

**Minutes
Ida Lake Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Ida Township Hall
April 24, 2021**

Members Present

President – Elaine Greer	Vice President – David Geddes (via Zoom)
Treasurer – Mike Kleve	Secretary – Pamela Phillips
District 1 –	District 10 – Frank Steen
District 2 – Grace Alberg	District 11 – Dave Murphy, Bob Reed
District 3 – Jeff Sorum, Jim Phillips (Zoom)	District 12 – Dan Montgomery
District 4 –	District 13 – Mike McNab
District 5 – Mike Shaughnessy	District 14 – Jim Conn, Elke Richards
District 6 –	District 15 –
District 7 – Tom Duxbury	District 16 –
District 8 – Bud Nielsen, Lee Katzmarek	District 17 –
District 9 – Andy Lopez, Dian Lopez	District 18 – Matt Gunlogson
Past President – Dick Sudmeier	

President Elaine Greer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Introduced Matt Gunlogson, new Director to D18. Roger Schultz new to D15 was unable to attend.

Guest Speaker: Douglas County Water Quality Legacy Fund (WQLF) – Steve Henry
This organization is a non-profit established to support water quality and clarity projects in the county.

For projects that need to raise the 25% match to the County's 75%, how do associations find these funds? Some counties have a tax. Douglas County set up a committee to study this issue. Douglas County Lakes Association decided to take the lead and establish a non-profit (Jerry Hagenmiller's idea). Lake Ida's Ditch 23 project was an impetus for this idea. West Central Initiative handles the finances for this non-profit, as well as numerous other non-profits in the Douglas and nearby counties. Douglas County Soil & Water Commission (DCS&WC) and the Douglas County Commissioners have reps on the committee. County Commissioners donated \$50,000 a couple of times; the Legacy Fund now has \$100,000 from the County. In January 2020, the Fund started fundraising, and then COVID slowed everything down. They have raised another \$100,000 in commitments. Some are smaller \$1,000 donations and others are larger \$10,000 donations. Even small amounts from individuals help.

The Legacy Fund is not raising money solely for Ditch 23 project. The Fund also funded the match portion of the terracing on the north side of Ida along County Rd 5 where sediment

was running off the farmland into the north end of Little Ida Bay. The Legacy Fund provided the \$17-18,000 toward the 25% match.

Ditch 23 is a \$900,000 grant/project. The required match is about \$220,000. With in-kind spending from the county, other organizations (such as residents or lake association) are responsible for about \$170,000 for that project. It sounds as though Ditch 23 is currently a high commitment project with them and the Legacy Fund is willing to fund this project's match.

Donations to the Legacy Fund are tax deductible and help to support many water quality projects in Douglas County and, of course, they directly or indirectly affect Lake Ida.

Discussion: Elke Richards noted her support for the Fund because it supports all our waterways. Dick Sudmeier also noted his support for the Fund because of their proven willingness to help fund big projects.

Directors discussed the addition of a donation option on our annual dues sheet and on our on-line giving page that would allow ILA members to contribute directly to the Legacy Fund? ILA should put information and/or a link on the website for people to get more information about the Fund.

Meeting Agenda Frank Steen moved to approve the agenda. Dave Murphy seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Secretary's Report Dick Sudmeier moved to approve the minutes. Bob Reed seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report as of the end of March 2021.

Total investment assets of \$55,615, cash assets of \$32,726; Total assets of \$88,340.

Membership dues paid so far in 2021: \$650, 26 memberships.

Bills paid:

- \$351 to Insty Prints for the Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) waiver letter to homeowners.
- \$150 to Postmaster for PO Box rental and stamps.
- (\$135) premium reduction for Country Financial for the Directors/Officers liability insurance.

Jim Conn moved to approve the bills already paid for the record. Dian Lopez seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Open commitments:

- AIS for CLP survey \$900
- PLM for CLP treatment (unknown total until survey is complete, but likely around \$2,000 for our portion after grants and DNR provision)

Mike McNab moved to approve the open commitments and approve the Treasurer's report. Elke Richards seconded the motion. Motion approved.

The ILA Financial audit of the 2019 financial records was done in October 2020 Glen VanAmber and Andy Lopez. They noted that the financial records fairly represent the financial position of the ILA.

Old Business

Pilgrim Point Park (Committee): Elke Richards and Jim Conn attended a meeting 2-3 months ago to brainstorm with the park board. They discussed environmental factors regarding the park – grass for filtration, etc. with a goal to protect the lake from erosion. Boats will be allowed to pull up on the park shore since it will be public property.

Wednesday April 28th there is an open house from 3-6 p.m. at the Park Board – Douglas County Public Works – conference room entrance at back of building to present initial thoughts and plans for public consideration.

The Park Board has been transparent and open minded to input from public and ILA. They are keeping the current bathrooms. There will be North and South public beach areas. They are considering picnic tables, etc. There may be a multi-purpose building in the future. Under consideration: food trucks on the weekends, a water fill station.

The Park won't be open until summer 2022.

Plans will also be on the County website for those who can't attend the meeting.

www.co.douglas.mn.us

Discussion: Concerns about public access. Most of the boat traffic on the point will be from lake residents. May be possible to get Brad Bonk to speak at the August Annual membership meeting.

Survey Monkey response on the park plans – The highest requested items were gas pumps and a restaurant.

Pilgrim Point Development (Elaine Greer): Commercial development for private lakeshore property is awaiting the environmental assessment. They may have to do an archeological native burial assessment. Old camp structures are already being removed. Rainwater issues are being addressed. The North side will not have dock restrictions for homeowners – they may have individual docks. Zoning is residential shoreland. No change to zoning is proposed. Homes will be one per platted lot.

Aquatic Invasive Species (Bob Reed):

ILA is receiving \$3,600 from DNR and \$16,573 from Douglas County in grants for treatment of CLP. ILA's commitment may be around \$1,925, depending on the total cost of treatment. ILA requested an expanded survey area, so there will likely be more treatment areas. ILA included the estimated additional cost in the grant request to be sure we could fund a substantially larger treatment area. The amount of CLP found in Lake Ida matches what other lakes have found.

Another lake in the area has Starry Stonewort – we must keep on top of it as it gets out of control very quickly.

Bob Reed and David Geddes have agreed to really be on top of it this summer.

A lot of the weeds being found in Little Ida are native plants and not all CLP. Unfortunately, the clarity of the water has a lot to do with the abundance of weed growth.

ILA did not receive any requests from residents wanting to be omitted from treatment, per the letter that was sent to all property owners. We will notify property owners when the treatment is done when the water reaches the correct temperature for treatment.

ILA was approached about a partnership with Lake Miltona to see if we can get a more reasonable price for treatment if ILA joins with Lake Miltona for the CLP treatment. David Geddes will follow up this issue.

Additional Watercraft Inspection Hours – We need to turn in an application for additional hours (\$13/hour) if we want more hours. Maximum additional is 150 hours per lake and can be made in 5- or 10-hour increments. DCS&WC covers half the cost. ILA paid \$1500 last year. Inspections are done May 21 – Oct 11, generally between 5 am and 9 pm, 7 days a week, with Friday through Monday the focus.

Discussion: Can ILA more specifically control the times or days of the week our launches are monitored? Can we find out what they did last year on our lake?

Elke Richards will get more information on level 2 monitoring (cleaning boats) to see if it's feasible. She will also check into dates for fishing tournament, etc. so that we could better plan our additional hours.

Pamela moved to spend the additional money for boat monitoring. Lee Katzmarek seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Ditch 23 Update (Elaine Greer): Elaine spoke with Jerry Hagenmiller. Barr Engineering will do the design. The plan still must be approved. They will start this fall or winter – apparently the frozen ground in low lying areas is almost better for the construction. The project requires about a \$170,000 sharing cost. The County mentioned that the in-kind spending could be substantial, so the shared cost may not be as much.

Discussion: More discussion as to whether we are going to financially support the Legacy Fund and hope that they will cover this project for us? Based on their commitment to the project on the north end, and their apparent commitment to Ditch 23, the consensus was that this Legacy Fund is a valuable organization for water quality and that we should support it.

Jim Conn moved to commit \$25,000 from ILA to the Legacy Fund. Dian Lopez seconded the motion. **Discussion:** – Elke Richards noted that it feels like a lot of money right out of the door before the Fund has more history. Jim Conn noted that it would be a huge statement to people in the county and would encourage more donations to the Fund from

organizations and individuals for broader funding of water quality projects in the county. And ILA would look to have the Legacy Fund cover the entire matching funds required by the grant. There was additional discussion of these same issues. The motion passed to support the Legacy Fund with a donation from ILA of \$25,000.

ILA will post information to make it clear what the organization does and what the benefit is to ILA.

Fish Survey/Stocking (Committee): \$332 donated so far. We still have a shortfall in the stocking fund, so there will likely be a pause in stocking this year. ILA had also established the Fish Stocking Committee last year to further investigate the benefits of stocking and allow us to get our fund healthy again. DNR has an overstock of fingerlings this year because they weren't able to stock all the fry they had last year (only stocked about 80% of what they normally do), and they were put into holding tanks and have grown into the fingerlings that we like to stock. So, it's possible they will distribute fingerlings free of charge, and ILA may be able to request some of those and still do some stocking. The committee noted that walleyes are sensitive to light, and because of the clarity of the lake, the light is reaching deeper now, and therefore the walleyes go into the weeds and deeper water. People are still catching walleyes on Ida. The committee will be meeting to discuss more options.

Boat Landing Lighting (Duane Doucette): Duane wrote a letter of proposal. They received two grants from the REA Roundup program for \$450. Lighting at the landing on the north side of Pilgrim Point would help with preventing crime, especially once the park opens in 2022. The planned lighting conforms with Dark Sky initiatives. The project would cost just over \$3,000. After the grants, they are asking for \$2650 for the project. Mike Shaughnessy moved that we fund the \$2650. Jim Conn seconded the motion. Motion approved.

New Business

Directory: Mike Kleve will send out an updated membership list to each Director with new property owners who have become members, and updated payment information on past members. All paid members are eligible to receive a printed directory. Let Mike know if you need more directories for distribution. We had 496 members at the end of the year, one of the highest membership numbers ever. We noted that we might have to redistrict with the development of Pilgrim Point, depending on the additional number of units.

Dues Discussion: Should we increase dues from \$25 to \$30? While a \$5 change is not much, we need to explain what ILA is doing with the money. Good communication about ILA's good stewardship of its money by leveraging grants wherever possible, expanding CLP treatment areas, and now with the big donation to the Legacy Fund, which will bring a bigger return toward project matching funds that ILA would have had to solely fund. Jim Conn moved to increase 2022 dues by \$5. Elke Richards seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Spring Newsletter: Get information to Sara Hnath as soon as possible, as the spring newsletter generally comes out prior to the May general meeting.

Lake Nelson Project (Elaine Greer): Lake Nelson in Ottertail County has been flooding the road and there is a proposal to drain the lake down 3 feet. The lake is high in phosphorus. It would drain through several watersheds and potentially make it all the way down into Lake Miltona and the Lake Ida at some point in the future. ILA sent a letter strongly opposing their plan. They just sent a lengthy engineers report to Elaine. DCLA is on top of this issue and opposes the project. There is a hearing coming up, and Elaine will continue to be involved. Lake Miltona committed funds to DCLA and wants to get some legal efforts into this.

4th of July Boat Parade: The 4th of July Boat Parade will be held on Sunday the 4th (rain date will be Monday the 5th). Boats will meet on the north side of Pilgrim Point at 10:00 a.m. and will be led by Jim Conn in his Chris Craft. Boats will head to the north end of the lake this year – attempts will be made to make loops in both Little Ida and Big Horn and along the east and west shorelines, but this is always weather and wind dependent.

Spring Road Cleanup: Saturday May 1st. We will meet at Pilgrim Point and Co Rd 34 at 9:00 a.m. Pamela Phillips will pick up vests from the County Works office on Friday and will check with Jim Peterson about the poker sticks. An email will be sent out requesting volunteers.

Other New Business: Will we be able to have a full membership meeting in May? Only 50 are allowed in the Township Hall. We will advertise the meeting as first come-first serve for 50 people. If possible, we will have standing room overflow in parking lot and will see if we can put a speaker out to the parking lot and use the microphones inside.

Johnson Bay Hearing. On April 6th, the Douglas County Commissioners held a public hearing to approve a change to the Water Surface Use Ordinance for Johnson Bay on Lake Ida. (Johnson Bay is an inlet on the west side of Lake Ida south of Schwab's Bay.) The Ordinance used to say that no person may operate a motorboat any time within Johnson Bay. The Ordinance was amended and approved by the Commissioners to say, "No person may operate watercraft propelled by a motor powered by anything other than electricity (electric trolling motor) within Johnson Bay of Lake Ida (21-0123) as marked pursuant to law by the Douglas County Sheriff's Office located in the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter and the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 22 of Township 129 North, Range 38 West (Ida township)."

Next Directors Board Meeting: Saturday, May 22, 8:00 a.m.

Spring Membership Meeting: Saturday, May 22, 9:00 a.m.

Adjourn: Elaine Greer moved to adjourn the meeting. Pamela Phillips seconded the motion. Motion passed; meeting was adjourned at 11:23.

Respectively submitted,
Pamela Phillips, ILA Secretary