

LAKE MINNIE BELLE MESSENGER

A Newsletter from the Lake Minnie Belle Improvement Association

Fall 2019

Chairman's Corner

Julene Schatz

As I write this article today, the calendar reminds me that it is the first day of fall. How can this be? It seems to me that we all were just putting in all the docks and lifts for summer and now they are coming out. The summers seem to go faster each year, although this year we didn't get an early ice out to help lengthen the season. I hope all of you had a great summer. The leaves are just starting to turn around the lake. Fall is also a beautiful season to boat around the lake if you can keep your boats in for that last ride.

By way of introduction, I was elected as the new chairman for the lake association board for this year. I am taking over the role from Steve Stepien who filled the position for the past several months. I would like to personally thank Steve for his years of dedication and countless hours of time spent on working for our lake. His knowledge base of AIS (aquatic invasive species) has been a true gift to our lake. We will miss his expertise at board meetings but will tap into that knowledge base for future projects and advice. I also would like to thank outgoing board member, Steve Hatlestad for his contribution to the board. Steve was our chief fundraiser heading up membership and advertising for the lake directory. This was a huge time consuming job and he increased our advertisers significantly. The board all hopes to tap into his expertise as we head into the membership drive for the coming 2020 year. We thank both these board members for their dedication and service to our lake.

This years annual meeting at Beckville campground was rained out, but luckily for us the Beckville church fellowship hall was available to use. We so appreciate being able to use Beckvilles facilities and are hoping to

use the fellowship hall for next year's annual meeting rather than the campground. One can never rely on the weather and it is much easier to set up a meeting there. The meeting was well attended by over 60 people. Discussion by the board members attending the meeting centered around the lake landings around our lake. We have one DNR public landing and 2 that are controlled by Greenleaf Township. These are not monitored. One on the west side and one on the east side. They are considerably smaller and not as well maintained as our large paved DNR landing. We are all very concerned about the spread of AIS to our lake and is of prime concern to all of us to maintain the wonderful quality of water that we enjoy. Currently both of the Greenleaf landings have signs posted and chains running across the lake entrance to prohibit the use of the landings. This was done at the direction of the township board at their board meeting. Access to these two landings are being monitored via bluetooth . This information will be shared with Greenleaf township board for their use in maintaining the landings.

Feel free to come to any of the lake association meetings that are held. Meeting minutes and agendas are all posted on our website. If there is a change in meeting dates or times, look for those there. We meet the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Bonfire. Board members and their contact information are also listed on the website. Thanks to Dick and Suzanne for the use of the back room at the Bonfire for our meetings. We have a lot of lake association members that have special talents and gifts. As a board, we know that the task of keeping our lake beautiful is getting harder every year. As new issues pop up, we will be tapping into the knowledge base of all of our lake association members and hope you will be willing to help us out with special projects when we call. Have a great fall and I look forward to seeing you all around the lake!

Lake Minnie Belle

Outlet Update

Julene Schatz

If any of you have been driving by the lake outlet this fall to check on water levels, you may have noticed a lot of recent activity. The dredging of the outlet has started! We are very excited as a board that this is finally happening. You may recall from past newsletters that we did make an attempt to do this work last winter. The excavator had equipment go through the ice and so the project was scrapped for the winter. If the ice wasn't strong enough last year with those frigid temperatures then it never was going to be. So, Plan B. After much discussion at several board meetings, it was decided to amend the route being dredged. We went from going down the middle of the outlet to dredging from the side to the stand pipe that drains into Sucker Creek. Due to the fact that the location of dredging was going to be changed, we needed to amend the permit that we had from the DNR. Outgoing board member, Steve Hatlestad hand delivered the revised permit to the offices in Spicer. Once we received the approved revised permit, bids were requested from 3 excavators. Low bidder was Rickert Excavating and they were awarded the bid. As I write this update they continue to work. We also had outgoing board member Steve Stepien notice that the water level in Sucker Creek was higher on the West side of 624th Ave. than on the east side going under the road. The culvert is blocked with debris and Steve contacted the township board to address this. The township has authorized Rickert's to clean out this culvert as well. So, hopefully with all this fall rain we've had, the water will be able to flow unimpeded and bring the lake levels down in time for winter. This project has been a work in progress for many years and the board is glad to see that it is finally paying off! Hopefully, we will see the benefits of this dredging on our lakeshore. No wake zones are not fun in the summer, but the erosion of the lakeshore can't happen either. We are hoping to have more beach to enjoy next summer with the completion of this phase. As a board, we will continue to look at the problem of backflow into the lake from the farm tiles around our wetlands. The runoff has high

levels of nutrients and e.coli and we don't want to give the weeds any help growing. This remains one of the ongoing projects the board will be working on in the coming year. Your support of the lake association makes these projects happen. We do get grant help, but it doesn't cover the cost of the whole project. Thanks for your continued support of the lake association.



Steve Hatlestad: It's been a long drawn out process. Work began a little over three years ago. The board began work submitting permits to clean out the slew which had silted in over many years. The lake levels remained high due to restriction in the slew. After a number of attempts the board finally received approval from the DNR to clean out the waterway.

Last winter efforts were made to clean out the existing waterway but they were unsuccessful. The contractor was unable to get to the existing channel and the project was halted.

After a number of discussions regarding options the board authorized requesting that the DNR modify the permit to allow digging a new channel closer to the road. That request was submitted and three new bids were received to do the work. Working closely with the DNR the amended permit was approved in a timely matter and work began the first week in October.

After completing the new channel additional work was needed to open the culvert under Old Hwy 22 just north of the DNR landing. The township board agreed to pay that additional portion of the project cost.

The system is now flowing well and will allow the lake level to recede much more quickly in high lake level situations in the spring and after heavy rain events. With the relocation of the channel it will be much easier in the future to clean out the channel.

Thanks to everyone who helped get this project completed.

2020 Lake Association Membership

Julene Schatz



Please be watching your mail and email for separate mailings in late November regarding membership dues for the lake association.

As a board, we have set the dues for 2020 at \$125.00 for the upcoming year. A large portion of your dues go directly into our AIS fund to help if and when we need to access those funds. This past summer we had a 7 day a week boat inspections at the public landing that were only partially funded by grants. The balance was paid out of the general fund. We also have moved ahead with the dredging of the outlet that is only partially funded by grants as well.

The board strives to keep Lake Minnie Belle one of the cleanest and most desirable lakes to fish and enjoy in Minnesota. Your dues and AIS contributions are all tax deductible. Please continue to support your lake association so we can continue the work to keep our wonderful lake clean and safe!

Bee's and Butterfly Project

The Bee's and Butterfly project is moving along, even though the weather has impacted its completion.

To date, in addition to the tree removal, the site has been mowed and the first application of herbicide has been sprayed. Weather permitting, we hope to have the full site tilled and a second spraying of herbicide completed yet this fall.

In spring, we hope to have the site seeded and possibly mowed to reduce unwanted grasses.



New Board Member Jeff



My name is Jeff Bullert and I am excited to be a new board member for the lake association. I am the 3rd generation of our family to own a cabin on the west side of Lake Minnie-Belle. I was swimming in this lake before I even born. My

wife Lisa and I live with our two boys(6 & 3) in Clearwater but spend most summer weekends at the lake. When not at the lake I work as Technical Architect(IT Guy) at Homes for Heroes and my wife is a Pharmacist at the Buffalo Walgreens. I am on the board because I want to keep our lake safe and clean so my children and grandchildren can enjoy the lake as much as we do.

New Board Member Karen



Hello Lake Minnebelle Friends. My name is Karen Dobratz Peterson newly appointed Lake Association Board Member. I wanted to write a short bio to introduce myself and let you know more about me.

I was born and raised in Hutchinson and started enjoying cabin life when I was 3 years old. My property was bought and owned by my Grandpa and Grandma Dobratz in 1958. I grew up on the lake and it has been my home away from home since then. I am currently a retired teacher from Eden Prairie School District.

I enjoy family time at the lake boating, fishing and swimming. I am into a healthy lifestyle as I golf, mountain bike, ski, snowmobile and occasionally ice fish.

I have continually had an interest in preserving this beautiful lake and am excited to do the work we need to keep it that way. I have been trained in AIS spotting and will continue to work with AIS education, inspection, lake monitoring and other work needed for our lake while on or off the board.

Hope to see you on the lake soon....

New Board Member Kristin



Hello Lake friends! My name is Kristin Jaquith, I am re introducing myself, this time as a new Board Member. I am still your Newsletter editor & Social Media publisher as well :) My husband Jeremiah and I and our 3 children live on the West

Side of the lake. I am proud to be an Aquatic Invasive Species Detector. This past year I have attended DNR workshops, and meetings to become as educated on AIS as I can to help protect our lake. I am passionate about keeping our lake clean and free of AIS. I look forward to continuing to bring you the News!

Adopt A Highway Highway 22

The fall Adopt A Highway event, sponsored by the Lake MinnieBelle Lake Association, was completed on October 7th.

Some benefits of volunteering are:

- Keeps roadsides beautiful and free of litter
- Public service project for groups
- Shows that Lake MinnieBelle Lake Association members care about their state
- Saves taxpayers money

We had 18 volunteers that day, and Larry and Mary Rewerts completed a section of the highway the next day. Thank you to all volunteers that helped clean up our section of Highway 22.



Update on projects: Don Kotila

Starry Trek

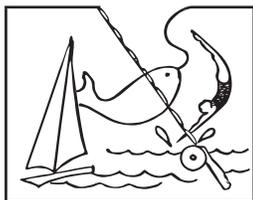


On August 17th the 3rd annual Starry Trek was held on area lakes. Trained volunteers look for Starry Stonewort, an invasive algae that has been found in several Minnesota lakes. My grandson Achillez Jaquith and I participated along with others to check areas around public boat landings for Starry Stonewort and any other invasive species. We took samples from 5 different lakes, and fortunately did not find any new invasive species. This was a very informative event for us, in the battle to prevent Starry Stonewort and other invasive species from spreading. If you are interested in participating next year, I highly recommend it.



Zebra Mussel Monitoring

Zebra Mussel traps were hung on various Lake MinnieBelle docks around the lake in the spring of 2019. The traps were collected in September, with no Zebra Mussels or other invasive species found on the traps. We will put out the traps again next spring, thank you to those letting us use your dock to hang the traps.



LAKE MINNIE BELLE
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
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Check Us Out!

LMBIA website:
www.lakeminniebelle.org (under construction)

LMBIA on facebook:
www.facebook.com/lmbia

LMBIA Email:
info@lakeminniebelle.org

DNR website:
www.dnr.state.mn.us

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LAKE MINNIE BELLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board meetings are held the 4th Tuesday of each month (except December), at the Bonfire Bar & Grill at 7:00 PM.

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