

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

**December 2, 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: Travis Mangan, Bruce Steege, Andy Gregorich, Sara Gregorich, Vaughn Duitsman, Galen Vorland, and Gail Blackmer. Attending through on-line connection: Bob Gibbons
Alternate members attending: Chuck Botzet
Absent with notification: Todd Reynolds

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

Treasurer's report – Vaughn provided Treasurer's report listing account balances in the various funds as of 12/2/2024:

DLWA General Checking Account - \$4,182.38

DLWA Continuous Flow Fund - \$7,358.76

DLWA Water Protection Fund - \$970.41

Total in all DLWA accounts - \$12,511.55

CCC Camp Historical Preservation Fund - \$570.23

Vaughn noted activity since October 7, including income from 2 regular membership renewals and a donation to the general fund. Expenses for the lake water testing done last summer are due to RMB Labs for \$750, which Vaughn noted will deplete a good portion of those designated funds. There was an additional expense for ice cream at the flotilla also recently paid. Travis moved to accept the treasurer's report for filing, seconded by Sara. Any donations now received will go into the General Fund as the CFF is sufficiently funded for current needs.

Secretary's report – Gail had sent minutes from the October 7 regular meeting and a copy was available at this meeting. draft of the minutes from the August annual meeting to board members. Upon review, Vaughn moved, Galen seconded to approve the minutes as sent for filing. October minutes and a draft copy of the annual meeting may be sent to all members.

OLD BUSINESS

Newsletter – Discussion - Sara is willing to do the composition of the electronic newsletter and has begun to try some layout. Board members agree to submit articles of general interest to include, some assignments that were suggested for topics are: Vaughn – concerns about effects of salt in the environment, such as that from water softeners or dust control; Gail – summary of some of the topics that were made available through the Practical Water Wisdom series; Galen – a baseline on lakeshore do's and don'ts including introduction of the shoreline stewards program; Travis – shoreline erosion and more information on the mystery snail that was on many Deer Lake shorelines this past summer; Bruce – will do a president's letter and information on the county sponsored native plant sale. Also we would like more details on what information we should be prioritizing from the water sampling data. We would like to get some articles from our membership on topics of interest or their activities, maybe a fishing report. Pictures are needed to include in the newsletter. Please get articles to Sara by mid-January. Bruce has equipment to print paper copies of the finished newsletter.

Conditions at Deer Lake outlet – Andy reported that there is a beaver dam at the Rock Dam but there is still water flowing through under the culvert on CR 525. Also a dam at Lorraine Lake creek leading into Deer is impeding flow. Beavers don't build in the winter, but also that creates difficulty removing any dams during cold weather and iced in debris.

NEW BUSINESS

Lake Stewards – Galen reported on the Lake Stewardship program in which lakeshore owners can gain recognition for restoring or maintaining shorelines in a natural state that prevents runoff and erosion, or provides habitat. Minnesota Lakes and Rivers has provided a webinar and guidance as to how a Lake Association can provide outreach to cabin owners on how to be a Lake Steward. In other areas of the state, these programs provide a shoreline sign declaring the owners as Lake Stewards. Overall, the purpose is to improve the water quality of our lakes, influencers such as lake association board members can be “on board” to promote activities that can result in less algae from reduced phosphorus entering the water, which can result in increased property value. There is a questionnaire available for individuals to rate their property and their actions towards becoming a Lake Steward.

DLWA will keep discussion on this topic on our agenda to determine how we can fit into such a project, such as statements of clear rules and how peer pressure can steer a community towards better shoreline management .

Adjourn – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m. on a motion by Sara, seconded by Galen.

Minutes submitted by Gail Blackmer, Secretary