

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.
  - a. There were 36 attendees plus 8 board members. Board member Dennis Kraimer was not present.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Introduction of Board Members, new Members and neighbors
- 4) The 2024 annual meeting minutes were not read because they are on the website. Minutes were approved.
- 5) Guest Speaker Aitkin Area Fisheries Supervisor Rick Bruesewitz spoke for about 55 minutes with updates on the 2024 creel survey.
  - a. Summary – fishing is good. Walleye fry survival is being monitored.
  - b. Fishing pressure was no different from the last creel survey done in 2003
  - c. Most anglers surveyed were either local or from the metro area.
  - d. Folks surveyed were fishing for walleye, blue gill, small and large mouth bass, crappie, and pike, in that order.
  - e. Watershed management and water quality impacts habitat which is important for fish
  - f. Walleye numbers could be better.
    - i. DNR stocks 800,000 walleye fry yearly. Natural reproduction does not keep up with the walleye population.
    - ii. Regulations are for better catching of walleye, not harvesting
    - iii. 80% support walleye regulations
  - g. Large mouth bass fishing is good, fish being stable in amount and health
  - h. Started seeing small mouth bass in 2021 and they are now equally abundant as large mouth bass.
  - i. We have no carp and want to keep it that way, which is why watershed management is important.
  - j. Buffalo fish – there may be a ruling to limit take of native rough fish, including buffalo fish.
- 6) Treasurer's Report and Membership Update - Jennifer McGuire

- a. Year 2024 ended with about \$86,000 in the cash and investment accounts, with 212 members. Year-to-date membership count for 2025 was 157 plus at least 5 paying at the meeting.
- 7) Website, communication - Cheryl McDonough
- a. The website has had about 6,000 visitors since inception in August 2017. Cheryl listed some of the information that is available on the website, i.e. financials, etc.
  - b. 510 emails receive the newsletters. Since we average about 220 memberships per year, approximately 150 non-paying members and other friends and families of property owners also receive the newsletter.
  - c. The bulk mailed newsletter is mailed to the 372 property owners. Last year cost (\$1,300) and this year cost (\$1,335). We have been reimbursed for the cost of the mailings by an Aitkin County AIS Education Grant.
  - d. The addresses come from Aitkin County
- 8) Water Level and Clarity Report – Russ Hoppe
- a. On the ice out date the water level was 1,254.98. Now it is 8 inches lower than OHWL.
  - b. Clarity on 5/24 was 22 feet. This is 3 feet more than past years on same date.
  - c. Clarity on 6/5 was 17 feet, with about a 3-foot difference from past years on same date.
  - d. Russ plans to pass out AIS booklet handouts to all property owners. His quote, “If we take care of the shoreline the lake will take care of itself.”
  - e. Judy Christy asked if it is OK to pump lake water for irrigation. Russ said it’s probably best to use lake water. The DNR has said it is OK to pump.
  - f. Buffer zones will filtrate to keep the lake clean and also keep out geese.
- 9) Loon update, Artificial Nesting Platforms (ANP)- Scott Scheele
- a. The loon ANPs were placed at DNR suggested locations. There are no nests on them, but within 50 yards there are loon nests.
- 10) Get the Lead Out-Stan Barnes
- a. Samples of lead-free tackle were available at the meeting.
  - b. More stores are stocking lead-free tackle
- 11) ACLARA, ACSWCD, and other Aitkin County Meeting Updates-Cindy Chuhanic

- a. ACLARA lake membership has increased.
  - b. ACLARA works with state legislators. If you have questions, contact Cindy
  - c. Be sure to have your exact address when calling 911. Let them know if a boat is needed to reach the emergency. i.e. if you're on an island.
- 12) Upcoming events – 4<sup>th</sup> of July Boat Parade is Friday July 4<sup>th</sup>. It will go CCW.
- 13) Shore Captain program update – should we continue this program? It's difficult to measure if it makes a difference.
- 14) Bill Haroldson and Russ Hoppe began the Lake Health water testing on Memorial weekend and will continue through September. This tests for chlorophyll "a" and phosphorus. Results will be available by Fall 2025. <https://awlab.com/lakes-program/>
- 15) Through the watershed program, money is available toward the cost of sealing a well. Contact ACSWCD.
- 16) Shoreland management – Score Your Shore. Contact Bill Haroldson for information and also about Bill's new program, FOFIL – Friends Of Farm Island Lake.
- 17) Board Member updates
- a. Cheryl McDonough and Scott Scheele were re-elected to 3-year terms.
  - b. Jennifer McGuire and Mark Fjerstad were newly elected to 3-year terms. Jennifer has been serving as the interim treasurer since 12/2024.
  - c. Bill Haroldson has stepped down from the FILIA Board of Directors. Bill has been on the board for about 12 years, serving two terms as vice president and one term as the president. Bill also represented FILIA at ACLARA meetings for 12 years.
  - d. Mike Harrington has stepped down as a board member. Mike's term had expired last year but he remained on the board until we had a new volunteer board member.
  - e. Cheryl McDonough remains on the board as the secretary and editor of the FILIA newsletter and has stepped down as the treasurer.
- 18) AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) discussion.
- a. It was decided to do a one-time all-AIS late summer/fall survey this year.
  - b. Gordy began the discussion with points 1) we've had Curly-leaf Pondweed (CLP) since 1940 2) the DNR has stated it cannot be eradicated, and if treated it will come back 3) it is snow cover dependent 4) if we decided to treat we would need people's approval, 5) it's an emotional issue, and 6) the board is not ignoring it.
  - c. Gordy asked for thoughts from attendees and the board

- i. Cindy said curly leaf was treated from 2008 -2011, cost \$24,424, on 14 acres by Prairie Lake Restoration and we never got a report, and CLP never went away. It's up to an individual if they want to treat it. We could do a LID which would raise taxes and mean loss of control.
- ii. Mark Fjerstad said they rake the beach weekly and it's dependent on water depths, snow cover, wind.
- iii. Sharon Matthison said we need to identify non-CLP invasives so we can control them before they are bad. We need to communicate to resorts to encourage their guests to inspect their boats. Swimmer's itch is here already and has been an ongoing issue for a long time.
- iv. Stan Barnes, who is also an AIS inspector at the public access, says people he talks to are concerned about this AIS issue. Stan inspected 96 boats Memorial Day weekend.
- v. Judy Christy stated that boats at the Water's Edge Resort are not being checked for any AIS and they are coming in and out all day. The question came up about whether other resorts are being checked.

- 1. NOTE: A few days after the annual meeting FILIA received this email from the Loaf 'N Leisure owner:

"We were made aware of a question on who is checking boats at our Resort for invasive species. We do not have a private launch so the boats would be checked at one of the two public launches when launching if it is staffed. Feel free to let me know if you have any other questions.

Thank you. Matt Yunker | 651-983-6757"

#### 19) New business.

- a. A concern was raised about the many guide boats that go out multiple times daily. Gordy V. said the association has no jurisdiction over that.

20) Scott Scheele passed out \$50 cash door prizes to winners Bill Haroldson, Connie Anderson, Rick Anderson, and Carole Larson.

21) Meeting was adjourned at 11:05AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl McDonough  
FILIA Secretary

These minutes were approved by all the board members, except Dennis Kramer who abstained from approving them because he was not at the meeting  
Gordy Vetsch, Cheryl McDonough, Cindy Chuhanic, Stan Barnes, Scott Scheele, Russ Hoppe, Jenny McGuire, Mark Fjerstad