asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Arnie Schenck made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mike Hagen seconded the motion. All in attendance were in favor. Motion carried.

3. JoLene Kerr, Treasurer, introduced Sylvia (Doonie) Soeth, President of OTC COLA, who spoke about the Aquatic Invasive Species impacting lakes in our area and the challenges she has faced with trying to slow the spread. Doonie has been loving Big Pine all of her life, first at Sunset Beach Resort and as a property owner since 1965. When she was asked to be on the Big Pine Lake Association Board she saw an opportunity to give back. Water testing to successfully improve the lake had just begun. She was on the committee to form the OTC Pine Lakes Improvement District with Little Pine Lake in 1999 and serves as Chair of the LID. She has been managing the Curly Leaf Pondweed problem on Big Pine for 17 years. That led to an appointment to the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force for Otter Tail County when it was formed 10 years ago. She is currently Chair of the OTC Coalition of Lake Associations where water quality and education are the major goals.

Doonie shared samples of the Curly Leaf Pondweed (AIS) as well as a normal Pond Weed (native to our lakes). Curly Leaf Pondweed grows early in the season before normal Pondweed. It can be so thick that boat motors will get stuck. It grows in shallower water and will take over and spread. She explained the process that they have to go through in order to treat the lake for Curly Leaf Pondweed. A study must be done to plot the vegetation on the lake at a cost of \$7,000. From that

information, a decision is made where the lake will be treated. The budget for this is \$28,000 annually. There are grants available to help with the cost. The Lake Improvement District (LID) funds the costs through an assessment on to all Property Owners, which is included in their Property Tax Statements.

Residents of Star Lake need to remind visitors to the lake to make sure all water is drained from boats, including ballasts. With all of the shallow water around Star Lake, we would have a very expensive problem to address should we get the Curly Leaf Pondweed in our lake.

Doonie received a round of applause for sharing her knowledge and experience.

4. Dick Fultz, President, introduced Kevin Scheidecker, Otter Tail County Assessor, who spoke about property valuations in Otter Tail County, and specifically lake property. The 2023 Property Valuations were received earlier this year. The process to set valuations begins with looking at Property Sales from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021. The market during that timeframe was crazy, for a variety of reasons – COVID (work from home), availability of inventory – especially lake property. They use a Mass Appraisal process to look at over 65,000 properties every year. They must be compliant with the State of Minnesota to be at 90% of property valuations. Most of the water properties started out at 69% during the valuation this year, and had to be adjusted to be within 90% to valuation. The previous year valuation had Star Lake at \$1550/foot of frontage; we are now at \$1800/foot. All property types in Otter Tail County experienced bigger increases for 2023 – Residential, Tillable, Woods and Building sites.

The next valuation process will be for the period of October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.

Dick thanked Kevin for attending and speaking to us about a sensitive subject. Kevin received a round of applause and thank you's.

5. Dick Fultz, President, referenced the minutes of last year's annual meeting and entertained a motion to approve the minutes as written. Arnie Schenck made a motion to approve, and JoLene Kerr seconded. All were in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.
6. Committee Reports:

- a. Treasurer's Report: JoLene Kerr, Treasurer, reported balances in bank accounts held by Star Lake Property Owners' Association (SLPOA): \$8,689.27 in checking, and \$25,395.33 in Money Market (includes \$18,972.95 for Lake Protection Fund).
- b. JoLene Kerr, Treasurer, also read the results of the Financial Review that was recently conducted by Sharon Sand, SLPOA member. Sharon had to work and couldn't attend the meeting. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes. A motion was made by Gary Miller to accept both the Treasurer's Report and the Financial Report as presented; Carolyn Herron seconded the motion. All were in favor with no one opposing. Motion carried.
- c. Membership & Publicity: Gail Hagen reported that we have had great support from property owners with membership to SLPOA. In 2021, we had 242 paid memberships, with 9 of those as Associate members. This was a new record for our Association. Up to the morning of the Annual Meeting we are at 137 paid memberships, with 9 of those as Associate members. Many memberships were paid this morning and we are on pace with previous years.

Gail also asked members to let her know if they are not receiving email communications from SLPOA and would like to be on the email distribution list. She will work with the individually to insure the messages will go to their inbox and not their Spam or Junk.

We have had positive feedback for the new STARLights Newsletter and going to USPS mail for distribution. Gail also asked for volunteers to help with creating relevant communications for our Facebook page and group.

Our SLPOA Membership Directory will be published next year and we will be forming a committee to help with the planning and execution. We welcome volunteers to help with this project.

- d. Water Safety: Dick Fultz, President reported that Tamara Pream, Director, was not able to attend. Dick thanked the Water Safety Committee volunteers: Mike Anderson, Bob Gettel, Jeremy Lehman, Francis and Tamara Pream, Tyler Riley, Ryan Salberg, John Steffens and Robbie Rimer.
- e. Adopt-A-Highway: Dick Fultz, President, reported that cleanup was completed on May 21st. Our next event will be in the fall.

- f. Shoreline Restoration: JoLene Kerr, Treasurer, reported that we have had one approved applicant for the Lakescaping Grant Program. They will receive one half of the grant at the beginning of the project, and the second half when the project is completed. She also shared that there are funds available through East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District and if you are interested in restoring your shoreline to a more natural scape, please review her article in STARlights and take advantage of the resources available to you.

- g. AIS Monitoring: Linda Dimitrijevic, Director, and committee members Bonnie Graham and Bob Gettel presented information on their committee's work. We now have 4 members that have completed the AIS Detector courses. They also explained the definition of an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). They also recently attended a day-long event in Detroit Lakes with information presented by the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center. They provided research updates on Starry Stonewort research, Plant Survey Database, Zebra Mussel research, success stories in AIS Management, and an overview of MAISRC.

Education is key to AIS Management for Star Lake. CLEAN DRAIN DRY is being spread all over Otter Tail County and we need to help with that education to visitors of Star Lake. There is a new Self-Service Watercraft Rinse Station at Paul Miller Park in Perham, and a second one will be installed at Eagle Lake Park south of Battle Lake this summer. The committee also had several handouts available with information on AIS.

Thank you to Linda and her committee members: Lee Mindemann, Kristin Daniels, Bonnie Graham and Bob Gettel. We appreciate your dedication to learning more about this important subject that threatens our beautiful Star Lake.

- h. Water Quality: Carolyn Herron gave a brief update on results of recent Water Quality testing that has been completed on Star Lake. RMB Labs out of Detroit Lakes coordinates the Water Testing for lakes in our area and maintains a database of the history of Star Lake water testing. They measure the level of phosphorus in the lake, and higher phosphorus feeds algae growth. Carolyn also conducts the Secchi Disk readings and at the end of May, it was 22 feet. A second reading was 16 feet. Carolyn, along with Lee and Becky Mindemann, will conduct the water testing monthly from May through September, on the Monday after the 3rd Sunday of the Month. Property owners should make sure their Septic Systems are compliant, and

take steps to avoid run-off as these will increase phosphates in our lake and negatively impact water quality.

- i. Fisheries: Dick Fultz, President, provided a brief update on the last test netting from DNR. The results are now available on the DNR website.
- j. Digital Speed Signs: Dick Fultz, President, reported that he is still working through the issues that will move us forward with this project. Our goal is still to have Digital Speed signs on MN Highway 108, but we have some hurdles with Dora Township.
- k. Swamp Shark Tournament: Gary Miller reviewed the tournament rules and plans. He provided information on how we can include those that are hindered from getting to Bell's Resort due to the Bridge Construction. Participants will get final instructions prior to the beginning of the tournament on Saturday, June 18th.
- l. Heart of the Lakes Trail: Dick Fultz, President, shared information about a new trail system that is being completed near Star Lake. Formerly known as the Perham to Pelican Trail, the Heart of the Lakes Trail is scheduled to be complete later this summer. A recent News Release and Map is attached to the minutes.
- m. Ice Fishing Stress on Star: JoLene Kerr, Treasurer, read a letter from a member that we recently received. The main intent of the letter was to inform the Board and Membership of the high number of people on the lake during the winter, specifically in the South Arm, and the concern on the fishery of Star Lake. Also, the Outfitters are using skid steers to plow through cattails on the lake, damaging natural vegetation. Discussion was made to reduce the limit of Sunfish to 5 as has been done on many other Minnesota Lakes. Also, request "No Parking" signs along Beaver Dam Road. Gary Miller made a motion to start a petition to reduce the Sunfish Limit to 5. Ken Paulson also made a motion to start a petition to request Star Lake Township to post "NO PARKING" along Beaver Dam Road. A new motion to start 2 petitions: 1 to reduce the Sunfish limit to 5; and 1 to post "NO PARKING" signs on Beaver Dam Road. The motion was seconded and was approved. Gail Hagen prepared the petitions and placed them in the doorway for signatures.

Gary Miller also asked that the BOD create an active Fisheries Committee to develop plans to work more closely with DNR.

7. A member asked that we note in our minutes to thank Camp Joy for the delicious breakfast that we were served this morning. JoLene shared that they only charged us \$60 for supplies. She also stated that the BOD will also specify a donation to Camp Joy when we meet directly after the Annual Meeting. THANK YOU CAMP JOY!!
8. Carolyn Herron asked that the SLPOA consider donating money to the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center. They are the organization that put on the symposium in Detroit Lakes earlier this week and have been researching mitigation options for treating AIS in our lakes. She suggested a donation of \$1,000. A motion was made by Carolyn Herron to donate \$1,000 from the Lake Protection Fund to MAISRC. JoLene Kerr seconded the motion. Some discussion was held to clarify who the donation was going to. All were in favor with no one opposed. Motion carried. Carolyn will make sure that we get the correct information for sending in the donation.
9. Dick Fultz, President, reviewed the open Board of Directors positions. JoLene Kerr's term is up for reelection, and there is an opening from Tamara Pream's position, and the current vacant position. Dick announced that we have one member from a nominating committee, Yvette Lewis. Dick made a call for other nominations, and did this 3 times (as required by our bylaws). Dick announced that since no other nominations were received, he entertained a motion to elect JoLene Kerr and Yvette Lewis to the BOD positions by proclamation. Arnie Schenck so moved, Gary Miller seconded the motion. All were in favor, and no one opposed. JoLene Kerr and Yvette Lewis will start new 3-year terms.
10. We held drawings for Door Prizes that were donated by the following businesses:
 - a. Bongard's Retail Store, Perham
 - b. Camp Aquila Pure Maple Syrup, Star Lake
 - c. Central Market, Perham
 - d. The Dougout Bar & Grill, Dent
 - e. duCharme's Corner Store, Star Lake
 - f. Gene's Sport Shop, Perham
 - g. Goose Gang, Perham
 - h. Jean's The Right Plant Place, Perham
 - i. LAC Country Car Wash, Perham
 - j. Landmark Liquors, Perham
 - k. Mark's Fleet Supply, Perham

- l. Mark's Home & Hardware, Perham
- m. Mysteries Café, Dent
- n. Photo Magic, Perham
- o. Pizza Ranch, Perham
- p. Service Foods, Perham

11. Dick Fultz, President, announced a few reminders:

- a. The deadline to order Star Lake gear from the online store is Midnight tonight.
- b. The Swamp Shark Tournament is next Saturday, June 18th, starting at 9:00 AM. Registration information and forms are on our website.
- c. The annual Star Lake Picnic will be held Saturday, August 27th. More details will be available as we get closer to the event.

12. A motion to adjourn was made by Arnie Schenck, JoLene Kerr seconded the motion and all were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Hagen
Secretary, SLPOA

Attachments: Financial Review Report
 Heart of the Lakes Regional Trail Updates and Map