

Minutes
Ida Lake Association
Annual Membership Meeting
Ida Township Hall
August 28, 2021 9:00 a.m.

Guest Speaker Brad Bonk, Douglas County Park Supervisor:

Brad introduced himself – he has been with the department for 7 years. His wife Lisa and his 3 children are outdoor junkies. He grew up by Appleton, MN on a farm and still helps them. Pilgrim Point Park – last November, Douglas County purchased 8.5 acres of park land on Pilgrim Point – 3,000 ft. of shoreline. Brad showed us a map of the 30-year plan. There are things included in that plan that may not happen for several years but are included now so that they can submit for grants for them in the future.

The county removed the buildings this summer except for the bathroom in the middle, which will be refurbished. The interior is good, but it needs new siding, and a utility closet is needed. It should be up and running by next summer. The road is to be roughed in by this fall. The parking lots will be done by next summer – they will be close to road to preserve green space and will be gravel the first year, and they will pave them in the fall and pave the walking trail through the park. The rest of the plan is to let it sit for a while. They will develop the beaches by getting the weeds off and grooming the sand. They will let the park heal and the grass green back up. Future plans look at another two buildings for bathrooms and shelters, but they will see the use first to see if they need those. Future plans may include a rental building/facility if demand comes from the public in the future. They are keeping the vespers location on the point where the cross was. The cross isn't there anymore, but they will refurbish the area and benches, etc. The former bible camp owners requested that it remain and be available to rent for baptisms, family reunions, etc. It could also support a small wedding of 50-75 people. It is framed in by trees, etc. The county will armor out to the end of the point and will plant native trees to make sure it's stable and won't erode. There is a future place for a playground in the widest part of park on the east where there's less wind.

Brad then took questions.

How long is the walking trail? There will be .5 miles in the park and will go out to the old gate as well. It will be 12 feet wide like the Central Lakes Trail to accommodate bikes and walkers. Eventually it may be extended out to Co Rd 34 and maybe even back into Alexandria in the distant future.

What kind of security will there be? The county had a meeting with the Sheriff's Department. There will be cameras up on bathroom building that will be motion-sensored. There will be low lighting in the parking area for the Sheriff to be able to patrol. The Sheriff will be doing a loop to check on it.

Park hours will be 8 am to 10 pm. They are not nighttime parks – they are intended for daylight hours.

Will there be a restaurant or food trucks? The county is working on a policy for parks in the county. Food trucks currently must be part of an event. They require a permit for a

wedding, etc. Currently, if there is no event, there is no way for a food truck to come sell. That could be changed in the future.

Have they received any grants yet? No. They will start applying for grants. The County Board just adopted the park plan in July. In September, they will apply for a conditional use permit. Then they will apply for grants. In a year they will write grants. (Brophy is finishing up so it will be done. They are also finishing up Chippewa Park). They may also apply for some natural resource grants for trees, etc.

Construction so far? The concrete has been pulled out and they have filled the pit with gravel. They will fill it with black dirt and will plant grass. They eventually want to remove the Black Locust invasive trees on the south shore and replace with good trees – oaks and other shade trees.

There is an orange flag on the corner of the north border. Top of the bluff on the south shore is the east border. The Park owns to the top of the bluff, so no one can harm the vegetation on the bluff. The top of the bluff will be private.

What about garbage? There will be garbage receptacles along the trail and by the bathrooms. Three days a week those will be emptied into dumpsters in the parking area, which will be emptied once a week. The Park bathroom(s) will be cleaned every day. There will be 75 parking spots.

Swimming areas? There will be two swimming areas roped or buoyed off and no boats will be allowed in those areas. There will be no lifeguards. Boats can be pulled up onto shore on the rest of the park. There will not be docks or a marina in the park.

Park lighting will be Dark Skies compliant with covers. Every new lot developed in the county must submit \$300 for park dedication fees. The county uses money from that fund to help with projects like this.

Brad mentioned that digital copies of the park plan are available. Pamela Phillips will try to get a copy for members.

Meeting:

President Elaine Greer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Two directors were in attendance via Zoom (Elke Richards and Jim Phillips).

Welcome: Elaine Greer welcomed everyone and read the Ida Lake Association mission statement.

- 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

Secretary Report: Pamela Phillips noted that past approved minutes are available on the website. Copies of the Newsletters are also on the website. She requested that members submit articles or ideas for articles to her for inclusion in the Newsletter.

Treasurer Report: Mike Kleve quickly went through the Treasurer's report – assets of \$74,366, Walleye Stocking Fund at \$6,893, and 412 paid members for 2021, noting that 67% of property owners are ILA members. Dues will go to \$30 after January 1, 2022.

Reports:

1. Ditch 23: Elaine Greer reported that we have been working on this for years, and it has been funded with a grant now. ILA donated \$25,000 to the Douglas County Water Quality Legacy Fund (WQLF). They are doing the rest of the funding for the project. Barr Engineering is meeting to get the permits through the three agencies. They want to move forward with the project this fall. Requests for bids will be going out this fall. They prefer to do the work in the winter when ground is frozen.
2. Aquatic Invasive Species: David Geddes reported that ILA continued the treatment plan for curly leaf pondweed (CLP) in 2021. ILA is in the process of planning for 2022. The survey is done in late May. Treatment is done shortly after when the water temperature is between 55 and 65. ILA needs to have decisions made ahead of time. ILA needs to expand the treatment in Little Ida and Big Horn Bay in 2022 where it hasn't been treated in the past. The treatment is keeping CLP at bay and in some areas beating it back, but it is an ongoing process.
David discussed the annoying amount of native aquatic plants this summer. Zebra mussels increase water clarity. Plants can grow in deeper areas or areas where they didn't grow before. Water is low, so plants that used to be under water are showing above water. It is permissible to manually cut 2500 sq ft of submerged vegetation in front of your property, but it MUST be removed from the lake, It is illegal to leave it in the lake.
3. Watercraft Inspection: ILA spend additional money this year for more hours of boat inspection at landings and paid for decontamination units on Pilgrim Point landing.
4. Douglas County Lakes Association (DCLA) Report: Dian Lopez reported that DCLA going to have an annual meeting on September 13th at the Legacy at the Lakes Museum and the public is invited to attend. There will be a meet and greet at 5:30, a meeting from 6-7, and a Water Talks Seminar from 7-8 on climate change and water levels.
Douglas County Soil & Water Commission District (DCS&W) will be doing free water tests for nitrates on September 2nd from 9-4. Bring well water that has not been through a treatment system in a double plastic bag or glass jar. Run the water for 5-10 minutes before collecting it.

- DCS&W will be having a bus tour on September 8th from 9-3 and will tour their conservation projects on various lakes. It is free and they provide lunch.
5. Pilgrim Point Shores Committee Report: On the private property development part of the point, most of the lots on the north shore have been sold. They did place restrictive covenants on outdoor lighting on the properties – it must be 75 feet back from the lake and turn off at 9 pm or be on a motion sensor. So, the point will continue to be a dark zone on the lake. There are 24 lake shore lots.
 6. Fish Stocking Committee Report: ILA is not doing any stocking this fall. The committee will be meeting in the spring to get a commitment in pricing from vendors and determine what we can do next year. Donations should still come in, as they will be used for stocking in the future.
 7. Nelson Lake Drainage Project: In Otter Tail County, they put in a petition to have the lake lowered to prevent it from continuing to flood the surrounding roads. Draining the lake would run through Miltona and into Ida. Nelson Lake is full of phosphorus. Douglas County, DCLA and ILA went to their hearings and said NO. The petition has been withdrawn. Their County will raise the road and so it will not flood. However, the Commissioners are still concerned about other roads that may still be flooded. ILA will continue to monitor this and be involved, as we don't want that water affecting our lake quality.
 8. Lake Level – The water is just trickling over the south dam again, so the rain has helped a bit. ILA has no control over the level of the lake. It is all natural drainage at this time.
 9. Ditch Cleanup: ILA will be cleaning up our 3-mile stretch along Co Rd 34 again in the fall. We appreciate the volunteers who help with this.
 10. Dues: Dues will be going up to \$30 after the 1st of the year. Dues paid ahead will be at the current rate. Dues can be paid by mail or on-line.
 11. Lighting: There was a complaint about continued brightness on the shore along Big Horn Bay. A member from Big Horn Bay Cove who was at the meeting confirmed that they had shut off some of their shoreline lights, as promised, and have hoods on them. It may be that what is being seen is from the property owned just to the east of the association. ILA appreciates the cooperation we received from Big Horn Bay Cove when the issue was first raised last year. ILA will investigate the origin of the lighting at issue and may speak with the private property owner.

Procedures for Voting: Pamela Phillips explained the procedures for voting. All members will vote for President and Secretary. Once those positions are ratified, the meeting will be adjourned, and the even-numbered district members will be dismissed. The odd-numbered district members will stay and caucus for their district directors.

Voting for President and Secretary: Dian Lopez (nominating committee) announced that Lee Gustafson was willing to run for President, and he was introduced and gave some information about himself. Dian called three times for nominations from the floor. There were none. David Geddes called for a vote to be taken, and Lee Gustafson received all "Ayes" and was elected as President for a 2-year term beginning in 2022.

Dian announced the Pamela Phillips was willing to continue as Secretary. She called three times for nominations from the floor. There were none. David Geddes called for a vote to be taken, and Pamela Phillips received all “Ayes” and was elected as Secretary for another 2-year term beginning in 2022

Elaine stated that she has enjoyed being President and working with good Officers. She gave thanks to the Past President (Dick Sudmeier) for helping her.

The formal meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m. and the members of even-numbered districts were dismissed.

District Director Elections: Odd-numbered district members stayed to caucus for their directors. Results will be ratified at the next Directors Meeting in September.

District 1 – Jerry McClure and Wesley Smith re-elected

District 3 – Jeffrey Sorum re-elected. **One position remains empty.**

District 5 – Charlie Leonard and Mike Shaughnessy re-elected.

District 7 – Tom Duxbury re-elected. **One position remains empty.**

District 9 – Dian and Andy Lopez were re-elected to ONE shared position, and Lynette Dempsey was elected as a new director for the other position.

District 11 – Bob Reed and Dave Murphy were re-elected.

District 13 – Leon Bresley and Mike McNab were re-elected.

District 15 – Roger Schultz was re-elected. **One position remains empty.**

District 17 – Jean Challeen had intended to step down but agreed to run again so that the district would not be without a representative. She was re-elected. **One position remains empty.**

Next General Membership Meeting: Saturday May 28th, 2022, 9:00am.

Respectively submitted,
Pamela Phillips, ILA Secretary