

**FRIENDS OF THE LAKE WAKANDA CHAIN
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 30, 2009**

The second annual meeting of the Friends of the Lake Wakanda Chain was called to order at 7:00 PM by Dr. Lee Cafferty, President. Dr. Cafferty made remarks of welcome to members and guests, gave a PowerPoint aerial tour of our chain of lakes, and indicated areas of concern and challenges. He emphasized the need to work toward consensus among ourselves as a way to have a bigger say with the many public funded organizations with input into issues important to the lakes and the watershed. He also indicated communication and teamwork will be important as we work to fulfill the association mission of restoring the health of these shallow prairie lakes. Dr. Cafferty thanked those who helped with lake improvement projects this year, especially the Town of Kandiyohi for their decision to use the Green Lake Sanitary Sewer facility, the members of the Wakanda working group, those working on the Grass Lake project, and those putting in grassed waterways and working on wetland restoration. He then introduced our guest speakers.

Educational Session

CLEAN WATER INITIATIVES IN CURRENT FARM POLICIES: Representative Al Juhnke, State of MN House of Representatives, began with a statement that he is interested in hearing from us by email, telephone, or in person. He then gave a recap of the 2009 legislative session from his perspective. Regarding water and lake issues: He went over some of the implications of the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment, which passed in 2008 voting. This will increase the sales tax 3/8 of 1 percent beginning 7/1/09 to be used for (1) fish, game, wildlife (2) clean water activities (3) a. parks/trails, b. arts, heritage. A total of \$170 - \$180 million a year in revenue is expected, to be distributed 1/3 for each of these areas. The legislature is expected to make block grants to MPCA, Department of Agriculture, Board of Soil and Water and the DNR for most of the money. The Department of Agriculture will be funding testing of wells for fertilizer and nutrients, no interest loans for best management practices, clean water. The LCCMR** group welcomes ideas for potential projects from community, lake associations. Again, Representative Juhnke stated he is interested in hearing from us by email or telephone.

RESTORATION PROJECTS IN KANDI CREEK, KASOTA AND LITTLE KANDIYOHI WATERSHED: Ryan Peterson, U.S. Soil and Water, went over a review of the watershed, its history and opportunities for improvement. Ours is a 25,268 acre watershed, comprised mostly of land in agriculture use. Water management issues include problems with excess nutrients; municipal waste and runoff, debris and toxic contaminants, heavy metals, chemical overspray, bacteria, disease causing matter, and sediments. "Bounce" or spikes in water levels also contribute to lake and stream bank erosion and death of vegetation. Among the major contributors to the watershed problems is wetland loss. Pre-development wetland basins numbered more than 478 and post-development wetlands number less than 6% of those wetlands. Ryan believes that 25% of wetlands need to be restored to restore most of the benefits of the previous wetlands. In addition, in the Kandi Creek watershed, only 28% of the waterways and streams are buffered, and he believes additional buffer strips around waterways and the lakes and additional grass waterways would also significantly help water quality. Ryan works with landowners to improve buffer strips, sediment retention basins, grass waterways, stream bank stabilization measures and other erosion control measures, inlet protection and wetland restoration. He knows a lot about the government programs available to help with the cost of these measures and invites any of us to give him a call.

GRASS LAKE WETLAND RESTORATION: Loren Engelby, Kandiyohi County Public Works, Ag Inspector and Ditch Coordinator, gave an update on the Grass Lake Wetland Restoration and stated that it will take \$\$ to clean up our green lakes. He distributed a color map showing the proposed design of the Grass Lake Wetland Restoration. Proposed elevation at Grass Lake outlet - 1110.0; elevation at eastern Lake Wakanda dam is currently set at 1105.0; elevation at southern Lake Wakanda dam is 1104.8; elevation of dam at the South Fork Crow River is 1104.3. He stated that (1) negotiations continue with two landowners (2) one additional parcel will be obtained through ditch funds (3) Barr Engineering report was completed this week and will be presented to the City of Willmar, County Commissioners and the public. There will be gravity flow of water into Grass Lake from Peach Creek. In low flow conditions, water will be pumped. There will be a seven acre pond for sediment retention treatment where a 500 cc pump is planned. He indicated that 80-85% of pollution in storm water occurs in small storm events.

This sediment pond will need to be cleaned up every two years. What can't be pumped will flow into bypass ditch. Water monitoring was begun this year at two sites: south side of CR 19 near the Gast farm and at a culvert on the main 23A bypass ditch. Data is being collected this year, and more water monitoring studies will be done after GLWR is complete. The restoration should have significant water quality benefits for Lake Wakanda, including an estimated 50 - 60% phosphorus reduction. There will be flood reduction benefits for the City of Willmar. Pumping water out of Willmar will let storm drains work more efficiently. The flood peak on Wakanda (reduction of bounce) could be improved by 2-6 inches. Kandi Creek is a very fast watershed with 70 to 100 foot drop. The City of Willmar is very involved with Barr Engineering in working out an effective model for this lake restoration. The MN Pollution Control Agency must be convinced to work with Willmar and give them credit (TMDL) for being a partner in this project. The total cost for this project will be known sometime in August. Discussion followed this update. A suggestion was made to encourage the City of Willmar to update storm water management regulations relative to new development NOW -- as "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". Also, LCCMR has significant dollars for clean water projects. A proposed Mankato State University study of our chain of shallow lakes has a mid-level priority ranking. Suggestion was made to work with legislative parties to encourage change to high priority.

Business Meeting

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The July 25, 2008 Annual Meeting minutes were approved on voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Marilee Druskin, Treasurer, stated the association 7/24/09 bank balance to be \$1126.47. Expenditures in the past twelve months were \$322.98 for cost of mailings (\$213.34 postage and \$109.64 envelopes and paper). Deposits of dues paid in the past twelve months totaled \$735.00.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS: Nominations were invited for qualified individuals to fill the four two-year open seats on the Board of Directors (four needed). Nominated were Rick Dahline, Marilee Druskin, Dr. William Reid and Bruce Vruwink. A motion to cease nominations was made and then seconded. No vote was needed, so the president stated those nominated were the new board members. Lee Cafferty asked that the board of directors meet briefly following the annual meeting for an election of officers and to schedule a date for the next board meeting.

RESULTS OF AUGUST 2008 MEMBER SURVEY: The president gave a brief review of this survey and the results. Of the members responding to the survey who indicated they were Lake Wakanda property owners, 9 of the 12 were against the aeration of this lake. The majority of these property owners say the "bounce" in lake levels is a big problem and that the lake levels are too high. The Lake Kasota property owners were divided on lake levels. The Lake Minnetaga responses were three to one for no aeration. The majority of Little Kandiyohe responders do not want the lake lowered and felt "bounce" was not a problem. This survey was conducted at the request of a county commissioner. There were no questions or comments.

PROPOSED AERATION POSITION: Discussion began on the proposed association position paper on aeration of Lake Wakanda. Some information was shared regarding Professor John Moncrief's (University of MN) study with the MN Soybean Growers on impact on water of various types of fertilizer vs no fertilizer and the impact of nutrients/pollutants in municipal storm water. This is a three year study and will continue until 2011. Water samples are taken every two hours, 365 days a year. Water testing of Lake Wakanda this year indicates the ph of the lake to be 8.5 (a ph of 9 indicates the water is toxic to all aquatic life). Other comments: aeration can be a problem for the overall health of a lake; aeration keeps the walleye alive; a lake is a public water and aeration may or may not affect habitat to satisfy the diverse interests of the public; Lake Wakanda is classified by the DNR as a natural environment lake, not a recreation lake; vegetation (celery) has been observed on Little Kandiyohe Lake; this proposal is not binding relative to government agency actions. A motion was made and seconded to adopt this position on aeration. The President asked if anyone would object to a voice vote being taken, as that would mean that not all votes would be documented as members. There were no objections, so a voice vote was taken. The motion was approved by a substantial margin, and the proposed policy was adopted. There followed a question about the cost of aerators and a response was made indicating the initial cost of about \$40,000, was funded by the Blomkest Sportsmen's Club.

LAKE TOUR - SITE VISITS: There has been some interest in holding an association event to visit the public accesses, dams, points of interest on our association chain of lakes. Contact a board member to help plan such an event.

OTHER

Extra copies of the **DIAMOND LAKE NUTRIENT TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD PROJECT MATERIAL** are available on the table at the back of the room. This material was obtained by Cal Freeman at the public hearing in Atwater in December. The Federal Clean Water Act requires the MPCA to develop a total maximum daily load for each parameter for which the water body does not meet standards. The TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can take on while meeting the established water quality standard(s). This TMDL study is typically developed in four phases. Each study is unique to the body of water that is impaired. Since Lake Wakanda is on the 2008 list of impaired waters, this process and public hearing will be in our future. Commissioner H. Madsen commented that the condition of Lake Pepin is driving this whole thing. He also commented that chemotherapy pharmaceuticals are the primary cause of disruption to septic systems.

WEBSITE: www.lakewakandachain.com. Check it out.

OPEN DISCUSSION - None.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT: Motion for adjournment was made and seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - July 30, 2009

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 9:40 PM to elect officers and schedule the quarterly board meetings. A motion was made, seconded and approved for the 2009-2010 officers of the board to remain the same: President - Lee Cafferty; Vice President - Nick Bjornberg; Secretary/Treasurer - Marilee Druskin. The next quarterly board meeting will be September 3, 2009, seven PM at Tripolis Church. Bruce Vruwink volunteered to work on the website committee. Lee Cafferty offered to research the law on lake drawdowns. Rick Dahline shared information on culverts/riprap relative to his "sheep crossing". Dr. Reid will continue to work on a base line of where problems exist on each of our lakes. Cal Freeman will work on forming a committee to research possible pond retention plans for upstream areas. The board meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Marilee Druskin
Secretary/Treasurer

**LCCMR - Legislative Citizen Commission on MN Resources