

LAKE MINNIE BELLE MESSENGER

Fall 2013

LMBIA

Fall 2013 Board Highlights

by Larry Rewerts

Where did the summer go? Leaves are turning color and falling to the ground. Boats, docks and lifts are disappearing from the lakeshore. The water temperature is dropping and a cool breeze from the northwest with snow flurries greets us as we hurry to complete those outside chores. Fall is a time of change. We have also seen some changes within the Lake Minnie Belle Board of Directors. The annual summer lake association meeting produced 3 volunteers to serve on the board. Tom Hess will be our chairman, Roger Jergens will be the vice chair and Dick Baril will be the board representative with the lake captains initiative. Thank you for your willingness to serve Lake Minnie Belle. We now have a complete Board of Directors.

Each year the board seems to be addressing many of the same issues. Invasive milfoil, water quality and lake

stewardship by our residents are some of the major topics of discussion at our meetings. The board has relied on the Lake Management Plan to establish goals, set timelines and determine responsibilities for the projects and actions taken. The Lake Management Plan originated from our public meeting at the Beckville Church center 14 months ago. Many of the ideas and suggestions made at this meeting became a part of this management plan. We review the plan at our monthly meetings and make additions and changes as necessary. You can review the Lake Management Plan by going to the Lake Minnie Belle website (I'll have the address later in this issue).

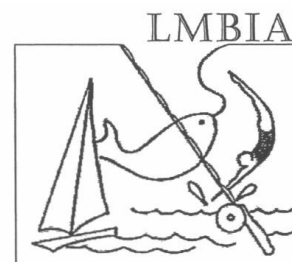
The DNR permitted our association to treat 4.4 acres of milfoil this past summer. Midwest AquaCare was hired to complete the treatment. The acreage was located on the southwest and west side of the lake. We applied to have approximately 24 offshore acres treated for milfoil (which is 15% of the littoral acres of the lake, the maximum amount). Representatives from the board will

be meeting with the DNR to encourage an increase in the acres treated for Curly Leaf Pondweed and/or Eurasian Milfoil next summer. Individual lake residents can apply for a permit to treat their own properties. If shoreline weed growth infringes on your ability to access and use the lake, a permit may be granted by the DNR to treat up to 1/2 the width of your property out to a distance of 150 feet. The cost of this treatment would be the responsibility of the landowner. A number of lake residents, especially on the south and west side individually treat their shorelines. There are a number of companies that perform these treatments. They can assist you with the DNR application process.

Enjoy the fall and the changing seasons. See you on the water/ice.

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Ground Truthing Update

Over the course of this past summer a number of volunteers participated in the ground truthing project that was initially started in 2009. "Groundtruthing" is the process of meeting with lake property owners identified as a priority and reviewing images taken from a 2009 flyover. The goal of the meeting with property owners was to determine if any problems exist and to discuss a variety of environmental subjects with the residents. 77 "priority properties" were sent letters. So far, 65 visits have occurred. The remainder will be visited next spring. A "priority property" was identified by the flyover image reports as having pipes discharge directly into the lake, showing evidence of septic leaching into the lake or having groundwater springs near the shore area. Lake Minnie Belle Property Parcel #'s were provided to Meeker County Planning and Zoning which in turn provided the septic installation and re-inspection dates of these properties.

Volunteers met with the property owners and reviewed the data from the flyover and discussed Best Management Practices which included: Septic system compliance inspections, information on low cost loans, septic system pumping recommendations, vegetative buffer zone information, "Good Lake Stewardship" handouts and "Best Practice Septic Information" handouts from Meeker County Planning and Zoning.

The volunteers compiled a number of observations upon completion of the visits including:

- Property owners were very receptive to meet and complete groundtruthing
- Many requests for information regarding effective vegetative buffers and appropriate lake shore landscaping
- Inconsistency of pumping of septic systems
- Many properties have cement blocks left on the shore in the winter which could have been picked up as a heat source
- A majority of flagged properties of the flyover that identified ground intrusion did not appear to be contributing pollution to the lake
- Spirogyra was evident around the lake by the end of summer indicating there were high nutrient areas.
- There were also a number of recommendations made to the board. These recommendations plus the complete report can be viewed on the LMBIA website.
- Volunteers on this project included Roxanne Jergens, Linda Pagenkopf, Dave Demenge, Jeanine Hess, Bob & Laverne Putzier, John Ditlefsen, Rich & Diane Peterson, Dean Ohland, Randy & Marilyn Buboltz. Thank you for your efforts.

Other LMBIA News

MB2 Inlet Ditch Project

The MB2 inlet ditch is located on the southwest side of the lake next to the gravel lake access road. Sediment deposits and other runoff have resulted in a significant problem. A major cleanup & restoration project is being planned for this winter and next summer. Initially there will need to be removal of many trees. The ditch will also need to be surveyed in order to develop plans for the restoration project. The board is exploring funding opportunities through the township, county and other organizations. I will provide more information as it becomes available.

LMBIA meetings
The lake association meetings are open public meetings. Anyone can attend. Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except December) at the Bonfire Bar and Grill starting at 7:30 p.m.

Lake Captains Initiative

Think you might have identified milfoil or other invasive species but your not really sure. You can now contact 1 of 12 volunteers that have been trained to assist you.

EAST SIDE RESIDENTS contact Curt Wendland, Chris Doyle, Mike Miller

SOUTHEAST RESIDENTS contact Roger Patten, Gerry Burmeister, Tom Schatz

SOUTH RESIDENTS contact Reed & Lynae Burgstahler Wayne Huepenbecker

SOUTHWEST RESIDENTS contact Dick & Roxy Penk,

WEST RESIDENTS contact Dave Demenge, Leroy Hlavka

NORTH RESIDENTS contact Karen Peterson, Randy Buboltz

The lake captains project is chaired by Cindy Hoffman. More on this program in upcoming newsletters

Fall Road Ditch Cleanup

Thanks to Laurie Boll, Linda Pagenkopf, Sandy Holtz, Stan & Sylvia Kittelson, Larry Rewerts and Dan Fitterer for helping keep the roadsides clean.
Environmental stewardship.

Internet Addresses

LMBIA website

<https://sites.google.com/site/lmbiaorg/>

LMBIA facebook

www.facebook.com/lmbia

DNR website

www.dnr.state.mn.us

A special thank you to Mark & Ann Schmidtbauer's Creative Graphics for publishing the LMBIA Messenger.



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LAKE MINNIE BELLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The LMBIA wants to represent the view of all its members. Questions, concerns, suggestions and volunteers are all encouraged. We want active participation from all people living near or using Lake Minnie Belle.

We believe we can work together to continue to maintain the quality of this lake and help ensure its benefits for future generations. Your Board of Directors includes:

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Please contact any Board Member listed above. They can take your concerns to our Board Meeting. Board meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except December). An annual general meeting is held the 3rd Sunday in July at the Beckville Church picnic grounds on the southwest shore of Lake Minnie Belle.