



PLPOA E-NEWSLETTER  
January 2017

[WWW.pelicanlakemn.org](http://WWW.pelicanlakemn.org)

Pelican Lake, Ottertail Co, MN

## **E-Newsletter January 2017**

**This E-Newsletter will provide updates on events, projects and issues important to PLPOA Members.**

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## **Greetings From the President**

Happy New Year!

We are getting our share of MN winter this year. The snow is beautiful and bright.

The PLPOA continues to protect the natural assets which we value about life lakeside.

In addition to the contents of this newsletter about invasive species, natural gas and road repair, the PLPOA members are also posing concerns to me about: weeds, traffic speeds, water levels, over-crowding of public areas, light pollution, second tier development and funding of special projects.

Thanks for your concerns and keep those communications coming.  
Please save the dates for our annual meetings: 5/19 and 7/22.

[Sherry, Pres](#)

## 2017 Calendar

01/17/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
03/01/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
04/18/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
05/19/17	4:30 p.m.	Board Meeting - Fair Hills Resort Blue/Green Room
05/19/17	5:30 p.m.	Member Spring Social - Fair Hills Pavilion
05/19/17	6:00 p.m.	Member Spring Meeting
05/30/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
06/03/17	8:30 a.m.	Majors & Captains Meeting - Fair Hills Blue/Green Room
06/14/17		Clean up Day
06/17/17	8:30 a.m.	Board Meeting - Fair Hills Resort Blue/Green Room
07/04/17		Independence Day Parade and Fireworks
07/10/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
07/22/17	8:30 a.m.	Board Meeting - Fair Hills Pine Room
07/22/17	9:30 a.m.	Member Annual Breakfast - Fair Hills Dining Room
07/22/17	10:00 a.m.	Member Annual Association Meeting - Fair Hills Dining Room
08/18/17	4:30 p.m.	Board Meeting - Fair Hills Pine Room
08/18/17	5:30 p.m.	PLPOA Volunteer Appreciation Social - Fair Hills (by invitation)
08/18/17	6:30 p.m.	PLPOA Volunteer Appreciation Dinner - Fair Hills (by invitation)
09/11/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
11/15/17	9:00 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting

# PGOLID Receives Sizable DNR Grant for Fish Lake Dam Makeover



Pelican Group Of Lakes Improvement District (PGOLID) has received a DNR grant to modify the Fish Lake Dam. Thank you so much for the support of \$1,000 that PLPOA pledged toward this project. I feel the extra support this year from area groups is what helped it receive the grant funding.

The current dam will not be removed but will be modified. This should fix the dam permanently so that no new washouts occur or patches are needed. This new fishway will be built to hold water levels exactly as the current dam does, so that homeowners don't notice a difference. To ensure the new fishway functions the same as the current dam, water level monitoring in the stream and lake has already been occurring to establish baseline conditions and will also occur after the project. Construction is expected to start in late summer or fall of 2017 with completion of the new fishway done by early 2018.

Go [HERE](#) for the Press Release

[Moriya Rufer](#)

**Governor Dayton's Town Hall Water Summit**



Governor Mark Dayton and Lt. Governor Tina Smith announced the Administration will host a Town Hall Water Summit on Friday, January 27, 2017. The Summit will focus on the water challenges and solutions in Greater Minnesota and will be held on the campus of the University of Minnesota, Morris. The day-long event aims to bring together local government leaders, farmers, students, environmentalists and businesses. The Town Hall Water Summit is the second large public forum during Governor Dayton's Year of Water Action.

Minnesotans across the state will be able to participate in the Town Hall Water Summit in multiple ways. The Governor's Office and the University of Minnesota, Morris will host a live YouTube stream of the Summit. A link to that stream will be made available on the day of the event.

Satellite viewing locations of the Town Hall Water Summit will be available at University of Minnesota campuses across the state. Individuals planning to participate at a satellite location should register at the link below.

Go [HERE](#) for more information and registration

## **County 9 Road Construction Update**

The Ottertail County Engineers Office has advised the Association's representatives that they have now received all the required approvals from all affected governmental agencies. On January 15th, they will begin accepting bids from firms desiring to perform the project. The bidding will remain open until February 15th, at which time the Engineers Office will select the winning bidder. They will then present the selected bid to the Otter Tail County Board for final approval during February.

The long awaited project will be in two phases. The first phase will be during 2017, and will begin in the spring after road restrictions have been lifted. The work will continue until phase one is completed. The road will

remain open during the winter of 2017/2018. The phase two work will begin in the spring of 2018, again after road restrictions have been lifted. Work will continue during 2018 until the County Engineer determines that the project is complete.

Your Lake Association will continue to update you as the project progresses.

**Jim Beckstrom**

## Natural Gas System Update



Greater Minnesota Gas, Inc. (GMG) wrapped up construction for the 2nd phase of our natural gas expansion late this fall. We would like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during a very wet, challenging construction season. From a restoration standpoint, we will continue to monitor the public right-of-way where the main was installed and will return in the spring to assure that restoration is satisfactory.

For property owners along the 2015-2016 projects you can sign-up now for installation in early spring 2017. Call us toll-free to learn more about heating with natural gas and to schedule an appointment.

We will be expanding our service territory again in 2017 and have received good news from Ottertail County. If you recall, in 2016 we were unable to install natural gas along the west side of Pelican Lake due to the delay in the County Hwy 9 Road Project. In December we were informed that this project is moving forward. Working closely with the County, we will resume installing natural gas main as soon as we are able along County Hwy 9. Additional expansion in 2017 includes areas along the south side of Pelican Lake. While we are doing everything we can to bring natural gas, this phase of the project presents challenges due to private roads which will require property owners to grant an easement for installation to become a reality. If you are a property owner along the 2017 natural gas expansion route you will be receiving information in the mail early January. We are planning to begin to meet with property owners immediately after the new year.

We are happy to help you with any questions or concerns. Please contact our Customer Service Team at (888) 931-3411 or click on contact us at [www.greatermngas.com](http://www.greatermngas.com).

# New Law Requires CO Detection System And/Or Display Poison Warning Stickers

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Watercraft Renewal Information**

RENEW IN PERSON	RENEW BY MAIL	RENEW ONLINE
Bring this card to any Deputy Registrar of Motor Vehicle Office (License Bureau) or visit the DNR License Center at <b>500 Lafayette Rd. St Paul, MN 55155.</b>	*Send this card along with a check or money order, made payable to MN DNR to: <b>MN DNR License Center BOX 26 Boat 500 Lafayette Rd. St Paul, MN 55155-4026.</b> Allow 4-6 weeks for processing.	Visit the DNR website at <a href="http://licenses.dnr.state.mn.us/">http://licenses.dnr.state.mn.us/</a> Click on "vehicle & boat renewal" and follow the prompts.

The **three-year** registration renewal and filing fees are included in the amount listed on the front of this notice. Changes in ownership require additional fees. Registration fees are non-refundable.  
If you no longer own this boat, check box and return card or call DNR License Center. SOLD  DESTROYED

Check this box if you would like a Minnesota Boating Guide

**NEW LAW:** Starting May 1, 2017 motorboats with enclosed spaces that a person can enter will require a functioning marine carbon monoxide (CO) detector system and/or display three CO poisoning warning stickers. Full details, requirements and information on sticker availability can be found at [dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater](http://dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater)

mndnr.gov/regulations | 651-296-2316 | 800-285-2000 (toll-free) | 800-657-3929 (TDD)

Recently a pontoon owner was surprised to see notice of a new law on his Watercraft Renewal Form. The notice states that "starting May 1, 2017 motorboats with enclosed spaces that a person can enter will require a functioning marine carbon monoxide (CO) detector system and/or display three CO poisoning warning stickers." Motorboats must have a functioning marine CO detector if they have an enclosed accommodation compartment, which is defined as a motorboat with all three of the following:

1. Designated sleeping accommodations
2. A galley area with a sink
3. A head (toilet) compartment

The law named Sophia's Law is named for seven-year-old Sophia Baechler, who died from carbon monoxide poisoning while boating on Lake Minnetonka. Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas that can be toxic even in very small quantities since its effects are cumulative over time. Whether inside, outside, underway or anchored, passengers of many types of boats with a motor can quickly become victims of CO poisoning.

Go [HERE](#) for more information on Sophia's Law and new requirements for boaters.

# **AED Stations**

## **Are Being Considered for Pelican Lakes**

Peggy Severson introduced the concept of installing automated external defibrillators at strategic locations around the Pelican Lakes at the PLPOA Annual Members Meeting last August. A defibrillator is a device used for treatment for life-threatening cardiac dysrhythmias, specifically ventricular fibrillation (VF) and non-perfusing ventricular tachycardia (VT). A defibrillator delivers a dose of electric current (often called a countershock) to the heart. A call for input is being orchestrated to assess the interest Pelican Lakes property owners have in the project.

Similarly, interest has been generated to provide a directory of capable health professionals who could be contacted by lake residents in case of a health emergency. If you are interested in participation in either of these two projects, please contact [Peggy Severson](mailto:peggy.severson@pelicanlakes.org) 218-532-2753

## **Walleye An Invasive Species**

Walleye as an invasive species?? Seems like an odd statement, but that is exactly what a recent article stated about Swan Lake in Montana. Someone had illegally "introduced" walleye into this salmon and bull trout lake, and these native fish were threatened if the non-native, predatory fish walleye survived, and established a breeding population. Montana does have walleye fishing, and promotes it in lakes and reservoirs across the state, but illegally moving walleye to a non-native lake makes walleye an invasive species to the new lake. In Montana the penalty for illegal introduction of fish is a \$2,000 - \$10,000 dollar fine, and one year in jail.

When "someone" introduces a non-native fish (or plant or other AIS) to an environment, the ecosystem will change, and native fish, plants and all organisms all have to adjust and make room for the new invader. Sometimes the change cannot be measured, and many times the effect is not recognized or measurable for many years, but the change is there, and the process is not likely reversible.

Society has to decide what change, or what level of risk we are willing to accept as accidental AIS, or intentional non-native species are "introduced" to Minnesota lakes and rivers. One "bucket biologist", one careless lake user spreading AIS, or a small group promoting a non-native fish stocking, puts all our lakes at risk.

On Pelican lake we believe we are seeing a major change in bluegill, crappie, and walleye fishing due to non-native species. MNDNR fisheries would like us to believe all is well with fishing, they tell us they know what they are doing, and they have (and promote) their "selectively sorted data". But we still ask MNDNR fisheries to provide any new MN studies or data

that shows the impact of zebra mussels (or any AIS), non-native muskie, and 54-inch minimum size muskie on any MN lake. They have no data, and we are not aware of any studies within the MNDNR fisheries to find the answers to these problems. Yet they continue to spend millions of dollars and promote the spread of non-native muskie statewide, against the wishes of fisherman, spear house sportsmen, property owners and other lake users. All lake users, property owners and citizens have equal right to provide input to lake fish management issues, not just a handful of promoters of muskie fishing.

The MNDNR fisheries refuses to listen to any concerns or issues we have on the decline of fishing on Pelican Lake, they tell us we are one of the best lakes in the region for fishing. But here is a test/study we can all do, look at the number of fish houses on Pelican (a hand full on the total lake) and then compare that to surrounding lakes where you see "dozens to hundreds" from the road. If our fishing is so great, why has our winter icehouse numbers dropped from over 120 to less than 10? Note; these are "mid-week" numbers, week-ends vary with portable and movable houses, but Pelican's numbers remain a fraction of other comparable lakes in the area on weekdays or weekends.

The MN legislative session has started, please make sure your local and state legislative leaders are aware of your concerns. And if you haven't signed up already, please join our "new" statewide group to fight muskie stocking. If you were a member of our Ottertail county group (TFF-Taxpayers for Family Fishing) you should already be on the new statewide group list. The statewide group, Minnesotans for Family Fishing and Healthy Lakes (MFFHL) has hired a lobbyist, is meeting with legislatures on statewide muskie reform, and informing citizens, please Click [Here...](#)

[PLPOA Sport Fishing Subcommittee](#)

**Protecting Minnesota's Waters:  
If You Don't Get Involved, The Job Won't Get Done**





A recent article by Jeff Forester of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates appeared in the Star Tribune where he expounded on the importance of public action to protect lakes.

If water in Minnesota is going to be protected then we, the citizens, must protect it. Each of us. The federal and state agencies and the courts have done what they can to protect water, and they have accomplished much, but it feels like they are at peak and we still are not where we want to be. Water and fish are still declining, despite spending more than \$100 million dollars a year on "water projects." The missing link has been citizens picking up their jurisdiction, defining their role in water protection, and working to close the gaps that allow water degradation to continue. Each of us in both our professional lives and personal lives has opportunities to protect water resources.

Go [HERE](#) for the complete article  
[Jeff Forester, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers](#)

## **PLPOA Bylaws**

A working draft of updates and revisions of the PLPOA Bylaws has been created and is currently being critiqued by interested PLPOA Members. If you are interested in participating in this critique effort please contact [Russ Severson](#) or [John Kruse](#).

## **Hold Off On Big Trucks**

# Weird Weather Made for Weird Lake Ice



Weird weather so far to start the ice season. Cold, wind, snow, wind, melt, snow, wind, cold, wind, melt, rain, snow, cold. Anticipating what is next might be a challenge! I think this was our family's first Christmas in the rain. Fortunately the rain didn't seem to negatively impact the ice or ice development. It did knock the snow down, and now, after freezing again, created a layer of crusty snow on the ice. Ice ranges as of mid-week were in the 9-12" range on most of the area lakes. There are still some areas with drifted snow that have as little as 6-7".

Go [HERE](#) for the full article

Author unknown

## **Pelican Lakes Foundation**

Pelican Lake Property Owners Association is pursuing creation of an independent foundation to compliment the Association and Pelican Group of Lakes Improvement District (PGOLID). A foundation has potential as a tool help in the protection and preservation of Pelican and area lakes. If any PLPOA Member desires to participate in this project or has input on forming a foundation please contact [John Kruse](#).

## **PLPOA Donations Appeal**

In the past two years we have had unplanned legal expenses that the majority of the board and members voted to spend to protect the lake. New issues may arise again and we want to be prepared. Please review the work on these projects and consider a donation to the PLPOA to help defray some of our costs.

Please consider making a donation. For your convenience a separate donation line-item has been included on the annual PLPOA membership billing statement. Send checks to Pelican Lake Property Owners Association, PO Box 1782, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502-1782. To make a donation by Paypal or credit card, go [HERE](#). If there are questions please call Jim Prondzinski at 703-727-8039 or Sherry Trepp at 651-261-5475.

## **Missed a past issue of the PLPOA E-Newsletter?**

Find past issues of the PLPOA E-Newsletter on the [PLPOA Website](#). They are located on the [NEWS](#) page.

## **OTC COLA**



Otter Tail Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) is a group of dedicated volunteers who work for the protection and preservation of Otter Tail County lakes. Programs include coordination of water sampling programs with RMB Labs, Internet Landing Installed Device Sensors (ILIDS) installations, annual volunteer awards programs and student AIS education programs.

OTC COLA Mission: protect and enhance the quality of our lakes and rivers, to preserve the economic, recreational and natural environment values of our shorelands and to promote the responsible use of our waters and related habitats. COLA's mission enhances, promotes, and protects the interests of lakeshore property owners, lake associations, the general public, and future generations.

To learn more about OTC COLA visit the [OTC COLA](#) website, sign up for the monthly E-Newsletter for news and information from the website and attend monthly Member meetings.

[John Kruse](#)

Sincerely,

[John Kruse](#)

PLPOA Communications Chairman