

**Fifty Lakes Property Owners Association  
Minutes from the Annual Meeting  
1:00 pm August 12, 2023  
City Fifty Lakes Pavilion**

**Board Members Present:** Cindy Bissonnette, Michael Bury, Josh Fitcher, Ken Neihart, Bob Stancer and Fred Strohmeier

**Board Members Absent:** Kathy Klietz, Greg Mours and Mike Prouty.

**Reports:**

Secretary: The minutes from the June 11, 2022 were approved.

Treasurer: The treasurer reported an ending balance of \$13,721.22 that included \$820.00 from the Karl Bell-Mitchell Lake Fund and \$96.02 from the PayPal Balance. Since the last board meeting the only expense was \$299.00 for insurance.

Current Membership for 2023-2024 is 232.

**FLPOA Board Membership:** Michael Bury, Kathy Klietz, Greg Mours, Ken Neihart and Mike Prouty were elected to a two year term that will end in 2025.

Cindy Bissonnette, Josh Fitcher, Bob Stancer and Fred Strohmeier were elected last year. Their terms will expire in 2024.

**Attendance:** Between 35 and 40.

**Discussion Topics:**

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):

1. The City of Fifty Lakes formed a Delegation Agreement with the MNDNR last year that allowed the city to control the 4 public landings in the city. The agreement was in effect this year also. The FLPOA is assisting the city with the scheduling and management of this program. The cost of this program is being funded by the FLPOA and Crow Wing County.
2. In July, water samples were collected on the 5 major lakes in the city. The samples were collected by board members of the FLPOA. The samples that were collected will be examined for veligers that are the larva stage of the zebra mussel. ( Note: There are over 50 water bodies in Crow Wing County that are infected with zebra mussels). Crow Wing County will fund the processing of the samples.
3. Professional Lake Management (PLM) will sample the 4 public landings in the city for any AIS plants growing around the landings. One sample was collected in July and the other sample will be collected in September. This is a program that has been in place for over 20 years and was established by the Whitefish Property Owners Association (WAPOA).

### Water Quality Testing:

Water quality testing is conducted by volunteers on each of the 5 major lakes in the city. Water samples are taken monthly from May to September and submitted to AW Research Laboratories in Brainerd for testing. The tests measure three things the water clarity, phosphate levels and the amount of algae in the water. The test is called the TSI index and is another program that is conducted by WAPOA. This program has been in place for over 25 years.

### Purple Loosestrife Mitchell Lake:

1. Purple Loosestrife (PL) is an invasive species and is a plant that has been growing on Mitchell Lake for the last 5 plus years. It is found along the shoreline and also found in the water in the emergent vegetive zone of the lake.
2. In past years volunteers have been involved in the pulling the PL out of the ground or cutting the flowers of the plant before they go to seed. ( seeds can be dormant in the ground for at least 5 years).
3. This year bb sized holes have been observed in the leaves of the PL at 3 different locations on Mitchell. These holes in the leaves may be caused by two different species of beetles that feed on PL. They will also lay their eggs on the leaves. We need to survey other locations on Mitchell for additional signs of beetles and also confirm the beetles are feeding on the leaves of the PL.

### Beaver Dam - Crooked Creek:

A property owners on Mitchell Lake reported a beaver dam on Crook Creek about a month ago. In 2021 there was a beaver dam on Crooked Creek. The FLPOA provided some funds to pay a trapper to trap the beaver. The trapper trapped out a number of beaver to stop the beaver from rebuilding the dam. The association will need more information about this new dam to make a decision to support the trapping of beaver(s).

### Emily Manganese Mine:

An “Emily Manganese Deposit Exploration Meeting” was held Tuesday, August 15, 2023. The meeting was held at the Emily City Hall.

Wave/wake study:

1. In 2021-2022, the University of Minnesota conducted a study of large watercraft with powerful motors and their effect on the shoreline of lakes. The recommendation of the University was large/powerful watercraft should stay 500 feet away from the shoreline. Watercraft manufactures recommendation was 200 feet and the MNDNR was 300 feet.
2. This year The University is studying the effects of prop wash on the bottom of a lake. There is a lot of phosphate that is trapped in the substrate of a lake. An increase in phosphate usually leads to more algae and a decrease in the water quality of a lake.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Neihart  
Secretary  
FLPOA

Other events:

1. After the business meeting, there was a drawing for a number of prizes from a variety of area businesses.
2. There was also a Cornhole / Bags tournament. There were 7 teams that participated in the event. The winning team won a couple cornhole boards and cornhole / bags to have their own set of boards and bags. Josh and Jenna Fitcher were the first place winners.