MINUTES OF THE MAY 23RD, 2009 JOHNS LAKE ASSOC. MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Mike Ales at 9:05 a.m.

BUDGET HEARING – Mike Ales briefly went over the 2010 proposed budget, which would increase $50.00 over the 2009 amount of $6800.00 to $6850.00. After a little discussion it was moved by Terry Allbaugh and seconded by Patti Asmus to approve the budget as written. All ayes, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Mike asked for approval of the agenda. Moved by Jean Theis seconded by Alan Allbaugh to approve the agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Mike Ales asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. It was moved by Alan Allbaugh seconded by John Haefner to approve the minutes as written. There was no discussion. All ayes, motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKER – D.N.R. Warden Dave Algrem was the guest speaker. Dave started by talking about the geese problem on Johns Lake as well as other lakes in the Town of Mt. Morris. The geese that we have here are called Golf Course Geese or short grass grazers. And that is what they like to eat, short grass. They are a cross between Canadian and other North American species. The DNR has set up an area in the Greenwood Springs area as a way to try to draw them off the lakes but that has not been totally successful. He recommended that you not cut your grass short down by the shoreline. A number of lake residents have been putting up a line around the perimeter of their property to keep the geese off and this has been very effective. Geese don’t like to step over anything. He also recommended that during the spring when they come back have allot of activity around the lake, especially around the nest area. This disturbs them when they are nesting and laying their eggs. Apparently it is not unlawful to destroy the nest, which in turn would destroy any eggs. But once the eggs hatch it is against the law to kill the young ones or to harass them. Geese have a tendency to come back to the area they where born in. So if all the young ones from this year’s group would survive next year you could have 8 more new families of geese on the lake. You might want to do the math. The DNR no longer handles geese problems. For more information contact A.f.A.S. AT 1-800-433-0663. The hunting season for these birds has been extended to help with this problem.

Next Dave talked about burning permits. You must have a burning permit to burn yard waste. These are available at no charge at the Trading Post. You can burn from 6:00 p.m. to Midnight from Jan 1st through May 31st. After May 31st you can burn anytime that it is not a fire hazard. It was recommended that you make sure you are prepared in case something would get out of control such as making sure you have rakes and an ample supply of water handy. You do not need a permit for your fire pits, but you cannot throw yard waste and burn them in there.

Dave then addressed swimmer’s itch. This is a parasite that goes between snails and waterfowl. It can be carried by the wind. When you come out of the water it will be in the water beads on your skin. It was suggested that you either hose off or dry off when you come out of the lake. This should keep you from having problems with this parasite.
A discussion on securing your raft hold-downs was next. Mike Ales asked that no one put out any hard object such as a barrel that could endanger someone on the lake during winter activities. A rubber buoy was recommended that would float just below the water’s surface or taking a rope and tying it to the end of the chain and then running it up to the shoreline. Both methods met with approval from the group.

Discussion on fish, fish planting, and fish size followed. A number of people in the group voiced their concern on the size of the fish in the lake. Many people feel that the fish are small in our lake. Roland Ode said he has caught hundreds of bass and has found very few to be of legal size. Janelle Ales told the group that trout of about 12 to 14 inches had just been planted in the lake. The big problem stems from the fact that the cribs that where put in the lake some 50 years ago are virtually gone. So there is nowhere for fish to hide or place their eggs where they are hard find. So the fish population might not be gaining as fast as we would like to see it. Dave told the group that fish like woody areas to put their eggs, such as a crib or fallen tree. He suggested taking branches and tying them together and then placing them below piers or rafts as a way to draw fish. A study has started on Johns Lake in which a method called shocking was done. This is where a boat with electrodes hanging off the front is used to shock the fish, which are then netted and brought in. Some scales are removed which can determine the age of the fish. The scales have rings on them similar to a tree. If the rings are closer together then the fish is not growing very fast. If they are farther apart then the fish is growing fast. The fish are then returned to the lake. A gentleman name Scott Bundi is doing this and we are now waiting for his report. Roland asked Dave if it was possible to get Johns Lake slotted so as we might have a smaller size limit on our lake for a set period of time. Mike Ales and Dave Algrem will look into this.

Next Dave Algrem told the audience that the D.N.R. service center in Wautoma is being closed. The Sheriff’s Dept. will be doing some lake patrols on our lake this summer. He again reiterated that boats need to be 100 feet away from a pier or raft when pulling a skier or tubes. It was brought up that there used to be a boat safety class on the lake years ago. Was there a way that we could make that happen again. The class lasted eight hours and was geared for the younger boaters.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Mike Ales reported that all documents where found to be in order. Moved by John Haefner, Second by Gordie Moldenhauer to approve the treasurer’s report. All ayes, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – Mike Ales reported that the only business left at this time was for the payment of the donuts, juice and coffee for the meeting, which amounted to about $83.00. Moved by Jean Theis, Seconded by Mark Bailey to approve the expenditure. All ayes, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS – AUDIT REPORT - Mike Ales reported that Alan Allbaugh had looked over the checking account and found everything in order. Moved by John Haefner, Seconded by Gordon Moldenhauer to approve the audit report. All ayes, motion carried.
EURASIAN MILFOIL TREATMENT – Mike Ales reported that the lake has been mapped and treated for Eurasian Milfoil. This was done on May 15, 2009 and about .08 acres needed to be treated at a cost of $759.00. It is safe to be in the lake at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

PATTI & ROY ASMUS PRESENTATION – Again Patti and Roy Asmus attended the Wisconsin Assoc. Of Lakes Convention. She said that the meeting focused on invasive species and came away feeling it’s not what we can do to avoid many of these on our lake but when we will get them. One of the issues that Patti brought up was water gardening. This is becoming a popular pastime but people must be careful where they get their stuff. It appears this industry is not very well regulated. You could be bringing invasive species in on a plant that you purchased from one of the companies that supply this type of product such as on water lilies or other aquatic plants. She brought in quite a bit of material and handouts for everyone that attended the meeting. Mike and Janelle Ales have the books if anyone would care to again review some of this material.

FISH HATCHERY STOCKING OF JOHNS LAKE – Trout have again been planted in Johns Lake. Janelle Ales reported that their size ranged in the 12 to 14 inch range.

DISCUSS CONSTRUCTION OF FISH CRIBS – Mark Bailey brought up that he believed that we should look at rebuilding and adding fish cribs to the lake. Mike Ales reported that at this time there where only remnants of two fish cribs left in the lake. These where put in about 50 years ago. The discussion centered on liability insurance, if someone would get hurt building them or getting them into place. Would we be inviting more fishermen into the lake and therefore the increased chance of invasive species being introduced? Paul Ludwig thought that we should not make it too attractive for fishermen to come here. It would cost about $2000.00 to build these and we would need volunteers to get it done. At this time Joe Alberti thought that it would be wise to wait for Scott Bundi’s report that was discussed earlier. Moved by Gordon Moldenhauer, Seconded by Gene Albert to do just that. All ayes, motion carried.

COMMISSIONER ELECTION - It was moved by Joe Alberti, Seconded by Dick Mueller to re-elect Mike Ales to his present position as chairman of the Johns Lake Association. All ayes, motion carried.

INDEPENDENCE DAY BOAT PARADE – Again Amy Schumacher will head the committee for the July 4th boat parade. It will carry the theme of the 70’s and be held on Saturday, July 4th with the 5th being the rain day if needed. Mark Theis and Dick Mueller will serve as judges again. They will take each family’s vote at the end of each resident’s pier.

AGENDA ADDITIONS – It was brought up by quite a few people to remind everyone to please watch their speed on Buttercup and Johns Lake Rd. The speed limit is 25 mph. Gene Albert asked why the sign for Buttercup Ave. that is now sitting behind a tree and cannot be seen when you are coming down 22nd Ave. from the north. It was reported that the Town of Mt. Morris has been asked this at their town board meetings and the only
thing they can do is cut down the tree that is blocking it. They will approach the owner who sits on that parcel of land and see if they can get them to do it. Again it was asked by many in the room to keep the July 4th fireworks to the July 4th weekend. In the past it seems we are hearing fireworks for weeks following the July 4th weekend. Last Mark Bailey brought up the boat traffic problem that occurs, especially on the holiday weekends. He asked that boats pulling tubers, which have a tendency to weave in and out and make waves that can get very rough for skiers and wake boarders, follow a straight line. He mentioned that his wife was hurt last year as a result of this type of activity. What most people in the room would like to see is just a little more courtesy towards your fellow boater.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS/COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS – There where none.

ADJOURN – Moved by Joe Alberti, Seconded by Terry Allbaugh to adjourn the meeting. All ayes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Mark Theis, recording minutes.