

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

**June 5, 2024 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 or through on-line connection: Bruce Steege, Gail Blackmer, Andy Gregorich, Sara Gregorich, Todd Reynolds, Vaughn Duitsman, Bob Gibbons, and Travis Mangan.  
Guests present: Chuck Botzet, Galen Vorland

President Bruce S. called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The agenda was reviewed, Sara moved to approve with correction of date, seconded by Andy.

**Treasurer's report** – Vaughn provided Treasurer's report listing account balances in the various funds as of 6/5/24:

DLWA General Checking Account - \$5,733.29

DLWA Continuous Flow Fund - \$6,406.84

DLWA Water Protection Fund - \$893.94

Total in all DLWA accounts - \$13,034.07

CCC Camp Historical Preservation Fund - \$569.30

Vaughn noted that there will be an annual transfer of funds to the Continuous Flow Fund from the General Checking Account of \$8 per member, for which he projects \$1080 being added to that fund. There have been some renewals of membership and gaining some new members to the DLWA since our last meeting which are really appreciated! Todd moved, Andy seconded to approve the financial report for filing, motion carried. Once again, 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 previous meeting in April via email. The minutes were accepted for filing and distribution to members on a motion by Vaughn, seconded by Todd.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Permit to remove Cattails** – Todd reported on his discussions with county officials regarding removing cattails which are growing in Lorraine and Popple Creeks. DLWA does have a permit to do so which is renewable and continuous, however only hand pulling is allowed, no herbicides are allowed, nor are mechanical means allowed unless it does not alter any natural flow.

**Conditions at Deer Lake outlet** – It was noted that the gauge at the bridge on #533 is reading at 5.1. This is only slightly higher than what is normally considered a standard measurement of lake level that suits most lakeshore conditions. The creek flow at the culvert on Co. Rd. 525 is flowing strongly.

**Sand removal/restoration at Camp Deer Creek Site** – Todd has had further discussion with county officials on this topic as well, as many who use both Deer and Pickerel Lakes would like to be able to navigate through the creek between these lakes but generally the sand bar at the Deer Lake side makes it too shallow. DLWA in past years has attempted to research the means to remove sand mechanically at this site, but has been hampered by the need to have landowner permission. Todd reports that he has been informed that such a project would also require a plan to restore the pencil reeds that historically

had grown in that area so that wave action wouldn't quickly make a sand bar again, and that the cost of a permit could be prohibitive. Major grants for this type of restoration may be available but are beyond the scope of our capabilities at this time.

**Highway Clean Up** – Gail reported that the clean up day went well, with enough volunteers to complete the 2 mile stretch quickly. MN DOT was contacted to pick up the bags of garbage. Gail suggested that DLWA could take on another mile stretch to the east, as currently that area does not have a sponsor. Todd made a motion to contact MN DOT to offer to sponsor cleaning up another mile, seconded by Sara, motion carried. If we get approved for this we will need additional volunteers next spring.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Flotilla** – the July 4th Flotilla on Deer Lake is planned to happen as in prior years. The banner is stored at Bruce's house and will be displayed on the sign on county road 533. Bruce will order hot dogs, buns and sodas/water. Gail will order ice cream. All members are welcome to attend the social time at Hideaway beach, whether or not participating in the flotilla.

**Annual meeting** – the Town Hall is booked for Saturday, August 3. Pot Luck dinner starting at 5, business meeting with election of board of directors following. Gail reported that Susan Hawkinson who has published a book about early logging in Itasca County has contacted us to say she would like to speak about the book at the meeting, and make copies of the book available for sale. Gail will confirm with Susan. We also may try to ask the director of MN Lakes and Rivers if he is available to attend.

**2024 Lake Water Quality Sampling** – Bruce reported that samples of water from Pickerel and Battle Lakes was done on May 28 and delivered to RMB labs at their office in Virginia MN. Samples will be taken monthly through September. We hope to be able to put some results in a graph or other format for useful data. It was noted that Secchi disc readings in Battle Lake were at 11 feet, and at 9 feet in Pickerel Lake.

**Social Events/Summer Picnic** – We agreed that the abundant mosquitoes and everyone's busy schedule makes planning another event unlikely. We would welcome other volunteers to help plan an event for next year, possibly in June. We hope for good attendance at the Flotilla and Annual Meeting.

**DLWA Apparel** – There is interest in getting more logo apparel for members to purchase and proudly wear as DLWA members. We have a catalog available from a printing company. Vaughn moved, Todd seconded the motion to spend up to \$1000 on a variety of apparel that we could have available for purchase and as samples for ordering more. Gail and Sara will meet to review the catalog and submit an order. Bruce offered to pick up the clothing when it is ready to avoid shipping cost. We are aware that we need to be sure to sell the samples that we will get.

**Other** - Discussion was held on the funds in the continuous Flow Fund that had been designated for a boat and "mud motor" to be used in navigating Deer Creek when it is low and choked with wild rice and weeds. Bruce has personally purchased a unit like this which he is willing to use until we decide if another type is needed. We will monitor the fund and assure that the donations to this fund are utilized to keep flowage steady to avoid stagnant water, all as an effort to keep our watershed water as clean as possible.

**Board Member appointments** – Guests attending the meeting were informed that there are openings for regular and alternate board members at this time, and asked if they were interested. Upon indication of his interest, Sara moved to appoint Galen Vorland as a regular board member, motion seconded by Andy, motion carried. Bruce then asked Chuck Botzet if he was interested in an alternate position. Sara moved to appoint Chuck as an alternate board member, seconded by Andy, motion carried. We welcome Galen and Chuck and look forward to their input to furthering the mission of DLWA. These appointments are subject to approval by the full membership at the upcoming annual meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Sara seconded by Vaughn .  
**Next meeting will be the Annual Meeting, August 3, 2024, starting at 5:00 p.m., held at Carpenter Town Hall.**

Minutes by Gail Blackmer, DLWA Secretary