

Late August E-communications Update



Pelican Lake, Ottertail Co, MN

<http://pelicanlakemn.org>

Greetings!

The end of the summer lake season is near. Below are the latest topics of discussion.

PGOLID annual meeting report

The annual meeting of the PGOLID was held August 16th. Moriya Rufer presented information on some of the projects that were a bit different from the yearly projects like zebra mussel veliger and adult counts and phosphorous load modeling of each of the lakes. Property owner efforts to minimize run-off and maintain septic systems do have an impact on our lakes and trends show we are doing a lot of things right. She also talked about the [newly re-designed PGOLID website](#) and where to quickly find things. Overall, the lakes are in a very healthy situation with the phosphorous level in our lakes trending downward and the clarity trending upward. The problems with the DNR effort on the dam were discussed as well as the effectiveness of the mosquito program and control of Curly-leaf pondweed. The annual budget for 2015 (which was the same as 2014) of \$120,000 was passed. Dave Majkrzak said the Minnesota Energy natural gas project is through the engineering phase and out for construction bids. When that is completed, they would be able to provide firm costs for initial signup sometime early next year. Election of board members was held. Gary Hart and Nick Valentine were thanked for their six years of excellent service. Suzanne Lervick was re-elected to her second term while Paul Horstmann and Arlan Swenson were elected to vacant spots on the board. Welcome to the board, Paul and Arlan. More details of the meeting can be [found here](#).

PLPOA August 15th board meeting

Dave Majkrzak and Fred Manual reported on Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) initiatives. They are both now on the board of OTC COLA which is responsible for dispersing approximately \$475,000 in state funds ear-marked for AIS.

Clean up Day discussion was debated again as the costs had soared this year. There are options, but no clear resolution at this point.

Discussion was held on Muskie stocking in Pelican Lake. Muskie stocking has been done by the MNDNR since at least 1983, with support from Muskies Inc. With the small number of muskie fisherman (reported to be 14 % statewide) many fisherman of crappie, sunfish, walleye and other more desired fish are questioning why we allow muskie stocking. Also in January 2015 a Minnesota legislative change will limit the size of a muskie that can be kept to 54 inches or larger in length. The current length is 48 inches, which was increased about 8 years ago from 40 inches. Many believe that the new larger size limit for this aggressive predator fish will allow it to overtake other fish in a lake. There will be questions regarding this in the upcoming survey.

Foundation report

The committee looked into the potential of forming a charitable foundation for our lakes group. They looked at several nearby lake foundations and how they were organized and operate. They determined that our Lake Improvement District does most of the things other lake foundations do, and more efficiently. They looked into the necessary procedures to form a foundation, the required charitable purposes and restrictions, and could do that quickly if a qualifying need arose. At this time, however, they did not recommend starting a foundation.

The PLPOA Survey

The member survey is almost ready and we should have a link to it in the next E-communications. The goal is to better define member desires as well as collect data that might be helpful in negotiating with DNR, county, township, or other groups. The survey will be coordinated by RMB Labs and all the information will be kept anonymous and private so please take the time to fill it out when it is ready.

Special Alert to County 9 owners and residents

As reported to you by our Ottertail County Commissioner, Wayne Johnson, at the August PLPOA annual meeting, Phase 2 of the County 9 construction project affecting all property between South Pelican Drive to Zorbas and north to the County line, is moving forward. Construction will begin when road restrictions are lifted in the spring of 2015. This usually occurs by mid-May, but could be earlier. The County is currently finalizing the construction plans, and has begun acquiring temporary construction easements and right of way parcels from landowners where needed. To read more, [click here](#).

As always, be respectful of others when out on the water.

Sincerely,

Jeff Peltier
PLPOA Communications