

## MITCHELL LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

September 20, 2012

Chanhasen American Legion

After a social hour, the meeting commenced at 7.p.m. President Jim Nehl introduced Board members present, and gave a visual presentation on the background of MLA and our accomplishments to date.

A motion was made from the floor to have the Board contact to the DNR requesting a reclassification of Mitchell Lake from "environmental" to "recreational." After some discussion, it was suggested the DNR could be sent a letter in the appropriate form to address this issue. Jay Beaton, Gordy and Pat Warner and Bill and Pat Hawkins volunteered to form a subcommittee for the purpose of exploring political and/or legal options for reclassification of the lake.

President Nehl introduced our guest speaker Claire Bleser, District Administrator of the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District. Claire gave a brief history of Mitchell Lake including the consensus that the Solar Bee project was deemed unsuccessful, and the scheduled fall harvesting of Mitchell Lake was cancelled due to reallocation of the remaining 2012 budget. She also gave the audience an overview of what is projected for Mitchell Lake in 2013 in the form of "snow shading" plant management. The concept being to add more snow on ice in the areas of the lake where there is found to be a higher content of curly leaf pondweed, thereby creating a barrier of light filtering that goes to the bottom of the lake to prevent weeds from growing. Claire believes this is worth a try on our lake. Other issues addressed by Claire were: Lake & Stream Management Process; Implementation Plan; Summary of 2012-2013; Engineering Projects for the District. The 2013 budget for Mitchell Lake is \$22,000. At this point, these monies are earmarked for snow shading portions of the lake. The total levy for 2013 is \$1,825,250.

Several questions were fielded from the audience asking for validation that snow shading is effective as an alternative or supplement to weed harvesting and, in her view, what progress has actually been made on lake improvement. Claire stated it is a tough situation because she is unsure if our lake environment is 75% internal or 58% external - the Watershed needs to figure this out. Her hope is the Watershed District and the City can work in collaboration on what needs to happen going forward.

The annual financial report prepared by Frank Spahn was circulated to all in attendance and reflected assets as of 9/20/12 of \$5,925.05.

By unanimous consensus, John Tyler, Frank Spahn and Dennis Seeger were elected to serve a three-year Board term expiring in September of 2015.

Jim Nehl presented 2013 Objectives-Summary – host 7<sup>th</sup> annual cleanup; assist in continued education for lakeshore restoration projects; continue to actively participate with the Watershed District and Citizens Advisers; weed harvest or snow shading; push research for reclassification; and continued AIS inspections.

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole "Coco" Duckstad

Treasurer, MLA