

## **PRAIRIE LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**

### **MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 4, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 1:35PM by President Merritt Linzie.

The minutes of the previous meeting held May 29, 2016, were read. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as read. The motion passed.

Treasurer Sandy Fontaine distributed the Treasurer's report. As of September 1, the checking account balance was \$3909.87, member share was \$26.16 for a grand total of \$3936.03.

Membership units at the beginning of the meeting totaled 89.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion passed.

Wayne Thom reported that beavers were still numerous in Prairie Lake due to very low beaver prices. Wayne has captured 6 more beavers from the outlet area and Bay Point Road area and presented a bill for \$280. (The association has authorized up to \$1000 for beaver management. So far, 11 beavers have been captured this year at a total cost of \$600) Wayne also informed the group and DNR that an otter was captured. The beaver management will continue with the remaining authorized funds. The Township will be asked to participate in this activity.

Ken Hallberg reported on current and past water quality testing. Four monthly 2016 test results are: Total Phosphorus average 32.5, (impairment level is 30), Chlorophyll-a average 16.7, (impairment level is about 10), Calcium average is 11.7, Sulfide is less than 3. Long term levels for Total Phosphorus have been above and below the impairment level of 30. Twenty year tests of Chlorophyll-a have been between 5 and 16. Both Phosphorous and Chlorophyll-a contribute to algae growth.

Impairment designation of a lake would start a Total Maximum Daily Load study required by the federal Clean Water Act. Such a study and analysis would determine the maximum amount of a specific pollutant that a water body can safely handle and still meet beneficial uses.

Clarity readings for Prairie Lake this year are about 4-4.5 feet compared to 5.5 feet in 2015. Clarity of Hasty Brook began this year near 100cm and recently at 56cm. Clarity of Prairie River has been over 100cm.

Three pair of nesting loons with successful hatches were reported. Recently, only one young loon has survived.

Scott Moncur reported that all buoys are under the care of volunteers.

There has been no response to an e-mail request for a coordinator for the Adopt-A-Highway program. There was a motion and second to discontinue association sponsorship of this MnDOT program. The motion passed.

Kelli Rae Theiss reported that water levels decreased 5.5 inches from early May to the beginning of July then increased 10 inches in mid- July. This was followed by a 12 inch decrease by early September.

The 2015 DNR Fish Assessment Report will be posted on the Prairie Lake web site: [www.prairielake.org](http://www.prairielake.org).

Most Prairie Lake Improvement Association Officers have served long terms; 4 to 18 years and some are asking for relief at next spring's election. General duties will be outlined and posted on the web site

There were 6 member comments received on registration forms. Topics included repeal of the Northern Pike regulation, concern over the invasive large snails, lower seasonal property taxes, lack of property owner contribution, and thanks for the work of the association.

Prairie Lake is part of the Upper Mississippi River Watershed between Grand Rapids & Palisade. Studies began last year. Strategies for restoration or protection will be developed by 2018. The strategies and implementation will be influenced by citizens, professionals and civic leaders. Meeting attendees were asked to contribute citizen "stories" about what you feel has changed with Prairie Lake, what changes you would like to see for the future, and what you feel is important for your lake experience. Forms were available to be sent to Aitkin Co. SWCD.

A 2015 Lake Minnewawa survey of shore owners indicated about 21% were permanent residents and 60% of all owners have been there for over 15 years. Favorite lake experiences are: fishing, boating, being there, wildlife and swimming, in that order.

The meeting adjourned at 3:59PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Merritt Linzie, acting Secretary