**Greater Jefferson – German Lake Association**

**Annual Meeting, May 25, 2013**

**MINUTES**

President Scott Haas called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM at Marysburg Hall with 56 members in attendance. All board members were present except Steve Schulte and Bob Schuttloffel. The agenda was presented and approved by consensus.

Minutes: m/s/c to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting; they are posted on the JGLA website.

Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer’s Report was presented by Treasurer Larry Wasmund. At the end of 2012 there was $4,170 in checking account and $22, 248 in savings. To date the Checking Account is $1,248.80 and savings is $265. The two biggest expense items this year were: 1) The sirens (LeSueur County has delayed taking over the operation of the sirens as was the understanding when the Lake Association raised $60,000 in 2008 to purchase and install three sirens for the public safety of persons on the water). 2) Cleaning the boat passages (57 truckloads) between West Jefferson and Middle Jefferson, and between German and East Jefferson. Larry encouraged members to speak with their lake neighbors about paying lake association dues which is our main source of income for these and other important lake improvement projects. We have less than 200 dues paying members from 800 home owners. Following discussion it was m/s/c to accept the treasurer’s report.

Old Business:

1. Jefferson – German Lakes Septic Inventory: President Haas called on County Commissioner, Steven Rohlfing for a report. Mr. Rohlfing reported that the County Board had recently received a report, “Blue Mariner Feasibility Study” prepared in May by Wenck, the company that conducted the septic inventory for the Jefferson – German chain of lakes. He announced that a public meeting will be held on Monday, June 10, 2013 at 7:00 PM in the Le Sueur County 4H Building on the County Fairgrounds for the public to hear about the final results of the septic inventory and potential next steps for lake property owners. The Commissioner stated the County Board wants input from lake association members and encouraged members to call (507) 317-5095 or email him.
2. LCMR Grant (with Lake Association funds added): President Haas reported that this project on a farm on the north shore of Middle Jefferson was selected because it was the worst polluting source as determined by a professional study. The farmer does not want to contribute to the pollution of the lakes and has been and continues to be a very active cooperative partner. The project includes grasses, a berm, and a sediment basin to slow down farm runoff into the lakes.
3. Sirens: The president reported that the Lake Association Board, (after the old County Board did not act to take over the operation of the sirens) waited for the new County Board to be elected with the hope they will act to do so. Treasurer Larry Wasmund reported that digital updates and batteries have cost the Lake Association $4375 this year, in addition to other ongoing expenses such as liability insurance. The Lake Association is still the owners of the sirens and carries liability insurance. The president repeated what he has often stated, that the County and has the authority to impose taxes, and bears the responsibility for public safety including the safety of persons on the lake waters when a storm is approaching and it is past time for the County to resume ownership and responsibility for the sirens.
4. County Road #4 Update: Commissioner Rohlfing reported that the upgrade of the road on the north side of West Jefferson is now on the County’s list for completion in 2013 or 2014.
5. Lake Association Fishing Contest: The president reported that it will be held July 20th.

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1. Bridges over boat passages: Since the boat passages were cleaned of washed in sediment last fall, water flowing between West and Middle Jefferson is now 48” and between German and East Jefferson it is 36”; a big improvement from a dept of less than 6’’ sometimes. During the excavation it became apparent that the old (100th anniversary in 2013) wooden bridge between West and Middle Jefferson is deteriorating and needs replacement. From our lake owner survey some have expressed the desire to have larger boat passages that would permit pontoon and power boats to pass between the lakes. At this meeting some expressed the wish that if this occurred, together with a restaurant being developed on the lakes, that this would be a boon to the chain of lakes.
2. Lake Vegetation Plan: Arne Jessen passed around a copy of the Jefferson – German Lake Vegetation Plan recently submitted by the board to the DNR. A Lake Vegetation Plan is required for the association to receive government grants to help control invasive aquatic species, particularly curly leaf pondweed (predominant in our lakes) and Eurasian milfoil (currently in German and East Jefferson. This is done by either harvesting weeds (as Bobby Geldner had DNR permits to do) or applying chemicals. The Lake Association has never applied for a permit nor sponsored chemical treatment of invasive aquatic species in all its history. Individual lake home owners may apply to the DNR for a permit to apply chemicals within the limits prescribed by DNR.
3. Newsletter: Buster West reported that the newsletter is one of the biggest expenses of the lake association. Its purpose is to provide information and education for people in the watershed which includes farmers, mobile homes, and government offices. He raised the question of whether we should go from 4 to 3 publications annually. It is emailed to all who have given us their email addresses, and mailed to those without email. Those with email may receive a paper copy mailed upon request. During discussion members suggested the cost to advertisers be increased, and explore having Gustavus Adolphus College publish it if it was cost saving.

New Business:

1. County Ditches: Commissioner Rohlfing that two 16’ buffer strips are mandated for county ditches

 that go into the watershed. If the ditch has berm on it, a buffer is not required. The government (Dept. of Agriculture) pays $270 an acre to put in a buffer strip by farm ditches.

1. Le Sueur County Waste Collection: On June 15th, 2013 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the County Highway Shop in Le Center citizens may bring old tires, appliances, and electronics that they want to get rid of. This is posted on the County website and has been in the newspapers.
2. Election of Lake Association Board Members: Board Members Scott Haas, Arne Jessen, and Buster West were elected to a two year term last year. The other four members of the board (Rick Conners, Steve Schulte, Bud Warmka, and Larry Wasmund) have indicated to President Haas their desire to continue in office. m/s/c to cast a unanimous ballot for those four incumbents.

Meeting Adjourned: m/s/c to adjourn the meeting at 12:10.

Fall Membership Meeting: Saturday, November 16, 2013 at St Paul’s Lutheran Church by German Lake at 10:00.

Next Annual Meeting: Saturday, May 24, 2014 at Marysburg Hall beginning at 10:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Arne Jessen, Secretary