

LRIA Annual Meeting April 25, 2016 7 p.m.

Call to order by President Bob Adomaitis

Agenda Approval

Introductions- Board Members

There were 3 new residents on the lake in attendance:

Jake Peterson, Mark Hope, Ally Tuttle

Approval of 2015 Meeting Minutes

Guest Speakers:

Carver & Hennepin Counties Water Patrol Officers (Q and A session)

Q: What are the most common citations?

A: No boat lights on after dark. No registration in the boat. A lot of homeowners on lakes don't register things like canoes.

Q: What should be registered?

A: Paddle boards, kayaks, canoes, and swim platforms - which need to be 150 ft from shore with reflectors on them. They get a metal tag every 3 years or so.

Q: What are the hours jet skis are allowed?

A: Jet skis should not be on the lake before 9:30 a.m., or after 1 hour before sunset at night. Call 911 if they're in violation, state that this is a non-emergency call, and then state the problem.

Q: What can we do about the extremely loud music sometimes?

A: It's a city thing- the city needs an ordinance. And it has to be both EP and Chan city ordinances because Lake Riley spans both cities. It's more of a recent problem with the latest wake-board boats designed with huge sound systems.

Q: What other requirements are there for stand-up paddle boards?

A: Paddle board, canoes, kayak users ALL need life vests. [DNR website has all requirements online](#). Every child under 10 has to have life jacket.

Q: What are the rules for alcohol on boats?

A: BWI is same as DWI. You can have open container on boat, even for the driver. But if the driver is over the limit, they are treated the same as in a car.

Q: Can the number of boats on the lake be limited?

A: Number of parking spots indicates the number that is considered safe, but it's only a suggestive limiting factor. We all know it can be dangerous with too many boats on the lake, but it's not something that can be enforced.

Q: Who has right of way?

A: Boats without motors have right-of-way. Check [DNR](#) for boats right-of-way. It's hard to legislate common sense, though. Boats need to stay clear of skiers and tubers. Skiers need to stay clear of fishermen. Fishermen have right to be right up to your dock, and between platform and dock. Every boat has to have life jacket "accessible" for every passenger. Accessible means you can grab it, but we wish that everyone would wear

them. It's not likely you need one, but if something happens and you're thrown from the boat, chances are the life jackets will go one way and you'll go the other, and they won't do you any good. Boats have to have a working horn/whistle/air horn, a fire extinguisher, a throwable life jacket/buoy of 10 ft or longer, and registration. All jet skis need extinguishers, and jet skis need to stay 150 ft away from shore, or anything.

Q: Do you have authority to cite boats for not proper draining and cleaning for invasive species when they pull out?

A: They're getting better, but if we see something improper, we will stop them.

Q: What can we do to protect long-distance swimmers?

A: Swimmers should have escort boat or flag or bright marking to be safe, but there's no ordinance. Our main priority is to try keep everyone safe.

Q: Winter ice: Is it appropriate when seeing people on unsafe ice to call 911?

A: Yes. Keep in mind, it may take a while for anyone to get there, but it is appropriate to call. During the summer in an emergency, first boat that comes will probably be the EP Fire Dept. boat.

Q: Do you have information about boating classes?

A: The [DNR website has boating and safety class information](#). Also the Carver County website has information.

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District Administrator, Claire Bleser

- Curly Leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Water Milfoil, and Alum treatments

Claire Bleser spoke, Administrator for the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District. We were all mailed a fact sheet about the upcoming treatments. It was best that we waited until after the carp problem was addressed, studied and carp removed before doing this alum treatment.

The district is still working to restore native plants, thus still treating for curly leaf pondweed and will be treating for eurasian water milfoil. They hope to control them so that (1) they don't go wild with clearer water after alum treatment, and (2) it will give the native plants a chance to thrive in the clearer water after the alum treatment. The point is in trying to make the whole lake ecosystem healthy. Each year after this the District will evaluate what control measures are needed.

The order of treatments will be: 1) curly leaf pondweed, soon 2) alum treatment on May 9, and 3) milfoil treatment in June - about 35 acres. There will be a few limits on lake activity during/after alum treatment. The alum sinks down, so it's best not to waterski and roil the water. They will be closing boat ramp for limited amounts of time, and using the ramp for equipment and supplies. The treatment will take 10 days and they will treat the main, deeper parts of the lake.

Additionally:

- The watershed district has an adopt-a-dock program in place with a few residents keeping watch for signs of invasive species (like zebra mussels) The District is also monitoring for zebra mussels.
- The District has a [cost-share program](#) for shoreline enhancement that you are encouraged to look at.

- Everyone is invited next Tuesday to the next [Evening with the Watershed](#), which will include information about designing with a sustainable mind.
- Please also remember to take the survey, available through watershed website rpbcwd.org.
- There will be a workshop on Riley Creek watershed on May 18 at the Chanhassen Library at 6 p.m. to get public opinion about our wetlands.
- Finally, the Lake Riley study is done, looking at its health and the land surrounding and which in part prompted the recommendation for the alum treatment. It is available from the [library on the District website](#).

Professor Ray Newman, U of M, and Melaney Dunne, assistant

- **Vegetation Assessment of Lake Riley**

(Slide show available on our website, lakeriley.org.) Ray Newman from the University of Minnesota presented a comprehensive update on the lake vegetation in Lake Riley. His slides show the change in vegetation from several years ago, to today. The collective efforts of all the homeowners to NOT use chemical treatment around their individual shorelines is paying off: there is a modest increase in desirable native species around the lake. The alum treatment, along with controlling measures to check the growth of curly leaf pondweed and milfoil, should give the natives even more chance to grow in the lake. The clearer water will allow the native vegetation to grow in deeper water of the lake, as well as in the shallow areas, and that's what we really want. The chemicals they will use for the lake-wide control of milfoil is specialized to the type of weed that milfoil is, and it is absorbed down to the roots and kills it. The chemicals used for individual homeowners are less effective: they knock down the milfoil, but won't kill it. The milfoil will grow back. It will kill the native weeds. Mechanical control (pulling or cutting) IS STILL BETTER around our boat launches and docks than chemical treatment, and Ray encouraged us to keep doing that.

Steve Wilson, President, Let's Go Fishing E. P.

Let's Go Fishing is a non-profit organization. Their mission is to bring nature's healing and well-being to seniors, veterans, and youth. They made about 60 trips in 2014. Last year they took 2300 people out and paid off all their debt for their dock, lift, and boat. They are starting an expanded youth program in 2016, and aim to take 3000 out. We voted to donate \$500 again this year to the program. Training takes place next weekend if you want to volunteer. You can check out their website for more information at <http://lgfedenprairie.com/>

General Business

- **Treasurer's Report from Shelly Manning**

Last year balance \$12,947. 67 members renewed. \$10,212 balance. Annual dues \$20. Fish stocking is an extra, voluntary donation.

- **Fish Stocking**

Our committee, led by Greg Hastings, looked into it last year. Steve Nakomis from the MN DNR talked to them about whether our fish-stocking program was even worth doing. He was really in favor of stocking with walleyes and perch, alternating years. Reports are that perch were caught this winter by ice fishermen, and of good size; they're

thriving and they will breed and survive. 5-7" walleyes were caught also, so they also survived from this past fall's stocking. We will pursue this program, so those who want to continue donating to it should do so. The committee also asked what the DNR recommends to deter people we see in the winter who are taking too many. He said we're better off not putting signage out, because the opposite of what you want will happen- it could draw more anglers. Now spearing is almost a competitive sport, and they're blogging and bragging, posting pictures of 20-25 lb. northerns caught in our lake. Don't try to police, other than talking to them about it. Unfortunately, there's no "catch and release" with spearing. Once they're speared, the fish die.

- **Riley Rendezvous Picnic**

Our 4th of July boat parade 2015 was well-attended again. Bob Adomaitis promises to do a better job of identifying "best boat" before they all head ashore. They want to start a traveling trophy for the honor.

The fall Riley Rendezvous picnic was a success. It was well-attended at the park gazebo, with about 50-60 people there. Members will be notified for the next one, which will be in the fall again. Same committee will organize.

- **Open Discussion**

Dick Chadwick, Watershed District Board member, thanked all the work done by the LRIA Board. Gayle Degler, Carver County Commissioner, was introduced, as well as Perry Forster, Watershed District Chair.

Eldon is leaving for Montana. Mike Domke is leaving for California. Both expressed high regard for this organization that they've been part of for so long. We gave them a round of applause, to thank them for all they've done for this group over the years. They will be missed.

There was some discussion that the District Rep roles have been inactive lately. Shelly Manning, Treasurer, will be embarking on a detailed survey of members around the lake, so we can revive the District Rep roles at a future date.

Anne Florenzano, Secretary, announced that our website is up and running at lakeriley.org but it's just a start. She welcomes feedback! She asked for help in running it, and Jake Peterson volunteered. They will try to keep it updated.