

MITCHELL LAKE ASSOCIATION 2018 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 11, 2018

Where: Chanhassen American Legion, Chanhassen, MN

Attendees: 34 in attendance, including board members: Dave Jackett, Dan Dorst, Pete Iversen, John Tyler & Cheri Nehl (Jason Burnett and Travis Yohn not avail) and Guest Speakers: Dr. Claire Bleser & Leslie Stovring.

After a social hour, President Dave Jackett called the meeting to order at 7 pm. President Dave's agenda included introduction of current Mitchell Lake Association Board members; the background of MLA; introduction of guest speakers Dr. Claire Bleser and Leslie Stovring; MLA Bylaws update; financial report; election of new Board members and 2018 plans.

Board Member John Tyler gave a brief overview of MLA background and past accomplishments.

Dave Jackett gave an overview of MLA communication vehicles including: annual newsletters, recently updated website www.mitchelllake.org, MLA Facebook page, surveys, and Nextdoor Mitchell Lake. Dave then reviewed 2018 objectives and updates including; 12th annual lake clean up, partnering with Watershed District, weed harvesting, goose management, north bay weeds, AIS inspections, record late lake ice out on April 30.

Dr. Claire Bleser, Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District Administrator, gave an overview of watershed activity.

- Lake water quality – Good News!
 - In Feb, Mitchell Lake will get delisted from the 'naughty list' (that is what she called it)
 - Mitchell Lake will be classified as a 'Healthy / Shallow Lake'
- Watershed 10-year plan has been approved and published, but does not have targeted capital for Mitchell Lake until 2027.
- Watershed will continue herbicide lake vegetation management plan
 - They cannot chemically treat the entire lake due to costs and regulations (limited to 15 acres), so they will focus on the major areas.
 - We do have a lot of native/protected foliage, so they need to be careful.
 - Also, removing too many weeds can increase certain bad weeds from taking over.
 - Watershed works with plant biologists and herbicide applicators to optimize treatments.
 - Watershed will mail out notices to homeowners prior to application. The liquid herbicide will not impact wildlife or other plants, but residents should use lake water to water lawns when herbicide is being applied.
- University of Minnesota was given a grant on Weed Control research – Mitchell Lake is included in this research.
- When asked if the Mitchell Pond is considered to be a part of Mitchell Lake, Dr Bleser indicated that the pond is currently viewed as a separate water body by DNR.

Leslie Stovring, Environmental Coordinator for the city of Eden Prairie, gave an overview of environmental lake designation, weed harvesting efforts, goose management, and Sustainable EP Programs.

- Mitchell Lake classification as 'environmental lake'
 - Mitchell Lake was classified as an environmental lake back in 1970's when the DNR looked at lakes that didn't have intensive development
 - As an environmental lake the building setback is 150 feet vs. 100 feet as on Red Rock.
 - Once a lake is designated environmental, it is unlikely that DNR will change classification.

- Weed Harvesting
 - In 2018, the City of EP spent \$14K on Mitchell Lake weed harvesting, covering 15 acres and in the spring and 10 acres in the summer.
 - Vast majority in attendance say the lake is the best it has looked in a long time.
 - Leslie noted that harvesting deeper areas is more effective than the shallow areas.
 - She knows that some of the channels are weedy but they can only afford to get them two times a year.
 - Scuba divers to pull weeds in channels and around docks
 - Dr. Bleser and Leslie Stovring said it would be better than a harvester in the shallows as this is just cutting grass.
 - Dr. Bleser said to make sure you have the proper permits for a company using divers to pull weeds.
 - Leslie Stovring said to make sure the company is properly cleaning their gear to spec. You don't want a diver from Tonka brining in Zebra Muscles for example.
- Geese
 - The City of EP once again removed geese on Mitchell Lake in 2018.
 - Goose contractor did not get as many geese as usual most likely due to late spring snow.
 - Going forward the city will continue to work with residents/neighborhoods that want geese removed.
 - A good way to deter geese from property is by planting a native buffer along shoreline.
 - Residents that want geese removed from their property need to contact Leslie in March and fill out form. She also needs help getting multiple houses, on both sides, to give their permission to go into their yard to round up geese.

Secretary Cheri Nehl distributed 2017 Annual Meeting minutes. Minutes were reviewed and approved. Cheri reviewed proposed changes to the MLA Bylaws. Changes were approved with the amendment for annual meeting to be held in the month of September or October.

Treasurer Dan Dorst presented the annual MLA Treasurer's Report.

Dave Jackett shared October 2018 survey results and led discussion on 2019 plans. Board agreed to follow up on opportunities to address storm water runoff which was not on survey.

John Tyler discussed proposal to begin stocking walleye in lake. DNR is probably going to stop stocking walleyes as there are too many Northern Pike in these waters. More research is going to take place. Walleye stocking is not a high priority for most in attendance vs. Storm Drains and Holding Ponds running into Mitchell Lake with chemicals, etc. Majority in attendance felt having a Northern, Bass and Panfish lake is good enough.

Board elections resulted in Dave Jackett, Dan Dorst and John Tyler being reelected and Todd Johnson joining the Board. After distributing photo contest prizes and drawing for door prizes, the meeting commenced at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheri Nehl, Secretary, MLA