

**Deer Lake Watershed Association
Board of Directors Meeting**

**April 7, 2025 6:00 p.m.
Carpenter Town Hall, Togo MN**

Our Mission: *"To protect, maintain and improve the natural resources of the Deer Lake Watershed for current and future generations"*

Board members attending in person: Bruce Steege, Andy Gregorich, Sara Gregorich, Vaughn Duitsman, Gail Blackmer, Todd Reynolds, and Galen Vorland.

Alternate members attending: Chuck Botzet

Attending through on-line connection: Bob Gibbons

President Bruce S. called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The agenda was reviewed and approved on a motion by Sara, seconded by Andy.

Treasurer's report – Vaughn provided Treasurer's report listing account balances in the various funds as of 4/7/2025:

DLWA General Checking Account - \$4,510.60

DLWA Continuous Flow Fund - \$7,404.78

DLWA Water Protection Fund - \$991.86

Total in all DLWA accounts - \$12,907.24

CCC Camp Historical Preservation Fund - \$571.08

Vaughn noted activity since February 1 of income from 5 membership renewals and donations of \$55 to the continuous flow and water protection funds. Expenses included newsletter costs and the purchase of 20 copies of the MN Lakes & Rivers Shoreland Guide which will be made available for members interested in best practices for shoreland management. Galen moved to accept the treasurer's report for filing, seconded by Gail.

Discussion was held on the pro and con for establishing an electronic method for accepting membership renewals and other purchases. Sara made a motion, seconded by Chuck to authorize Vaughn to look into establishing a Venmo account, motion carried. We will check on if the bylaws need any change to allow electronic transactions, and add the option to the membership form.

Secretary's report – Gail had sent minutes from the February regular meeting to board members and a copy was available at this meeting. Upon review, Sara moved, Andy seconded to approve the minutes as for filing and distribution.

OLD BUSINESS

Newsletter – the newsletter has been sent out, discussion held on format and production. Travis was thanked for his researched article submission, Sara for her work in formatting and composing, and Bruce for printing the paper copies. All Board members are encouraged to

gather story ideas, pictures, and other information to include throughout the year for the annual newsletter. Submissions from the members of DLWA is especially encouraged.

Conditions at Deer Lake outlet – Andy and Sara recently walked in to look at the rock dam on Deer Creek. A beaver dam has been built there but flowage is not impeded greatly. It will be monitored as spring conditions change the water levels in the creek and lake.

Lake Stewards – Galen updated on the Lake Stewardship program . He has been in touch with Lily Carr, one of the statewide resource people for this program. Discussion was held on our level of participation in this program, including getting evaluators trained, perhaps obtaining signs to reward lakeshore owners who fully embrace shoreline best practices, and providing general education on the benefits of restoring or maintaining natural shorelines. Bruce made a motion to have DLWA adopt the MN Lakes and Rivers Lakeshore Stewardship Program, and to name Galen as our local coordinator. The motion was seconded by Vaughn and carried. Galen requests a couple more volunteers to continue looking into this and to arrange some more training. The booklet we ordered has information, and Gail has picked up a self-survey form that can be used to get individual property owners starting to think about their shorelines. It was agreed that the first step to implement such a program was to provide education on the topic.

Apparel – As there has been interest shown and the board has approved an amount to be spent on sample clothing, this will continue to be an agenda item.

Highway clean-up – Still scheduled for May 3, 2025, Gail will coordinate with MN DOT and send out an email calling for volunteers.

NEW BUSINESS

Flotilla – We will plan to do the July 4th Flotilla on Deer Lake, as has been done for several years. Bruce will coordinate the food, Gail will check on getting ice cream.

New DNR Fisheries representative – We understand that there is a new person in charge of Fisheries for our area. Bruce, Denny Carlson, and Todd would like to meet with this person to discuss our interests in management. An issue of concern would be a request to stock the lakes with fingerlings vs. fry in hopes of better survival rate. We would like to invite this person to be a speaker at our annual meeting in August. Todd will try to arrange a meeting.

Lakes to be sampled in 2025 – Discussed which watershed lakes we could take samples from for water quality testing. Pickerel and Deer are sampled every other year. In addition to that schedule, it was suggested to sample 5 Island and Erskine Lakes. Todd, Bruce, Andy and Cole Gregorich, and Vaughn all offered to participate in the sampling process, they will determine a plan for this summer.

Annual meeting – The Annual Meeting for all membership is scheduled for the first Saturday in August, that is August 2, 2025 this year. We plan to follow last year's agenda, with a community

pot luck dinner, a business meeting, election of board members, and general discussion or guest speakers as can be arranged. Held at Carpenter Town Hall from 5-7 p.m. on that date.

Next Meeting – Scheduled for Monday June 2, 2025 at Carpenter Town Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7 p.m. on a motion by Sara, seconded by Vaughn.

Minutes submitted by Gail Blackmer, Secretary