

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

**October 7, 2024 5:00 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: Travis Mangan, Bruce Steege, Andy Gregorich, Sara Gregorich, and Gail Blackmer. Attending through on-line connection: Bob Gibbons, Vaughn Duitsman

Alternate members attending: Greg Brandt, Chuck Botzet

Absent with notification: Todd Reynolds, Galen Vorland

President Bruce S. called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The agenda was reviewed, no changes or additions were suggested. It was noted that this meeting convened at 5:00 p.m. due to another scheduled meeting in the building this evening.

Treasurer's report – Vaughn provided Treasurer's report listing account balances in the various funds as of 10/7/2024:

DLWA General Checking Account - \$4,941.93

DLWA Continuous Flow Fund - \$7,358.76

DLWA Water Protection Fund - \$970.41

Total in all DLWA accounts - \$13,271.10

CCC Camp Historical Preservation Fund - \$570.23

Vaughn noted activity since June 30, including income from 13 regular membership renewals totaling \$335, a web advertising renewal of \$35, donations of \$200 to the General Fund and \$75 to the Water Protection fund, and interest income from savings account of \$6.29. Expenses in that period were \$214.36 for Flotilla event, ICOLA dues of \$65, and rental of our post office box of \$72. An annual transfer of funds to the Continuous Flow Fund from the General Checking Account of \$8 per member is included in the CFF balance. Gail moved, Sara seconded to approve the financial report for filing, motion carried. We are grateful to those members who are loyal paying their annual dues, and those who add donations to further the mission.

Secretary's report – Gail had sent minutes from the June 5 regular meeting and a draft of the minutes from the August annual meeting to board members. Upon review, Sara moved, Andy seconded to approve the minutes as sent for filing and to provide the annual meeting minutes via email to all members as a draft copy contingent upon approval at the next annual meeting in August 2025.

BOARD REORGANIZATION

Board Officers and Committee Chairs are determined annually at the first meeting following the annual meeting. Therefore, President Bruce Steege conducted a process of nominations and votes for approval or in some cases accepting a volunteer for the following positions within the 2024-2025 DLWA Board of Directors:

President -Bruce Steege

Vice President – Todd Reynolds

Secretary – Gail Blackmer

Treasurer – Vaughn Duitsman

Membership Committee – Gail Blackmer and Vaughn Duitsman

Continuous Flow Committee Chair – Andy Gregorich
Entertainment/Social events – Shared duties by all + volunteers
Fund Raising – Shared duties as needed for specific fund raising
Highway Clean Up – Gail Blackmer
Flotilla – Bruce Steege
Newsletter Coordinator – Sara Gregorich
Water Sampling Committee – Bruce Steege
DNR liaison – Todd Reynolds

Discussion on committee responsibilities included the current treasury is stable for planned activities if membership dues continue to be solicited, so we won't be planning aggressive fund raising at this time. We discussed which activities best furthered the mission of DLWA, such as water quality monitoring and improvement. Additional watershed lakes could be added to the three per year that we are currently sampling, suggestions were to include Bass Lake, Erskine and Sucker.

OLD BUSINESS

Sand Removal/Restoration at Camp Deer Creek – This project is determined to not really be a possible thing to do given that all discussions with the DNR regarding permitting for mechanical means of altering the depth of the creek or replacing the pencil reeds to prevent waves building up sand is not going to be allowed. Also permits for major removal of cattails in the creeks will not be granted.

Conditions at Deer Lake outlet – It was noted that the gauge at the bridge on #533 is reading at 4.7 currently. There is a dam built at the rock dam outlet from Deer Lake, closer to CR 525 that will be monitored by Andy to see if it blocks the outflow enough to warrant a removal project.

NEW BUSINESS

Newsletter – We do want to produce a newsletter this winter as a tool to inform and keep DLWA communicating with members. Discussion included using MN Lakes and Rivers as a resource for material as they have many resources on their website, and getting more information from RMB laboratories to publish. Each board member is encouraged to produce an article and get it sent to Sara for compilation. Greg suggested that more informational articles posted on the DLWA website could be used as an alternative to an expanded newsletter. Vaughn can add items to the website and we all agreed that regular updates should be in place, Vaughn is looking for ideas and copy that should be posted. The newsletter can have some human-interest stories along with informational statistics, etc. Pictures are useful and good to have in the publication. Include photo credit. A brag board for fish, or other interesting photos would be nice.

Other – Other discussion topics:

Following a question brought up at the annual meeting, Bruce reported that he had taken a sample of the snails that many people noticed on shorelines to the county fair and received information back that it is named the Striped Mystery Snail, and that it may be in abundance now due to high water washing more nutrients into the lakes to accelerate their number, or that the ice killed more of them, then the shells washed up. There were a huge amount washed up on many shorelines!

There is some interest in getting logo apparel, we will continue to research what type of apparel the members would purchase.

Adjourn – at 6:17 p.m. on a motion by Sara, seconded by Travis. Next meeting Dec. 2.