

**Draft Minutes
Ida Lake Association
General Membership Meeting
Ida Township Hall
May 22, 2021**

President Elaine Greer called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Elaine extended sympathy on behalf of ILA to the Danny Haak family on his passing.

Elaine shared the mission of ILA:

- A. To promote the Care and improvement of Lake Ida and adjoining properties
- B. To disseminate information to the membership which will tend to improve the policies and operations of the organization
- C. To disseminate information to the membership regarding governmental and technical developments in the field
- D. To serve as the voice of the membership in matters under consideration by Federal, State or local government bodies and other agencies
- E. To promote and represent the Association in the development of research and standards for lake management
- F. To seek enforcement of laws which affect lakes and watersheds
- G. To promote the welfare of lake and watershed management interests in any other way deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors

Elaine thanked the Directors from each district for serving on the ILA Board of Directors.

Secretary's Report Pamela Phillips directed people to the website for the past meeting minutes since ILA hasn't had a full membership meeting since August 2019.

Treasurer's Report as of April 30, 2021.

Total cash assets of \$31,473; investment balance of \$56,171; Total assets \$87,644.42.

Membership dues paid so far in 2021: \$750 has been received for 30 memberships so far in 2021. In 2019 there were 479 paid members. At the end of 2020, we had a record high of 497 paid members. There are 725 property owners around the lake. Thus far, we have 119 paid members for 2021 (some people paid ahead in prior years).

Old Business

Steve Henry from the Douglas County Water Quality Legacy Fund (WQLF) was a guest speaker. The WQLF Board has broad representation – a Douglas County Commissioner, an Alexandria City Councilman, a Douglas County Soil & Water Conservation District supervisor, representatives from Douglas County Land and Resources, the MN DNR, The Nature Conservancy, and the Douglas County Lakes Association – There are 9 people who each serve a 3 year term. WQLF was established in November 2018, around the time when the first

grant came about to study Ditch 23. Most water improvement projects are done through grants and can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. The grants require matching funds from other organizations of 25%. The WQLF was established as a 501c3 organization primarily to provide the matching funds required by water quality grants.

Ditch 23: Dick Sudmeier reported that ILA committed \$25,000 to the WQLF to help with the required match for the grant to fund the Ditch 23 project. WQLF will be finding the rest of the money to fulfill the match for the project, which is around \$175,000. ILA expects this is the highest priority of the fund right now, and while the WQLF can't "guarantee" that the full amount of money will be raised for this project, they have shown good faith in helping Lake Ida projects (such as the terracing on the farmland on the north side of Little Ida) without ILA asking for their help, and without ILA prior donations to the fund.

Gerry Hagenmiller of the Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has notified ILA that the SWCD approved the agreement with Barr Engineering for the final design of the diversion ditch and revamping of the existing sediment pond. They have gone over scope of work and permitting issues that need to be addressed. SWCD will obtain detailed elevations of the area where the diversion ditch will be constructed and also the existing sediment pond. Construction will likely start in the fall/winter or early spring.

Fish Survey/Stocking: Four years ago when there weren't any fingerlings available ILA made a \$48,000 commitment to be spent over 3 years. ILA completed that commitment in 2020. We have depleted our fish stocking fund at this point.

In 2020 ILA paid for 1,000 pounds of fingerlings. The DNR gave us an additional 42 pounds of fingerlings since they had an abundance. They also gave us 800+ pounds of yearlings. Most years they've given us extra fingerlings or yearlings. The netting surveys have been poor, but fish have moved deeper, so fishing has changed. It's believed that the fish are there.

AIS Report: David Geddes reported that he and Bob Reed were trained 2-3 years ago by the Minnesota AIS Research Center (MAISRC) in AIS identification. They participate in monthly AIS Connection Calls from UMN and AIS Detectors around the state.

There are 3 invasive species in Lake Ida – two kinds of snails, zebra mussels, and Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP).

Increased water clarity to the 18-20 foot range means that aquatic plants can now grow in deeper water; more light reaches the plants we have.

MAISRC has sequenced the zebra mussel genome. They are working on looking at reproduction, shell hardness, and adhesion as possible future methods of control. CLP has been in MN for 100 years. It can be both dense and cause trouble, or it can be low density.

Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP): ILA will be treating Lake Ida again to help control the spread of CLP. The total cost of treatment is \$16,456 (\$900 for the survey and the rest for treatment). Douglas County will reimburse ILA 75% of the cost. ILA also applied for and received a DNR grant for \$3,600 that counts toward the 25% matching funds requirements. By effectively applying for grants and leveraging the available funds, ILA will be paying only about \$500 for \$16,456 worth of treatment.

ILA expanded the CLP survey to include all of Little Ida, and area off Gehrkes Point, and near Christopherson Bay. Not all areas will be treated because of depth and thermocline restrictions.

Treatment will be on Monday (5/24), weather permitting and will cover 18.7 acres. An email will be sent later today with treatment coverage maps. It is recommended that property owners don't water lawns/plants for about a week from the lake. The chemicals used are an herbicide, but they only affect CLP in the lake since it emerges first and treatment is done before native plants emerge.

ILA's AIS Inspectors have aquatic plant experts coming to look at the other native plants in July when they become a problem.

Boat Inspection Hours: ILA applied for and received a commitment of 150 extra hours of boat inspections at the two southern landings. The county covers 50% of the cost, and ILA will pay \$1462 to cover the other 75 hours.

ILA will receive 75 hours of Level 1 inspection, which includes boat inspection and provides education to boat owners.

ILA will receive 75 hours of Level 2 inspection, which includes a mobile decontamination unit to wash the boats. We only received DNR permission to use the decon unit at the Sugar Sands access.

The focus of the extra hours will be on weekends, but in the past they have also scheduled hours on some Tuesdays and Thursdays, as they have to cover many areas lakes and spread out the inspectors they have. ILA will receive some of the extra hours to cover 2-5 July.

Thanks to Elke Richards for applying for the extra hours.

Douglas County Lakes Association: Dian Lopez is the ILA representative to the DCLA, which helps all lakes. Dian attended the May 12th meeting. Lake Winona was discussed, which has an abundance of chloride. DCLA recommends setting water softeners to go off only when needed, and not just on a set time, to reduce salt going into the sewer system (ALSD dumps into Winona). DCLA also talked about vacation rental property. Wanted a new law with a density regulation. Some lakes have resorts which could already be over the density, so there was objection to it. People who do rent their homes are supposed to report and register with the County. Dave Rush regulates vacation rentals. Rules that are in place should be enforced. Neighbors should be informed by owners about the rentals near them, and someone responsible should be available to be there within an hour to handle any reported issues. We need to know what DCLA is doing, so they will be reporting to the various Lake Associations on what is going on so they can include information in their Newsletters.

Pilgrim Point Park Committee: ILA had 3 Directors on an ad hoc committee so they could be involved in early discussions regarding what was happening with the sale of Pilgrim Point. Because the sale is complete, ILA has dissolved the committee.

There was a Public Hearing recently that showed 2 plans that were being voted on regarding the public park portion of the property (the other part of the property was sold to a private developer). There will likely be two swimming beaches – one on north and one on south side of the point. There will probably be no boat docking areas in the park. ILA encourages members to follow progress on the park on the County's website, attending any public hearings, etc. There was also an Echo Press article on May 21st. Bud Nielsen has talked to the private developer. There will be separate hearings for that development as it progresses.

Boat Landing Lighting: ILA had committed funds to install lighting at the Sugar Sands boat launch. The costs have doubled, and one of the adjacent property owners now objects to the project at this point, so that project is being put on hold for now. \$450 was obtained from REA toward this project, and they said we don't have to return it. ILA will put it toward the fish stocking fund.

Nelson Lake Draining: Elaine Greer and Dian Lopez attended a hearing in Ottertail County regarding a proposal to drain Nelson Lake 3 feet (to prevent road washout). Many are opposed to this project because of the concerns about the downstream effects of increased phosphorus on Lake Ida, as well as AIS. (The water would flow off through Fish Lake, through a creek, through Lake Miltona, and then possibly into Lake Ida.) ILA will continue to monitor this proposal and voice objections.

4th of July Boat Parade: The annual 4th of July Boat Parade is scheduled for Sunday July 4th, (Rain date of July 5th). Jim Conn will lead the parade in his vintage Chris Craft. Gather on the north side of Pilgrim Point at 10:00 a.m. and Jim will lead around the north end of the lake.

Highway Clean-up: ILA has continued to clean up along highway 34 in the spring and the fall. A large crew made quick work of the clean-up this spring.

Johnson Bay: A new ordinance on Johnson Bay (which is near Omaha Beach and near where Ditch 23 comes in) now limits motorized boating to trolling motors only.

Questions/Concerns from Property Owners:

One member raised a question about the water level of the lake and how much higher it is than it was 30-40 years ago. Judy Burkey noted that there is a website that can show past levels.

[Added after the meeting:]

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>

click on "lakefinder"
 type in "ida" "douglas"
 click on "get lake data"
 click on "Ida"
 click on "water levels"
 click on "ASCII"
 Ida lake levels from 1935 – present]

Questions were also raised about getting the word out about wake restrictions. When there are restrictions set by the county due to high water levels, ILA does send out an email or put something in the Newsletter. Otherwise, boaters should follow the MN regulations which set out the rules for how close boaters should be from docks and shores. [*The 2021 MN boating Guide can be found by clicking on the image on the ILA website at <https://www.lakeidamn.org/important-lake-information.html>.*]

A question was also raised about Jet Ski hours, which can also be found in the Boating Guide. [*Personal watercraft must travel at slow no-wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of nonmotorized boats, shore (unless launching or landing skiers directly to or from open water), docks, swim rafts, swimmers, or any moored or anchored boat. Operation of personal watercraft is allowed only from 9:30 a.m. to 1 hour before sunset.*]

Concern was also raised about landscaping contractors blowing leaves and debris into the lake. Tell your landscaping contractors – DO NOT blow leaves into the lake. If you see it happening at a neighbor's home (who may not be there when the work is being done), say something.

Dam – One of the grates had dropped on the dam at the south end of the lake. The property owner who lives next to the dam, Judy Burkey, was concerned about carp getting up into the lake. She cleaned out the grates and repaired best she could until the proper authorities could get out for more extensive repairs. ILA thanks homeowners like Judy who work to keep our lake healthy.

Next General Membership Meeting: Saturday August 28th, 9:00 am.

Respectively submitted,
 Pamela Phillips, ILA Secretary