

WASSERMAN LAKE ASSOCIATION



ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 1, 2010

LOGISTICS	December 1, 2010	7:00 PM	Waterbrooke Fellowship Church
MEETING PURPOSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the importance of forming a lake association to improve the water quality of our "impaired" lake which has been on the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) list of critical lakes since 2002. Answer questions about "what can be done" to improve our water quality. 		
ATTENDEES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Joe Fiedler Waterbrooke Church member, 110340 Geske Rd #127 Mary Douthit Waterbrooke Church member, 110340 Geske Rd #104 Gail Berger 8705 County Road 43 Stan Rud 8828 Ridge Ponds Drive Chris Rud 8828 Ridge Ponds Drive Michaelene Kelly Richfield, MN Alex Gehrig Metro Watershed Organizer, Minnesota Waters 		

AGENDA TOPICS

ORGANIZING AN ASSOCIATION

JOE FIEDLER/ALEX GEHRIG

DISCUSSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joe shared the purpose of this meeting and everyone was introduced. There was discussion about the number of different attempts over the years to launch an association and potential reasons why no progress had been made in launching an effective association. (See next section for more on this issue.) There was discussion about whether we had enough people present to form an association; both Joe and Alex confirmed that there is no minimum number required. Therefore, we need to agree on a mission statement for the association, a name for the association and to assign responsibilities. We also need to get more people involved and determine when we need to meet next. Pierson Lake has formed an association and has completed a comprehensive lake management plan.
ISSUES:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have incomplete information on all property owners and we need an efficient way to communicate among ourselves. We should meet again in December only if there is a need identified after the research that Joe will be conducting during the next week.

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CONCLUSIONS		
<p>Those present voted on the following as tentative until more property owners can be involved at future meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name for the association will be Wasserman Lake Association • The association will include property owners and others interested in the quality of Wasserman. • Alex Gehrig will be our advisor and will be invited to all meetings. He gave us a copy of the MCWD publication guide "Form a Lake or River Group." See the links at the end of the minutes. • The mission of the association is <i>to restore, protect and preserve the Wasserman Lake water quality and manage invasive aquatic species.</i> • To get things started with the limited number of attendees at this meeting, we elected a president, secretary and communications chair to start the ball rolling. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ President: Joe Fiedler ○ Secretary: Stan Rud ○ Communications: Chris Rud • The date of the next meeting is tentatively set for December 15th; whether or not this meeting is necessary will be determined by Joe's research (see next section). 		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Create a directory of all property owners with complete contact information	Chris Rud	Dec 8
Draft minutes and send to all property owners	Stan Rud	Dec 8
Draft communication outlining extent of problems and send to owners	Stan and Chris Rud	Dec 8
Get a copy of Pierson Lake Association's lake management plan	Joe Fiedler	Dec 10
Draft agenda for next meeting and send to those listed in directory if meeting is held on December 15th	Stan Rud	Dec 8

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HOW TO ACHIEVE OUR MISSION

**JOE FIEDLER/ALEX
GHRIG**

DISCUSSION

- Alex Gehrig from Minnesota Waters noted that Wasserman Lake is considered one of the most impaired lakes in MN
- Some of the possible causes of the high phosphorus levels and resulting algae blooms was discussed:
 - Although phosphorus has been eliminated from lawn fertilizer, there is still considerable phosphorus contained in the lake bottom sediment. Funds from the state's Legacy Amendment were recently used to fund a liquid alum application in Lake Rebecca which will chemically combine with phosphorus and precipitate it into the bottom sediment.
 - The increasing population of bottom feeding carp stir up the phosphorus rich sediment which fertilizes the summer algae blooms resulting in pea soup green water. Recently carp were removed from Lake Nokomis and Lake Susan.
 - The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) is responsible for the quality of all lakes, wetlands, creeks and buffer zones that flow into Lake Minnetonka and the Minnehaha Creek. Our local chain of lakes starts with Pierson Lake and then flows through Six Mile Creek to Marsh, Wasserman, Auburn, Lunsten, Parley, Mud and finally into Lake Minnetonka and Minnehaha Creek.
 - (MCWD) has a project to reduce the agricultural phosphorus input from a portion of Six Mile Creek into Wasserman Lake. Other funds may be available at the request of the lake association.
- Joe Fiedler had several suggestions to improve our water quality.
 - He circulated several reports concerning the removal of carp and the affect that may have on water quality.
 - He suggested taking on some type of quick win action now, like the carp removal, before taking on a large water quality improvement plan for the whole lake.

ISSUES:

- In the past the task of cleaning up the lake seemed too daunting and too expensive to make any progress; we need to pick something that is achievable that will have noticeable impact on the quality of the lake.
- Lake Restoration, Inc. stopped offering their herbicide services to remove invasive aquatic weeds like milfoil because there weren't enough owners contracting with them. There was some discussion about chemical burns on fish from owners applying chemicals themselves.
- We need to quickly find out if the MCWD has funds available to remove carp in our lake.

CONCLUSIONS

- We need a quick success rather than starting with developing a comprehensive lake management plan
- Quickly determine if we can get the MCWD to remove carp from the lake; potential timing and costs

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ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
<p>Research carp removal information including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding options, available contractors, costs, permits, deadlines for carp removal this winter• Contact MCWD, PCA and state for funding information• Build relationship with James Whisker (MCWD planner) and invite him to our next meeting to educate all owners	Joe Fiedler	Dec 10

Reference Document Links:

Form a Lake or River Group Guidebook:

<http://www.minnesotawaters.org/sites/default/files/publications/Forming%20Lk-Rvr%20Group%20Guidebook.pdf>

MCWD Wasserman Lake Wetland/Tributary Restoration Project

<http://www.minnehahacreek.org/WassermanLakeWetlandTributaryRestorationProject.php>

Lake Nokomis carp removal project:

http://www.minnehahacreek.org/proj_current.php

http://www.minnehahacreek.org/lake_nokomis_carp.php

Wasserman Lake Quality Report Card:

http://www.minnehahacreek.org/wq_report_cards.php

http://www.minnehahacreek.org/wq_Lk_grds_explnd.php

MN DNR Lake Finder. Search for lake #10004800. Contains lots of useful information on Wasserman Lake.

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/results.html>

2005 fish count including carp:

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showreport.html?downum=10004800>

Lake Susan carp removal:

<http://www.startribune.com/local/west/55219002.html?page=1&c=y>

Respectfully submitted by Stan Rud

December 7, 2010