

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

**June 5, 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, Galen Vorland, Travis Mangan, Bob Gibbons

Alternate members attending: Chuck Botzet

Others attending: Cole Gregorich

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 Todd.

Treasurer's report – Vaughn provided Treasurer's report listing account balances in the various funds as of 6/2/2025:

DLWA General Checking Account - \$4,535.04

DLWA Continuous Flow Fund - \$6,174.78

DLWA Water Protection Fund - \$1,186.86

Total in all DLWA accounts - \$11,896.68

CCC Camp Historical Preservation Fund - \$596.08

Vaughn noted activity since April 1 of income from 21 membership renewals and donations of \$70 to the continuous flow fund, \$295 to the water protection fund, and \$290 to the general fund. The Ice Out Contest netted \$390. Expenses included \$1400 for beaver control, Insurance premium of \$1128, and membership dues to MN Lakes and Rivers of \$185. Vaughn noted that MLR may be able to provide website hosting, he will check into it. Sara moved to accept the treasurer's report for filing, seconded by Travis. .

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

OLD BUSINESS

Conditions at Deer Lake outlet – Observation shows there is a log in the creek at the dam, but water is still moving. The gauge is at 4.7 at Camo Deer bridge. Vegetation and wild rice is impeding flow in the creek. We have heard comments from people concerned about walleye spawning success with a low flow in the creeks. Andy has seen seining activity by the DNR so believes they may be sampling the fish population. Bruce suggest taking his mud motor and boat down Deer creek to take a look at the full length of the creek. Cole Gregorich has worked at taking out the dam by Lorraine and may look at Popple for dams.

Lake Stewards – Bruce had a kit of samples of desirable plant species for shoreline stabilization. Galen reported that Vaughn, Galen, and Chuck had taken training from Lilly (MLR) through video

and online and had evaluated their own properties using that training. The guidelines became more apparent as they did each evaluation, and that they found areas to implement interventions to preserve good shorelines. The signs cost \$43, not everyone is likely to want one, nor will all shoreline owners want to have their land evaluated. We will continue with education on the Lake Steward program. Andy moved that we order 5 signs to display for those properties who pass evaluation and want a shoreline sign. Sara seconded, motion carried.

Apparel – Gail reported that a company in Duluth has been contacted and sent the logo in order to plan for getting T shirts printed. A previous motion authorized a dollar amount to be spent on apparel. Gail will send an order and will communicate when they are ready for pick up.

Highway clean-up – This project was completed in May. It went well this year, we included a hot dog lunch after the clean up. The area worked on was extended a distance to the east, Gail will let MN DOT know we may be able to take an extra mile in our agreement. Thank you volunteers who helped!

NEW BUSINESS

Electronic payments – Treasurer Vaughn provided a hand out describing the treasurer's duties, noting that we could update this document to include accepting electronic payment. Vaughn will write up a newer version for the full membership to vote on at the annual meeting, as it affects the association's bylaws.

Flotilla – Will be held as usual July 4th Flotilla on Deer Lake, Bruce will coordinate the food. Volunteers can help with serving and clean up.

Meeting with DNR Fisheries representative – Todd reported he did not get to have an actual meeting, the representative did not have time, and they don't want to discuss or make changes to policy until the fish survey is done.

Itasca SWCD – Bruce has talked with the staff at this agency, they are responsive and willing to help us with concerns or offer submissions for newsletter articles.

Lakes to be sampled in 2025 – A round of sampling has been done, noted 15' clarity on Deer Lake, 17.5' on Erskine, and 14' on Five Island. Water samples have been given to RMB laboratory. Specifics on the lake names and locations sampled were included with the samples.

Annual meeting – The Annual Meeting for all membership is scheduled for the fist 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. Discussion was held on having some raffle prizes or giveaways for those attending.

Next Meeting – Annual meeting, then the board meets in October. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Sara, seconded by Andy.