



Clear Lake Association Newsletter

September 2012

Greetings from your Association Board of Directors!

Rick Hults – President	Glen Douglas – Vice President
Dave Kohanek – Treasurer	Robert McElrath – Secretary
Bob Miller – Member at Large	Duane Douglas – Member at Large
Ed Peterson – Member at Large	

The board will be actively working on several projects this year many outlined in the summary from our Fall membership meeting held on September 1st. 2012 at the Pine Inn. Please take a couple minutes to review the summary which gives an excellent review of what our board is doing.

- ✓ **Mark your calendars** for our Spring bi-annual meeting on Saturday May 25th 2013.

Fall membership meeting (9/1/12) SUMMARY:

Treasury Report – We have 76 paid members for 2012, and a breakdown of the years expenses were outlined.

Lake and Watershed Assessment – Assessment was completed this summer. Having our lake's watershed information compiled will help our lake be more competitive when applying for future grants.

Tree Habitat Project – Permit was applied for and four locations have been selected with the help of the DNR fisheries.

Lake Water Testing – Testing results show that the nitrate and phosphate levels in the water remain unchanged and at acceptable levels.

ACLARA(Aitkin County Lakes and Rivers Association) Report – Report outlined discussion related to dealing with the extensive flooding and road damage after the June 2012 rains. One item of interest is they recommend anyone that had lake water within 50 feet of their well water to have it testing since it could have been contaminated.

Aitkin Count Rivers and Lakes Fair – 490 people attended the fair this June which was an all-time record for turnout.

Monitoring the Public Access – There was a poor turnout for volunteers over the 4th of July week. We need more volunteers for the monitoring so if you'd be interested to help there is a DNR training class to certify volunteers to do the boat inspections. Also related to the monitoring was the joint powers project with the Aitkin county township board. We've not



Clear Lake Association Newsletter

September 2012

received support or suggestions for teaming up with a governmental agency to hire a boat inspector for monitoring our lake's public access.

4th of July Parade and Program – The parade attendance was strong however the heat resulted in a low turnout for the after parade program. Dawn Kellen has decided to pass the baton after 15 years of coordinating the 4th of July program. A BIG thank you goes out to Dawn. The Kellen's will still open up their property and the use of all program items to the next coordinator. Dawn has outlined a detailed list of everything she does. There is a 4th of July committee consisting of: Gene Johnson(Sugar Lake Rep.), Alene Lowe(Rabbit Lake Rep.), John Slettom(Beginning of parade host), Dave Peterson(Grange Rep.), Luci Liljenquist(Charter parade participant) and a Clear Lake Board member. With the committee and the details provided by Dawn the new coordinator should be well positioned. In the event no volunteer coordinator comes forward we'll still have the parade however there may not be a program to follow.

4th of July Boat Parade - There was a low turnout for this year's boat parade (which was probably due to the 4th of July falling on a Wednesday and the boat parade held on a Saturday). The winner of this year's traveling trophy for most creative, decorative float went to Kathy Kopp. The traveling trophy also received an upgrade this year getting a red, white and blue paint job from Russ Peterson. Thank you, Russ.

Neighborhood Picnic – We had a good turnout for the Clear Lake Association neighborhood picnic held at the public access August 18th. A total of approximately 25 people attended the get together. Thank you to Patrick Griffith for organizing the event this year.

No-wake restriction – On June 20th 4.5" of rain fell. The sheriff declared an emergency no-wake. Then the County Board of Commissioners put a no-wake on all lakes for 5 days. On July 5th 3.6" of rain fell bringing Clear Lake level within 2" of the all-time high water mark, also about 5" above the OHW(ordinary high water) elevation. The County Board again put a 300 foot no-wake on Clear Lake. It was broadcast on the Aitkin radio station & was on the county web-site, and if the sheriff was called he could tell them of the 300' no-wake. There was a sign placed at the Glen store and one at the public access. This raised the question of what is the ordinary high water(OHW) mark for Clear Lake. The number is 1297.4 feet above sea level. This # can be found at the DNR web-site. Also ACLARA(Aitkin County Lakes and Rivers Association) has requested that we poll our members with the survey that follows in this newsletter.

Election of New Board Members - Ed Peterson, Glen Douglas and Bob McElrath were elected as new board members of the Clear Lake Association in addition Bob Miller and Duane Douglas were elected to a second term of 2 years.



Clear Lake Association Newsletter

September 2012

Here is the Survey from ACLARA in regards to the high lake water and no-wake restrictions. Please complete and give to one of the CLA board members. We'll compile the surveys and send to the ACLARA.

ACLARA Member Lake Associations:

The recent heavy rains and high water levels have caused many serious problems for lakeshore and other riparian landowners, as well as some inconveniences for lake users. Aitkin County imposed a series of no wake restrictions during this time, in order to minimize the damages to lake shores and property, and there was considerable disagreement about these restrictions.

As a reminder, the County initially placed no wake restrictions on all lakes; then, after determining actual lake levels, the County lifted restrictions on lakes that were less than 12 inches above their Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM), and continued no wake restrictions on lakes that were at least 12 inches higher than their OHWM. Lakes that were 12-18 inches above this level were restricted to 300 foot no wake zones, while those with levels higher than 18 inches above the OHWM were completely no wake. A few weeks later all restrictions were lifted, even though many lakes remained higher than normal.

Now that we have experienced these extreme events and the resulting damages, The Aitkin County Lakes and Rivers Association wants to hear your thoughts about the County's no wake restrictions in general, and your evaluation of whether the restrictions were appropriate for your lake. Please poll your lake association members and send us a summary of their responses. Based on your comments, as well as input from local natural resource agencies, we plan to develop a set of recommendations to guide County policy and responses to future events like this.

Based on your experiences and observations, please comment on the following questions:

1. Should no wake restrictions be imposed when lake levels rise to extreme highs? If you answer no, please explain why.
2. If you approve of the concept of no wake restrictions, do you agree that the Ordinary High Water Mark is an appropriate benchmark for triggering restrictions? If you answer no, please explain an alternative benchmark.
3. If you approve of the OHWM as a benchmark, what level above this should trigger no wake restrictions?
4. Do you think that 300 feet from shore is a useful no wake restriction, or should restrictions apply to the entire lake?
5. If no wake restrictions are required, how long should they remain in force?
6. Should violations of these no wake regulations result in warnings or fines?



Clear Lake Association Newsletter September 2012

Your participation is vital to the protection of our lake! Please fill out the Membership Dues form for 2013 listed below. For 2012 we had 76 paid members out of a possible 125 lake properties. That's 60% participation. We'd like to see an even higher level of participation in 2013 so please ask your neighbor if they are a member. If they are not members, please explain the importance of the membership in protecting our lake. With the invasive species in Mille Lacs Lake and others it's important that we do everything possible to protect Clear Lake. Let's see if we can get our participation level to 75% in 2013.

Thank you

Rick Hults, President

Clear Lake Association

-----Please Detach-----

2013 Membership Dues

Clear Lake Membership Application (for new and present members)

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Make check for \$20 payable to: Clear Lake Association

Mail check & application to: Dave Kohanek

28634 State Highway 47

Aitkin, MN. 56431

The back side of this has the ACLARA Survey so you can kill two birds with one stone.