

**Deer Lake Watershed Association**  
Board Meeting – Monday October 25, 2021  
Virtual Meeting via Facebook™ connection

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Bill Cromell at 6:01 p.m. This is a virtual meeting via computer where all members can hear each other and had visuals of members present.

ATTENDEES: Board members participating: Bill Cromell, Gail Blackmer, Val Cromell, Bruce Steege, Vaughn Duitsman, Travis Mangan, Jim Clarke, and alternate board member Todd Reynolds.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL – Prior to this meeting, an agenda of topics to be discussed had been sent via email to board members and all DLWA members who had a listed email address on file. Upon review, Bill suggested that the nomination and election of DLWA board officers be moved up in the order of business. The agenda was then approved on a motion by Bruce S., seconded by Jim C.

TREASURER REPORT: Treasurer Val Cromell provided written report of fund balances as of October 25, 2021:

General Checking Account - \$7,104.59

Continuous Flow Fund (Savings account) - \$3,548.86

Water Protection Fund (Savings account) - \$682.64

Total=**\$11,336.09**

CCC Camp Historical Preservation Fund balance is **\$565.98**

Val noted that since July 1, 2021, DLWA has received fundraising and donations totaling \$520, of which \$420 was designated to go to the Continuous Flow Fund and \$100 to the Water Protection Fund. Board members received a list of the member households who had contributed these additional funds, and we acknowledge and appreciate their generous support of the DLWA mission. Val further clarified that annually an amount of \$8.00 per membership is transferred from the general checking account to the beaver control fund. At 125 current paid memberships that transfer resulted in adding \$1000 to beaver control. Also under the Continuous Flow Fund umbrella there is a balance of \$1860 designated towards the board's decision on having a surface drive motor available.

Expenses paid or projected include the website renewal at approximately \$350, the laboratory fees for water quality testing of Deer and Five Island Lake were paid, and miscellaneous post office box and annual meeting refreshment costs. Bruce S. **moved** to approve the Treasurer's report, **seconded** by Bill. Motion **carried**.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Secretary Gail Blackmer reported that the minutes from the June 2021 regular board meeting and the August 7, 2021 annual membership meeting had been sent to board members for review. Val **moved**, Vaughn **seconded**, that the minutes of both meetings be approved for filing and distribution to the membership. Motion **carried**. It was noted that the annual meeting minutes will also be brought forward to our next annual meeting in August 2022 for general membership approval.

**ELECTION OF DLWA BOARD OFFICERS:** As per DLWA Bylaws, officer positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are filled at the October meeting following the annual meeting in which board members are elected. Current President Bill Cromell and current Vice President Mark Smith have both stated they intend to step down from these roles going forward, and appointed Treasurer, Val Cromell, is leaving the regular board member position but remaining as an alternate member. Following discussion, the following nominations for officers and regular board member positions were determined:

- Gail moved to nominate Bruce Steege as President, seconded by Val, motion carried.
- Bruce moved to nominate Jim Clarke as Vice President, Vaughn seconded, motion carried.
- Bruce moved to nominate Gail Blackmer as Secretary, Val seconded, motion carried.
- Bill moved to nominate Todd Reynolds as regular board member, Bruce seconded, motion carried.

At this time the Treasurer position remains undetermined, as treasurer duties are best suited to a local year-around resident vs. the other positions which can be adequately filled remotely. It was decided to appeal to the full membership for recruitment of another board member who could serve as Treasurer.

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

### **A. Continuous Outflow Committee**

1. Outflow creek condition – Bill reviewed beaver trapping activity and discussion followed regarding Deer Lake water levels affected by the remaining beaver dams on the outflow creek. Email updates have been communicated to the membership outlining high water and low water levels and how that makes a difference in flooding, erosion, or the ability to utilize docks, boatlifts, and access to lakes. The gauge level is at 4.5 now, still somewhat low but rising due to fall rain. Volunteers on the Continuous Flow Committee will meet to determine when to remove the remaining beaver dam before freeze-up. Further, the mud motor has been very useful in navigating the creek, a decision on compensating for use of this motor will be made next spring.

**B. Membership Committee** – Val Cromell, committee chair, provided a report on membership activities. Currently, DLWA has 125 paid household memberships. 10 renewal reminders have been sent out and she is keeping track of renewal dates for the next set of reminders to be sent. The board thanks Val for the diligent work at keeping our Association in a healthy financial state by maintaining our core memberships!

C. Events – While summer events remained cautious, the Flotilla and On-Shore gathering at Hideaway beach on July 4<sup>th</sup> went well. Thank you to board members and others who worked to host this event - Bruce and Cheryl Steege, Vaughn and Nadya Duitsman, and Hideaway crew!

The annual meeting at Carpenter Town Hall had fewer participants this year but we were able to host the public business meeting with light refreshments. Help from Vaughn Duitsman, Todd and Dawn Reynolds, Val & Bill Cromell, Loey Master, Bruce and Cheryl Steege, and Jim and Joyce Clarke is appreciated!

The outdoor banner advertising the Flotilla and Annual Meeting needs replacing. Gail will get an estimate for a new set of banners to display at the site of the DLWA sign on Co. Rd. 533.

#### OLD BUSINESS

1. Water Quality Testing –Bruce and Bill collected the last sample on Five Island and Deer in September. Matt Gutzmann from SWCD performed the test sampling on Battle Lake. DLWA volunteers Bruce Steege, Bill Cromell, and Larry Blackmer are recognized for their time and use of marine equipment to get this project done over the past summer!

2. Website Update – Vaughn Duitsman is administering the website, adding meeting minutes and other updates on DLWA activities. Vaughn has the ability to check on use of the website and reports that we do have visitors to the site.

3. Map of watershed – Val continues to be in touch with DNR map specialists in order to produce the most accurate map of the territory that our watershed encompasses.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. 2021/22 Winter Newsletter – The board would like to be able to put out a newsletter again this Fall/Winter. Discussion and planning the newsletter needs to be done through emails rather than including in this meeting, but we did note that each member of the board should be considering topics to include and which articles we are able to write. An email to general membership will be sent asking for ideas and volunteer authors. The board will approve all submissions in order to maintain articles that are factual and respectful.

2. DNR visit to creek between Pickerel and Deer Lake – Bill reported that Rian Reed from MN DNR observed the creek which is currently blocked with a sandbar at the Deer Lake side. Bill, Vaughn, and Denny Carlson met there to address possible dredging to open up the flow. Consideration centered on fish spawning activity in the creek. At this time it does not look very positive that the Fisheries Department is interested in doing this. The creek has been used as access to both lakes but is not navigable this year. Todd R. provided information from his conversation with an aquatic plant specialist regarding replanting of rushes which could change wave patterns to prevent the build-up of sand.

C. Adjourn - Vaughn made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Motion **supported** by Travis, meeting was adjourned. **Next meeting – December 13, 2021**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gail Blackmer, Secretary.