

**Deer Lake Watershed Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
April 1, 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 and alternate member Bob Gibbons. Absent: Travis Mangan.

Guest present: Sherry Jaryszak.

President Bruce S. called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The agenda was reviewed, Sara moved to add approving appointment of a board member under Old Business, seconded by Todd, motion carried.

**Treasurer's report** – Vaughn sent Treasurer's report via email, listing fiscal activity from July 1, 2023 through April 1, 2024, and current account balances. Account balances as of 4/1/24 are:

DLWA General Checking Account - \$6,368.29

DLWA Continuous Flow Fund - \$6876.84

DLWA Water Protection Fund - \$593.94

Total in all DLWA accounts - \$13,839.07

CCC Camp Historical Preservation Fund - \$569.30

Further discussion of income and expenses included membership renewals and donations, grants submitted to Carpenter Township and Operation Round-Up, adjustment of fees paid for laboratory testing of water quality samples, membership dues to be paid to partnering organizations, and miscellaneous fees. Gail moved, Andy seconded to approve the financial report for filing, motion carried. We appreciate the members who have paid annual dues and those who have also made additional donations!

**Secretary's report** – Gail had sent minutes from the previous meeting in February via email. The minutes were accepted for filing and distribution to members on a motion by Todd, seconded by Sara.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Appointment of Board Member** – Andy made a motion to appoint Bob Gibbons as a regular voting member of the board of directors, seconded by Bruce, motion carried. Bob will be on a ballot for general membership voting at the annual meeting in August.

**Cookbook** – Todd reported that there was not enough additional response from new contributors of recipes to warrant reprinting of the publication. He recommended and moved that we hold off on repeating this project for now. Seconded by Sara, motion carried. Overall, this was a successful and fun project that created lasting goodwill for DLWA. We are grateful to Todd and Dawn for all the work on this project.

**Conditions at Deer Lake outlet** – It was noted that the gauge at the bridge on #533 is old and hard to read. Andy reported he had been to the stone arch dam on Deer Creek and did not see a beaver dam

there since one was removed last fall. Lake levels currently are low, ice is still on area lakes. Sherry Jaryszak asked if the stone arch dam influences lake levels as she lives on the west side of the lake and water level is low there. Discussion included a general policy that beaver dams may be left in place when water levels are low and removed when it is high.

**Cattails on Lorraine and Popple Creeks** – Todd reported that a permit to remove cattails is on hold, the DNR says to wait until spring and not do anything until then.

**Newsletter** – Sara reported on her experiences producing the annual Newsletter. This was her first time putting it together on the computer with some formatting challenges. We all thought it was a quality publication and appreciate her efforts. Continuing the newsletter is a good way to communicate issues as well as providing the membership with connection to the watershed. Articles should be considered year around and prepared to submit, also we would like submissions from anyone with expertise in relevant topics.

**Highway Clean Up** – Gail reported that the project will be on the first Saturday in May, volunteers are welcomed.

**5K Run** – We realize it would take volunteers to coordinate a 5K run so it is tabled for now. We discussed additional social events, such as a Bar-B-Que or picnic and will reconsider some events at the June meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Sand removal at Camp Deer creek** – Discussion held, Bruce has had introductory visit with property owner, and has requested Powell Excavating to look at the site for possible work to make the creek mouth deeper and allow small boat to get through that creek. We are unsure if a permit is still active or on file with the county. Todd agreed to try to contact DNR.

**Flotilla** – the July 4h Flotilla on Deer Lake is planned to happen as in prior years. We intend to have social time at Hideaway with hot dogs and refreshments following the lake parade.

**Annual meeting** – the Town Hall is booked for Saturday, August 3. A Pot Luck dinner, business meeting with election of board of directors, and possible guest speakers are planned.

**2024 Lake Water Quality Sampling** – We plan to take samples of the water from Pickerel Lake this summer, and probably one other lake. It was noted that Itasca Co. SWCD sampled Battle Lake last year, Bruce will check if that organization plans to do it again or another lake in our watershed. Andy made a motion to organize volunteers to sample, deliver samples, and pay for testing of two lakes this summer. Seconded by Sara, motion carried.

**MN Lakes and Rivers dues** – this organization is the voice for lakeshore owners in our legislature and has been active in lobbying for many issues. They request additional funding. Gail moved, Sara seconded to increase our membership contribution to this organization, motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Gail, seconded by Andy .  
**Next meeting will be June 3, 2024 held at Carpenter Town Hall.**