



Lake Washington Improvement Association
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Spring '14 Newsletter

END OF THE DOCK

Ken Klehr, President

Looks like it maybe another late ice-out. As you remember last year's ice-out, based on records kept by the three generations of Gayner/O'Brien, was May 2nd (latest on record). With the cold weather and heavy snow this winter some experts are predicting another record setting ice-out. Keep your snowmobiles and fish houses handy.

A quick reminder that the **Annual Lake Association Meeting**, better known as **Pork Chop Dinner**, will be on Saturday, May 3rd (See Social Committee below for details). John Fink has been heading up this effort over the years. But I am sorry to say that John has decided to seek new challenges. He has been a Board member for 12 years with many valuable contributions to the Lake Association. These contributions are too numerous to cover but let me mention a few beginning with the Pork Chop Dinner, Pot Luck Dinner, and usually obtaining the largest number of prizes from local businesses for door prizes at the Pot Luck Dinner. He served as our focal point with Manuella and Stella. He obtained donations and money to help cover food costs. John does deserve credit. But there is a saying "behind every great man there is a supportive woman". With that I need to acknowledge Ruth too for her help over the years. Again, thanks John for your service and dedication. We will miss you on the Board. Stay in touch.

With John Fink leaving there will be an opening on the Board and we are looking for a replacement. If you are interested, or know someone who is interested, contact me, or any board member.

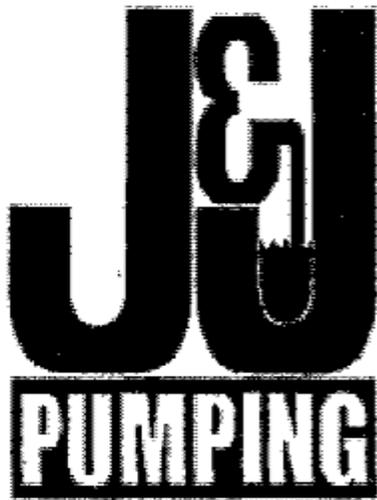
This winter has been very busy for the Board. Starting with Ron Bubany and Cathy Klehr who are developing, enhancing and improving our membership data entry. These enhancements should create the capability to receive the newsletter via email instead of US Mail. The plan is to continue mailing the Spring Newsletter to everyone but the Summer and Fall Newsletter will give members the option of receiving the newsletter via email or through the postal service. We recommend the use of email. This new system will be implemented over the next several months. So bear with us during this transition. Ron and Cathy are to be commended for the time spent. It may sound confusing but more details will follow. We will discuss at the Annual Meeting. See Communications and Public Relations Report for more information.

We have been aggressive in pursuing grants in the past and this year is no exception. We have applied for grants in excess of \$42,000. Our share of this cost will be \$8700. These grants are through various agencies such as DNR, (State funded), Meeker County Association of Lakes

(Meeker County Funded), and Crow River Organization of Waters (Mn Pollution Control Funded). One of the projects that will be funded, via a grant, will be the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The TMDL is an engineering analysis of Lake Washington that focuses on sediment and nutrient from the watershed. It will determine acceptable levels of contaminants. Another grant will be through the Meeker County Soil and Watershed District (State & County Funded) for an upgrade to a sediment pond. The other grants will help cover project costs for the management of Eurasian milfoil, water quality testing, and reduce the delivery of sediment into Lake Washington including sediment pond upgrade which Skip Sustacek needs special credit for spearheading this project. Our challenge is to obtain all of these grants and implement them this year.

With that said, I would like to thank you for your generous support through membership dues and contributions. This helps us to protect and preserve this precious water resource for us, and future generations to enjoy. If you are not a member, consider joining using the enclosed membership card.

Hope to see you at the Annual meeting, which will highlight feedback from the Membership Survey Committee. This portion of the program is very informative and will be presented by Caroline Ullom focusing on the survey results and where our focus should be in the future. So don't miss this part of the program.



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FINANCE / FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

Lyle Walker

Financial activity has been minimal since the end of the season last fall. There are no unpaid or outstanding bills at the end of March. We are tracking on budget as we approach the end of the April 30 fiscal year. We are anticipating a busy season this year beginning with membership renewals starting in April.

Total Association funds at March 31 are \$95,200.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Skip Sustacek, Mike & Sandy Wosmek, John Fink

Annual meeting, Pork Chop Dinner --- Dassel Rod & Gun Club --- Saturday May 3rd, 2014
Social Hour 5-6 pm, Dinner 6 pm, Program & Meat Raffle 6:30 pm

FREE Grilled Pork Chops, Beans & Hamburger Casserole, Cole Slaw, Potato Chips, Bread, Coffee, Kool Aid & Brownies.

Dassel Rod & Gun Club will be selling POP ONLY. If you want an alcoholic beverage, please bring your own.

B & B SPORTS & RV of Hutchinson on north Hwy. 15, will pay for the pork chops this year. Please THANK them, when you do business with them.

SAVE THE DATE of Saturday August 2nd, 2014, for the POT LUCK DINNER.

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COOKBOOKS

Cathy Klehr, Sandy Wosmek

Lake Washington cookbooks are available for \$10.00. To purchase a cookbook call Cathy @ 320-626-2056, Sandy @ 320-275-4662 or go to info@lakewashingtonassn.com and we can get a copy to you.

SHORELINE CAPTAINS/MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Cathy Klehr, Rick Johnson, Mike & Sandy Wosmek

Thanks to the Shoreline Captains for keeping our neighbors informed about important lake issues. For a complete listing of all Shoreline Captains and their area, visit us on our Web site. If you are interested in volunteering your time, please contact any board member.

We have modified our Membership Registration Card and you will now have the choice to receive newsletters by snail mail or email for summer and fall editions. Please use back side of card to add information if necessary. Your membership to Lake Washington Improvement Association is needed and appreciated to continually maintain the quality and beauty of our lake. It would be great if everyone helped by joining the Association. Please take time to fill out the enclosed Membership Registration card and return in the envelope provided. Thank You for your support.

For changes of address, phone, e-mail or any other information we should be aware of, please contact us at info@lakewashingtonassn.com

INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Ron Bubany, Tom Hauer, Ken Klehr, Milt Lueneburg, Bill Ooley, Pat Hanson

As we take our milfoil samples during the summer, we grade each sample on a scale of 0 to 4 (0 = none, 4 = a ton). In 2012 our average findings for observations having milfoil was 2.01. Last year, 2013, the findings dropped to only 1.55. When we apply the formulae to the entire sampling area (not just samples where we actually found milfoil), we get another favorable drop from 1.76 to 0.57. So to make this perfectly clear, this is GOOD news!

We used two companies to treat the lake (PLM and Lake Restoration). Both delivered on time. Both produced excellent results. Both were very professional and well qualified to do our treatments. Comparisons between the two were very equal, however PLM came in a few pricing percentage points lower than Lake Restoration. PLM has therefore won the contract for the 2014 season.

Last issue we stressed the dangers here and statewide of invasive species. The DNR supervises/conducts inspections at lake access sites, but this is only a delaying tactic. What we need, as they say in Timberwolves basketball broadcasts, is a STOP. Research! We can't be behind and trading baskets expecting to come out with a win.

We have some good news on this front from the DNR (Nick Brown) with respect to activities currently in place to get us a stop.

A Killer Compound:

There is a possible cure for the zebra mussel problem. Set your web browser to this link for details - <http://www.fergusfallsjournal.com/2014/03/05/biologist-discovers-safe-way-to-kill-zebra-mussels/>. Like videos? Try this link –

<http://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?StationID=1975&DateTime=2%2F25%2F2014+9%3A04%3A12+PM&Term=%22Invasive+species%22+%2BMinnesota&PlayClip=TRUE>

Check out the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center - <http://www.maisrc.umn.edu/how-can-you-help/>

What the heck, throw a couple bucks there way.

Hybridization:

Did you know that Eurasian Water Milfoil can mate with our own Northern Water Milfoil? Apparently it can, with who knows what result. Some think the hybrid is worse. Anyway, the DNR and the U of M are now in the formative stages of investigating this issue. Patrick Selter of PLM has offered to help by collecting samples this summer. We, of course, are quite willing to lend a hand as well. Perhaps by the end of the summer we will have more specific information to share with you.

A special thanks to Nick Brown for providing all this information. Now, let's get ready to go kick some milfoil butt this summer!

WATERCRAFT INSPECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Tom Hauer

The Watercraft Inspection Program was created in 1992, in response to legislation proposed by the DNR, Minnesota Lakes Association, and angling groups. The goal of the program is to prevent the spread of invasive species within Minnesota through boater education, watercraft inspections and watercraft decontaminations at public water accesses.

In 2011 legislation aimed at strengthening Minnesota's ability to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species was signed into law in May. As a result of this legislation, the DNR can give watercraft inspectors new authorities. With these new authorities inspectors can, along with conservation officers, visually and tactilely inspect water-related equipment. Those inspections can include the removal, drainage, and decontamination of treatment of water-related equipment to prevent the transportation of aquatic invasive species.

In 2011, The Lake Washington Association contracted with the DNR for 81 hours of watercraft inspection at a cost of \$972.00. That was the last time the association contracted with the DNR for inspections. For 2014, a number of brochures, cards and other items were ordered through the DNR to mail with this newsletter and also have available at the LWIA annual meeting on May 3 at

the Dassel Rod and Gun Club. The material will give you more detailed information on what to do to prevent the spread of invasive species.



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WATERSHED COMMITTEE REPORT

Ken Klehr, Skip Sustacek

Update of a watershed project on the southwest corner of Lake Washington. Between 215th street and 217th street. A number of years ago a small holding pond was dug to control sediment run-off into the water that come from farmland south of 215th street. The holding pond is too small and much dirty water is coming out of two tiles feeding the holding pond and then flow into the lake.

The Committee Members met with the property owners and Joe Norman of the Meeker County Soil and Water Conservation District plus owner of the farmland to the south of 215th St. Everyone involved agreed to upgrade the holding pond and improve the Intakes in the field to control water contamination. The Lake Washington Board has approved the Committee to move forward with this project.

The upgraded holding pond should effectively reduce sediment and nutrients flowing into the lake by approx 20%. Also, the Farmer has agreed to switch from open Intakes to Rock inlets at his cost. This should reduce sediment & nutrients flowing into the lake by an additional 20%. The cost of this Project will probably be \$10,000 with 75% of cost being covered by a Grant and 25% by the Lake Association.

The wetland will need to dry out so if we don't have a wet summer the work could start August or September.

The cooperation of all the people involved with the project has been great.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Steve Ullom, Steve Grotbo, Rick Fernstrom

We will be having the annual election of board members at our Membership meeting on May 3rd: Ken Klehr, Pat Hanson, & Steve Grotbo have agreed to serve another 3 year term. John Fink is retiring from the board after many years being on the Lake Washington Board. We are looking for someone to fill this three year opening. If you have questions or an interest in being on the Board please contact a board member.

At the Spring Membership meeting we will be sharing a summary of the results of our Property Owners Survey from last summer. A written report will be published on our website later in May.

The newsletter comes out three times a year (Spring, Summer, and Fall) and is delivered via snail mail, on the web, and via a link in email. Starting this season, people can opt to get the newsletter via email saving the association printing and mailing costs. The spring newsletter will still be snail mailed each year as this contains the registration card. The additional advantage of the online version is you get it in color and the associated hyperlinks are just a click away. Also new this year is you can have more than one email address to get the newsletter. As it is just email, anyone interested in the lake can be added to the distribution. Please send an email to info@lakewashingtonassn.com to add / remove any email addresses to the distribution list. The ads in the newsletter help defray the costs of putting on the newsletter, if you know of anyone wishing to advertise the price is \$40 1/4 page, \$60 1/2 page, and \$80 full page.

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CORMORANT/PELICAN IMPACT COMMITTEE

Rick Fernstrom, Ken Klehr, Dean Shaner, George Kraemer, Ray Haugland, Arlan Lovald, Milt Lueneburg, Ron Bubany

A meeting was held at the Hutchinson DNR on 1/23/2014 to review the data used by the DNR to conclude the fish populations in area lakes are not being impacted by cormorants and pelicans. The DNR position is that fish survey data does not show a drop below past levels (back to 1993) that would indicate a fish population problem. Moreover, the DNR expanded their data analysis to include the “halo of lakes” around Pigeon Lake including Hook, Jennie, Long, Spring, Belle, Washington, Manuella, Erie, Stella, Dunn, and Collinwood and still did not conclude a problem exists.

The DNR recommended our efforts focus on bird impact for the Pigeon Lake rookery. A depredation order can be supported where other bird species have been impacted by over population of cormorants and pelicans. Earlier U of M bird survey data showed this to be the case and additional bird diversity sampling data will be available this year to develop the depredation order for cormorant reduction. The committee has reached out to the DNR Non-Game resources to discuss this avenue but no response received as of this date. The understanding is that all MN rookeries are being surveyed this year so 2014 data will be comparable with 2004, 2010, and 2012 to assess depredation levels required to normalize improve bird diversity.

To continue the study of fish population, the Hutchinson DNR will conduct a fish survey on Lake Washington again this year. The last survey was 2012. A grant has also been received from the Meeker County Association of Lakes to test water quality on Pigeon Lake at peak bird population periods. The concern involves levels of contamination from bird over population that travel down stream to vulnerable waters where fish populations are at risk.

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