Winememere Lake & Landowners Association General Meeting August 16, 2008

The third and last general meeting of 2008 was called to order by President Chuck Erickson at 9:00 at Camp Miller.

The minutes of the July 12 general meeting were read and approved.

The treasurer's report showed we have $7598.86 in the checkbook and $6853.10 in the Sand Lake Milfoil Fund for a grand total of $14,451.96. The milfoil fund can only be used to treat off-shore Eurasian Watermilfoil. The treasurer's report was approved.

Membership reported we have 200 members. 38 have not renewed their membership to date this year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BRUSH: Dennis Huddleston of Sturgeon Lake heads up this project. After today, there are 2 more Saturdays available for Winememere Township residents to bring their leaves and brush to the gravel pit near the airport. Those days are Sept. 20 and Oct. 18 from 10:00 to 1 PM.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY: Shirley Arnold of Island Lake heads up this project. Our association picks up 8 1/2 miles of roads around the lakes three times a year. There is one more time to do this, this year...it is after Labor Day. If you can help, call Shirley.

NEWSLETTER: Sandy Schumann of Sturgeon Lake is in charge of the semi-annual "Window" that we receive as members.

EDUCATION & GET THE LEAD OUT!: Pauline Dee of Sand Lake heads up these programs. As school begins, we will be supplying, as needed, Fresh Water Ecology workbooks for the fifth grade students in the Moose Lake School. We also pay for the buses to bring them to the Fresh Water Fair in Pine City each May. We collected a minimal amount of lead tackle at two of our general meetings this year. We will continue to collect lead and educate our members on the harmful effects of using lead tackle. Barb Burkhard and Bob Burkhard offered to dispose of the lead at a hazardous waste facility for us.

DNR INTERFACE: Steve Kozak of Sand Lake is in charge of our contact with the DNR.

OLD BUSINESS:

SAND LAKE MILFOIL: On July 28, Lake Management of Marine on the St. Croix, treated 20 acres of off-shore milfoil with Tricophyll, the chemical allowed when a grant has been given by the DNR. The treatment cost is $9880.00. We were awarded a grant of $4700.00 by the DNR for this treatment. Moose Lake township will give us up to $1000.00 and Winememere township will give us up to $5000.00. However, half of the Winememere township money will come now and the rest in December. 3.57 of the 20 acres are in Carlton County (Moose Lake township) and 16.43 of the 20 acres are in Pine County (Winememere township). Since the cost for each township is pro-rated, we will ask for $924.63 from Moose Lake township and $4255.37 from Winememere township.
STURGEON LAKE MILFOIL: Since Eurasian Watermilfoil was discovered in Sturgeon Lake this summer we will need to begin with an aquatic plant survey. Roger Hugill of the DNR, is planning to do this. We also need some volunteers from Sturgeon Lake to learn from Steve Kozak how to map the lake for milfoil this fall.

WATER QUALITY PLAN: In order to get a grant from the DNR for treatment of aquatics, you need to have a plan in place to improve the water quality of the lake. We are piggy-backing on a lakes and streams plan that Sam Martin of Pine County SWCD is doing. This summer, Greg Carlson(Sand), Ron Hansen(Island) and Harlan Schroeder(Sturgeon) have been collecting water samples 6 times. These are sent to Era Lab in Duluth for testing for phosphorous and chlorophyll a. When results are in, the data will be compared with the LAP study done in 2005 on the lakes.

NO WAKE MARKERS ON SAND LAKE: Greg Carlson of Sand Lake has contacted the deputy sheriff and plans to meet with him later today about the placement of these markers. The reason for the markers is mainly to slow boats down going through the narrow western channel and stems from an accident that occurred on July 4. It also should cause smaller waves that cause erosion to property. There was much discussion on this topic...mostly in favor of the markers.

WEST FRONTAGE ROAD SPEED: Mary Nelson of Sand Lake continues to try to get speed signs changed on this road to cut down the speed. This is a safety issue.

NORTHERN PIKE SLOT SIZING FOR SAND LAKE: Steve Kozak of Sand Lake reports that a letter has been sent to Roger Hugill of the DNR to begin the long process of establishing a slot size for Northern Pike to help restore the balance for the total fishery of the lake.

NEW BUSINESS:

ELECTIONS: A motion was made by Mary Nelson and seconded by Greg Carlson to approve the board members whose terms expire now but who volunteered to remain on the Board. They are: Shirley Arnold, Steve Kozak, Ron Hansen, Sandy Schumann, David Stark and Arnie Tuomi. Motion passed. There were no nominations from the floor for new Board members.

PERMIT FEE: The MN Legislature wants to increase the fee for a permit to chemically treat invasive aquatic plants such as Eurasian Watermilfoil. They say that the current $35.00 fee is 1/3 of the cost to process the permit. They would like 100% of the processing fee be charged for a permit. If you are interested in responding, contact Steve.enger@dnr.mn.us

PINE COUNTY WATER PLAN: The Pine County Water Plan needs to be modified by 2010. The plan has been and is under the Pine County SWCD but may be switched to the Zoning office. Sam Martin of the Pine County SWCD asked for a letter from our organization objecting to this move as he feels the SWCD has done and continues to do a good job with the water plan. Apparently, the county feels the zoning office could do it cheaper. However, many projects have been completed successfully and in a timely manner by the SWCD and the
general feeling was to leave it with the SWCD. Ron Hansen of Island Lake attended a meeting in Askov about this proposed change and will follow up on it. John Hanson moved and George Sivanich seconded we send a letter from this association to the county requesting the water plan stay with the SWCD. Motion passed.

PROGRAM: Our speaker for today, Julie Olson, Wetland Enforcement Officer, was out on sick leave.

Dennis Huddleston moved and Ron Hansen seconded to adjourn.

Motion Passed

Minutes by Pauline Dee