

DEER LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
24th ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 2025
CARPENTER TOWN HALL

The 24th Annual Meeting of the general membership of the Deer Lake Watershed Association took place at the Carpenter Town Hall on the first Saturday of August, as stated in the bylaws of the organization. The meeting was open to all members of the DLWA. Twenty-six members signed in at the meeting. At 5:00 p.m. a pot-luck dinner was made available with a variety of food provided by members. Copies of the minutes of the previous year's annual meeting, a Treasurer's report, a proposed revision of DLWA treasurer's duties, the annual watershed newsletter, and an agenda for this year's meeting were handed out to attendees. DLWA logo T-shirts and copies of the booklet "Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship" were available for purchase.

DLWA President Bruce Steege called the annual meeting to order at 5:44 p.m. He introduced himself and other current regular board members: Gail Blackmer, Vaughn Duitsman, Bob Gibbons, Sara Gregorich, and Galen Vorland. Board members Travis Mangan, Todd Reynolds, and Andy Gregorich were unable to attend this meeting. Alternate board member Chuck Botzet was also present and introduced.

The agenda for this meeting was accepted on a motion by Audrey Johnson, seconded by Denny Carlson.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report – DLWA Treasurer Vaughn Duitsman prepared a written report of account balances, revenue, and disbursements for the fiscal year of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The report is included as an attachment to these minutes. Vaughn noted the sustainability of the organization is based on membership renewals.

The CCC Camp Savings account remains in effect as a separate account. There will be a renewal of the lease with the DNR required this year, this is our first renewal of a ten-year lease at the cost of \$500. The financial report was approved for filing on a motion by Sara Gregorich, seconded by Audrey Johnson.

Vaughn reviewed a revision of the bylaws to include language that allows the organization to receive and disburse funds by electronic means, such as Venmo, or an ATM card. The revision also clarifies transfer of funds to the designated accounts such as the continuous flow fund. These changes to the duties of the treasurer within the bylaws were approved on a motion by Jim Clarke, seconded by Jim Moffet.

ELECTION OF 2025-2027 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The annual meeting is also the date for elections for the Board of Directors of DLWA. The two-year regular terms held by Gail Blackmer, Andy Gregorich, Sara Gregorich, Travis Mangan, and Vaughn Duitsman are complete. These incumbents have been nominated for re-election to another two-year term, 2025-2027.

President Bruce Steege called for other nominations from the floor. After calling for other nominations three times, Jim Moffet moved to close nominations, seconded by Lary Salmela. Cole Gregorich moved to elect the incumbents for another two-year term, seconded by Jim Clarke, motion carried.

The floor was then opened to nominations for Alternate Members. Alternate members attend board meetings and may vote in the case there is not a quorum of regular members. Jim Kush is retiring after 20 years of serving as regular or alternate member. Chuck Botzet and Greg Brandt are current alternate members. Cole Gregorich and Colton Fredericks have been nominated. Bruce called for other nominations from the floor three times. Joyce Clarke moved to close nominations, seconded by Audrey Johnson. Jim Clarke moved to elect the slate of nominees as alternate members, seconded by Jim Moffet, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS – No Old Business was brought forward.

NEW BUSINESS

Lakeshore Stewardship Program – Galen Vorland has initiated and chaired a program developed by Minnesota Lakes and Rivers to promote stewardship of shorelines for property owners. Galen presented an overview of this program, starting by stating that this program is not regulatory in nature, it is not trying to change the use of anyone's private property. What it is, however, is about clean water by promoting shoreline management strategies that catch and filter pollution run off into the lakes. Galen, Vaughn, and Chuck have all received training on evaluating shorelines, those with several features such as native plants with deep roots, longer grass near the shoreline, and not mowing to water's edge may be designated as achieving Lake Stewardship status. This statewide program is recognized by signs stating your property is owned by Lake Stewards. DLWA has purchased books to guide the process, more information is available from Galen or any board member.

Outlet Update – Cole and Colton made a recent trip to check on beaver dams on Deer Creek near the rock dam. They removed sticks to gain better flowage. The beaver dam in Lorraine creek coming into Deer Lake also was removed earlier this summer to get more flowage into the lake.

Discussion was held on lake levels, understanding that erosion, boat launching and navigation between the lakes change with different lake levels. There is a gauge at the Camp Deer bridge to monitor levels, it seems that a level of 4.5-5 seems about average for most purposes.

Water sampling – water quality sampling took place on Erskine, Deer, and Five Island lakes this year. Clarity in Erskine was noted at 23.5 feet, Deer at 16', and Five Island at 14'. It was noted that the samples sent RMB labs for testing cost \$375 per lake.

Other – In the past few years, there has been both new development on property within the watershed and changes of property ownership on established homesites. As new neighbors come into the area, the DLWA desires to meet and

inform them of the watershed association including efforts to communicate our mission: *“To protect, maintain and improve the natural resources of the Deer Lake Watershed for current and future generations.”*

There being no further business, Chuck moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Supported by Denny C., meeting adjourned. The next annual meeting will be Saturday, August 1, 2026.

Following adjournment, drawings were held for door prizes: Jim Moffet and Bob Gibbons won walking sticks, Colton won a birch ladder, and the Clarkes won a kit featuring desired shoreline native plants which will be purchased for them next spring.

Minutes submitted by Gail Blackmer, Secretary