

**Minutes
Ida Lake Association
Spring Meeting at Large
Ida Township Hall
May 25, 2013**

President Dian Lopez called the meeting to order at 9:10 am

Dian welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Secretary's Report. Jim Conn made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2012 Annual Meeting as printed. Cliff Drenttel seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Jim Peterson. He reported a balance of overall total assets of \$ 70,883.11 and a membership total of 106 as of April 30, 2013. Andy Lopez made the motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Dan Berke seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Steve Henry - Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District. Steve Henry gave a presentation on how contaminants move along with the water runoff into the lakes. Steve is working with the public and the county in an attempt to reduce the amount of runoff that goes directly into the lakes. The main issues he is working on are identifying the critical spots around the lakes, obtaining financial and cost share assistance to work on the critical spots, educating and training the public on the issue and dealing with agricultural properties around the lakes.

Steve reported that Ditch 23 is one the major sources of runoff entering into Lake Ida. The majority of the runoff into ditch 23 comes from agricultural lands. There is a system of tiling draining area agricultural lands into the lake. The other source of runoff is the City of Garfield's sewer system. The City of Garfield currently has three holding ponds and is limited in the amount of contaminants they are allowed to flush into the system. The current sediment pond has outlived its usefulness in filtering out the agricultural and other sediments that end up in the lake. Currently the agricultural land is supported by the county and judicial officials, but changes are starting to be made and the officials are starting to see the benefit of protecting our lakes.

Steve has developed a plan for a 32 acre wildlife wetlands that would significantly reduce the amount of sediment and pollution that flows into the lake. The cost of the plan is about \$800,000. There may be some legacy funding available for the project.

What can be done?

- **Clean out the 3 acre sediment pond.** The ILA could fund cleaning out the sediment pond. We could contact Tom Anderson, Douglas County Ag and Drainage Inspector, to see if any funds are available from the ditch tax to help with this effort. Steve can get a cost analysis on cleaning it out as he has records available. It would be hard to get funds from the ditch tax and this would be a temporary solution as the benefits would only last a few years.

- **Politically.** We can contact our local commissioners and let them know the cost benefits of protecting our lakes from major sources of pollution.
- **Testing.** The ILA can take samples twice monthly by ditch 23 and test for phosphorous. The tests would cost \$13.00 per test plus \$6.00 shipping. We can send the tests to RDD Labs along with other tests and eliminate the shipping costs. Testing the area for a year would give Steve the necessary data he needs to support his efforts with the county.
- **Committee.** Jim Conn made a motion to form a team to monitor the flow out of ditch 23. Candace Ellis seconded the motion. Motion approved. Jim would like input from Steve on what tests we need to take and what information that he needs. Dian Lopez volunteered to work with the commissioners. Candace Ellis and Bud Nielson volunteered to help.

Andy Lopez made the motion to pay for the phosphorus tests for ditch 23 up to \$150 plus freight. Jeff Johnson seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Andy Lopez made the motion to support Steve Henry in his efforts to clean up and protect Lake Ida. Jeff Johnson seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Lake Charlie Dam. Dian gave an update on the Lake Charlie Dam. Dean Beck from the DNR office in Glenwood had a hydrologist come out and check on the dam level. It was determined that the current level is correct. Dean Beck will have the rotting boards replaced in the dam by the end of June.

Directors. Dian introduced the directors present at the meeting. She informed us that District 4 needs one director and District 10 needs two directors.

Worm Spraying. Dian stated that some districts are working on their own to get their districts sprayed for Army Worms. If other districts are interested, information can be obtained from Dian, but it has to be done soon.

Fourth of July Boat Parade. Dian announced that the Fourth of July Boat Parade will be on the north end of the lake this year. Details will be provided in June.

Fall Meeting. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will have a speaker available at the meeting. We are also planning on having a potluck at that meeting.

Fish Stocking/Committee. Jeff Johnson reported that the ILA stocked 650 lbs. of walleye fingerlings last fall. Some of the fish were up 13 inches long; the average was about 10 inches long. Jeff spent the day with Jim Bosek at the hatchery. He helped harvest the fish from the rearing ponds and release them into the lake. Jeff showed pictures of the process. Jeff reported that we received a donation of \$1,000 from Vikings Sportsman and Individual donations of \$1,000 and \$500 for fish stocking. Volunteers are needed for the fish committee. Contact Jeff Johnson or Cliff Drenttel if you are interested.

Zebra Mussels. Dian informed everyone that the ILA is working with Ida Township to monitor the lake accesses to educate and stop the spread of zebra mussel and other invasive species again this year. A grant in the amount of \$7,700 has been received. A committee was formed with Tom Searcy and Barb Kilgore from the township and Dian Lopez and Greg Holl of the ILA. The committee has hired 6 people, who will be working at the lake accesses this year.

Curly-leaf pondweed. Dian reported that we received a grant for \$1500 to treat the area in Little Ida, but the DNR has looked at the area and said that it doesn't need to be treated this year.

Water Monitoring. Wes Smith and Jerry McClure will continue to test three sites, five times a year like they have in the past.

What would you like to see from the association? Candace Ellis said she thought more communication is needed with the property owners and to make more of an effort to explain the issues affecting Lake Ida. Having a newsletter three times a summer instead of two and putting more information on the website were suggested.

Adjourn

Andy Lopez made the motion to adjourn at 11:00 am. Dan Berke seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Respectively submitted
Barb Kilgore ILA Secretary