

SLPOA BOD Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2020
Home of JoLene Kerr

Board Members Present: GPM, GH, JK, AS, RF & KR

Board Members Absent: TP

Guest Member Present: Dick York (attending to participate in Sunfish Survey Results)

Gary Miller called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

- (1) The meeting minutes from the July 16th meeting were distributed and reviewed. RF made a motion to approve the minutes and AS seconded the motion; all were in favor.
- (2) Treasurer's Report – JoLene reported that the balances in our accounts are as follows: \$6,837.21 in checking, and \$26,082.24 in the money market. The total of both accounts is \$32,919.45. The funds dedicated for the Lake Protection Fund reported on 8-20-2020 is \$17,878.95.
- (3) Membership Update – Jolene and Gail reported that the total number of paid memberships for the 2020-2021 membership year is 165. A mailing went out on 8-19-2020 to all property owners that are not currently paid members for the 2020-2021 membership year. The mailing included a letter from Gary, President, a list of accomplishments, the membership form and a pre-printed reply envelope.
- (4) A Conflict of Interest Statement for all board members is required annually. Gary distributed to the board members present and asked that each board member complete, sign and return to him.
- (5) Gary led a discussion regarding the Sunfish survey results. Dick York also participated in this discussion. An email was sent to membership to gauge the level of interest in reducing the daily limit of sunfish from 10 to 5. There were 52 responses, which is only a 22% response rate. Since this is far below an average response rate and not a fair representation of the majority of the membership, the board will not pursue a change in the daily limit. However, we will move forward with other ideas to improve the Sunfish population:
 - a. We will promote the use of barbless hooks on Star Lake to reduce the kill rate for deeply hooked panfish.
 - b. We will also request increased conservation officer checks and enforcement to discourage overharvesting and limit compliance.
 - c. We will invite Jim Wolters (or a MN Fisheries representative he appointments) to attend our next Board meeting to outline the Department's position on the use of "slot size" for different species. Is it feasible to implement a slot size program on Star Lake for both sunfish and walleyes? Once we have more information on this topic, it will be communicated to our members.

- (6) The 2020 SLPOA Directory distribution was discussed. Labels were printed for all members that did not pick up their directories on late July. The labels included the property owners' name, the Star Lake address, and the board member assigned to deliver. A plastic bag door hanger bag was used and directories were delivered by board members. There were approximately 25 directories that could not be delivered personally and were mailed to the mailing addresses on file. Also, a thank you and complimentary directory was mailed to the businesses that placed ads in the directory.
- (7) Dick updated the board with information about the possibility of reducing the speed limit on Hwy 108 from CR41 to E Rosewood Dr. Dick sent a letter and also spoke with Trudy Kordosky, District Traffic Engineer, MnDOT District 4, regarding the process required. He also discussed the idea of adding a walking path on the north side of Hwy 108. He learned that this section of 108 is in the 4-year plan for a major update. She will forward Dick's letter to the project lead. Regarding the process to reduce the speed limit, it is complicated and would require a speed study. Dick also obtained information about obtaining and installing a Dynamic Speed Display Sign (as seen on Hwy 108 near Maple Beach Resort). He learned that the state does not purchase the signs. The township must apply for a permit for the signs. The state will review, approve, and install the signs. The signs must be purchased from an approved vendor. Dick also shared information from 2 different companies that sell Dynamic Speed Display signs, RU2 Systems, Inc and Traffic Logix. Gary will check out existing signs outside of Dent and make an initial call to the township to discuss. Further discussion will be planned for the next meeting.
- (8) A lake-scaping request has been received from a member. Their request was reviewed and determined that it does not meet the criteria for the Lakescaping Grant Program. JoLene made a motion to not accept the application; Arnie seconded the motion. All were in favor. Gary will draft a letter to the member.
- (9) Gary received an email solicitation from Dilan Christiansen of DC Environmental Consulting, proposing we hire him for a point intercept vegetation survey or delineation of Star Lake. After further investigation into the cost, the board agreed that we would not pursue his services at this time.
- (10) Gary shared an email communication from Star Lake Township regarding white and red flags that were visible on the White Earth land south of 380th. A company called Ogema Organics has leased the land from the White Earth Nation for agriculture use. In addition to corn, they have planted Hemp for the production of CBD oil and hemp fiber. A copy of this email is attached to the minutes.
- (11) Gary shared a copy that he obtained of an Otter Tail County Shoreland and Septic System Ordinances Survey Results. The purpose of the survey was to collect opinions and comments on the Shoreland and Septic Ordinances. A postcard mailing of 15,530 pieces was mailed on October 21, 2019. The piece contained instructions to electronically go to the OTC COLA website to link to an online survey. The results of the survey are attached to the minutes.

(12)Gail shared an itemized list of expenses related to supplies, postage, printing and photocopies for the mailing of the directories and membership letters. Total is \$175.51.

(13)JoLene shared prototypes of a fish ruler that she had designed for SLPOA. The intent would be to give to the participants of the Swamp Shark Tournament next year. The fish ruler would have the same Logo as the T-Shirts and also have Star Lake Property Owners' Association printed. A similar ruler retails around \$18-\$19. Cost to have produced is approximately \$5.50.

(14)Dick shared a list of projects/objectives that the board had created at one of the first board meetings after Gary became president in 2018. It was refreshing to revisit this list and realize that many of the items had been accomplished or are a working project.

(15)Next board meeting will be 6:30 PM on September 10th at Arnie's cabin, 31757 W Rosewood Dr.

(16) Recap of action items:

- a. Prepare an email communication to membership to share the results of the Sunfish limit survey. The email will also include information on using barbless hooks. (Gary)
- b. Invite Jim Wolters of MN DNR Fisheries to next board meeting. (Gary)
- c. Provide update on membership counts in an email and include reminder on membership year being July-July. (Gary)
- d. Talk to township regarding Dynamic Speed Display Signs, permit and financial support. (Gary)
- e. Prepare a letter to member regarding unaccepted application for Lakescaping Grant. (Gary)
- f. Respond to Dilan Christiansen to indicate SLPOA is not interested in his services at this time. (Gary)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM. The next board meeting will be at 6:30 PM on September 10th at Arnie's cabin, 31757 W Rosewood Dr.

Gail Hagen
Secretary, SLPOA

From: Star Lake Township
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 3:24 PM
To: Gary P. Miller
Subject: Little flags south of 380th | E-Bulletin #39

To: Star Lake Township Email Communications List (E-Bulletin #39)

Subject: Little white & red flags on White Earth land south of 380th St.

In recent days I've received many inquiries as to the significance of the little white & red flags on the north and south sides of the White Earth land, aka - the Casino Land.

I spoke with a man working on the site this week and he identified himself as one of the owners of a Callaway, MN company named "Ogema Organics". He has leased the land from the White Earth Nation for agricultural use.

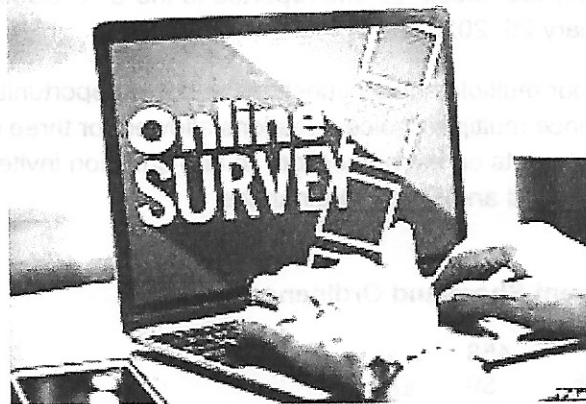
In addition to traditional corn, the company has planted Hemp for the production of CDB Oil and hemp fiber. Several years ago, the White Earth Nation became planting Hemp test plots in the Mahnomen area. This evidently is an expansion of that endeavor.

I am told that Native American Tribes across the country have received USDA permission to plant & raise Hemp. I've also been informed that Hemp raised for CDB does not contain THC, the sought-after ingredient/property contained in marijuana. Ogema Organics also is said to have a contract with Patagonia for use of their fiber in production of clothing.



Respectfully,
Lee Mindemann
Star Lake Town Board
Website: starlaketownship.org

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Otter Tail County Shoreland And Septic System Ordinances Survey Results

At the request of the Otter Tail County (OTC) Board of Commissioners OTC COLA conducted a survey of OTC lake and river property owners on the Shoreland and Septic Ordinances. The survey consisted of multiple choice questions and opportunity to give extensive comments. Over one thousand responses were received and compiled.

Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) has had a long and intimate relationship with Otter Tail County and its Board of Commissioners. OTC COLA was incorporated March 27, 2001. Since that time Otter Tail County and OTC COLA has partnered on numerous projects involving Otter Tail County Lake Associations and property owners. OTC COLA continues to work closely with the County on various projects and notifications. OTC COLA's relationship with Lake Associations and OTC lake property owners has contributed to the alignment and coordination with Otter Tail County on issues and projects.

During a presentation to the Otter Tail County (OTC) Commissioners on July 16, 2019 by Sylvia Soeth, OTC COLA President, and Patrick Prunty, OTC COLA Director, the Commissioners made a request of COLA to conduct a survey of Otter Tail County lake and river property owners. The purpose of the survey was to collect opinions and comments on the Shoreland and Septic Ordinances.

With the input from the Commissioners OTC COLA created the questions for the survey along with the components of the system.

The mechanics of the system included post cards to be sent to OTC lake and river property owners. The mailing address data was sourced from the OTC GIS Department and filtered for targeting lake and river property owners. The design of the post cards was created containing instructions to electronically go to the OTC COLA (www.otccola.org) website to link directly to an online survey. The 15,530 piece mailing was done on October 21, 2019. 1,057 responses

were electronically compiled, tabulated and reported to the OTC Commissioners in a slide show presentation on February 25, 2020.

The survey included four multiple choice questions and five opportunities to give comments. The Shoreland Ordinance multiple choice questions allowed for three choices as well as the opportunity to give comments on each question. A fifth question invited any additional comments on the Shoreland and Septic Ordinances.

Question One

Do you think the current Shoreland Ordinance is:

About Right	458	44.2%
Not Restrictive Enough	89	8.6%
Too Restrictive	<u>489</u>	47.2%
	1,036	

There were 1,036 responses to this question. 458 or 44.2% of the responses indicated that the Shoreland Ordinance was *About Right* in regard to restrictions imposed by the Ordinance. 89 or 8.6% indicated that the Ordinance was *Not Restrictive Enough*. 489 or 47.2% indicated that the Ordinance was *Too Restrictive*. The responses indicate a close balance between those who thought the Ordinance was *About Right* and those who thought the Ordinance was *Too Restrictive*.

Along with responses to this multiple choice question 559 comments were given. 247 or 44.2% were *General* in nature. 104 or 18.6% related *No Concerns* on the Shoreland Ordinance. Notably, 30 or 5.4% of the comments said that the Ordinance was *About Right.....Except*. The message was that the choice of *About Right* should be qualified by additional comments. 53 or 9.5% of the comments related that the *Ordinance Is Inequitably Enforced*. These respondents felt that wealth or relationships skewed the judgement of Ordinance application.

Question Two

Do you think setbacks are:

About Right	597	58.3%
Too Little	47	4.6%
Too Much	<u>380</u>	37.1%
	1,024	

Setback definition: The minimum horizontal distance between a structure, sewage treatment system or other facility and an Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL), top of a bluff, lotline and road right-of-ways.

There were 1,024 responses to this question. 597 or 58.3% of the responses indicated that the Setbacks were *About Right*. 47 or 4.6% indicated that Setbacks were *Too Little*. 380 or 37.1% said the Setbacks were *Too Much*. 21.2% more respondents indicated that the Setbacks were *About Right* than those that said Setbacks were *Too Much*.

Along with responses to this multiple choice question 459 comments were noted. 196 or 42.7% indicated *No Concerns* with Setbacks. 188 or 41.0% indicated that setbacks are in *Need of Review*.

Question Three

Do you think variances or conditional use permits are granted:

About Right	467	48.2%
Too Frequently	195	20.1%
Too Infrequently	<u>307</u>	31.7%
	969	

There were 969 responses to this question. 467 or 48.2% of the responses indicated that the variances or conditional use permits are granted *About Right*. 195 or 20.1% indicated that variances or conditional use permits are granted *Too Frequently*. 307 or 31.7% said the variances or conditional use permits are granted *Too Infrequently*.

Along with responses to this multiple choice question 497 comments were noted. 99 or 19.9% indicated variances or permits *Are Not Equitably Granted*. These respondents felt that wealth or relationships skewed the judgement of Ordinance application. 113 or 22.7% indicated *No Concerns* regarding the granting of variances or conditional use permits. 179 or 36.0% indicated the granting of variance or conditional use permits *Needs Review*.

Question Four

View on Septic System Ordinance

About Right	642	63.1%
Not Restrictive Enough	92	9.0%
Too Restrictive	<u>283</u>	27.8%
	1,017	

There were 1,017 responses to this question. 642 or 63.1% of the responses indicated that the View on the Septic System Ordinance was *About Right*. 92 or 9.0% indicated the Septic System Ordinance is *Not Restrictive Enough*. 283 or 27.8% said the Septic System Ordinance is *Too Restrictive*. 35.3% more respondents indicated that the Septic System Ordinance was *About Right* rather than *Too Restrictive*.

Along with responses to this multiple choice question 465 comments were noted. 169 or 36.3% indicated *No Concerns* on the Septic System Ordinance. 244 or 52.5% indicated the Septic System Ordinance *Needs Review*.

Other Comments

Other Comments on Shoreland and Septic Ordinances

Fair Treatment	64	14.5%
General Comment	251	57.0%
Owner Autonomy	18	4.1%
Needs Review	34	7.7%

Other 73 16.6%
440

There were 440 Other Comments. 64 or 14.5% said that the Ordinances were being administered *Fairly or that there were Concerns About The Fairness In Ordinance Administration*. 251 or 57.0% had *General Comments*. 18 or 4.1% commented that as property owners they resented the Ordinances *Imposing On Their Rights* to do what they want to do on properties they own. 34 or 7.7% indicated that the Ordinances are in *Need Of Review*. 73 or 16.6% had other comments not categorized.