



Little Tamarack Flowage Baker Spring Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Summer has officially arrived, with a few warm sunny days to relieve the rainy weather that has been so prevalent. The 4th of July week brought the Conover parade, pancake breakfast, and of course the Annual Meeting of the Lake District. Here are the minutes:

MINUTES OF THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE LITTLE TAMARACK FLOWAGE BAKER SPRING LAKE DISTRICT JULY 1, 2017

Board Chairma Karl Jennrich, called the 2017 annual meeting of the property owners of the Little Tamarack Flowage Baker Spring Lake District to order at 10:02 a.m. Karl welcomed all those in attendance and introduced the Board members. All Board members were present, except for Art Kunde who was unable to attend.



Clancy Senechalle made a motion seconded by Rich Ruffalo to approve the agenda for today's meeting. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Cindy Tuttle made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2017 annual meeting of the Lake District. Mark Tuttle seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous voice vote.

Karl gave his Chairman's report. He reported that the Board met 4 times during the past year. He also reported that the DNR grant was received in full as was the reimbursement of \$8,000 from the Town of Conover. Most of the Dam construction loan taken out by the Lake District has been repaid. The Town agreed in writing (Memorandum of Understanding) to provide maintenance assistance for the Whistle Tube structure on an ongoing basis. Karl further reported that Rich has been monitoring the Flowage water level height. Rains have been at record levels and have affected roads and culverts in Conover and elsewhere in the County. The Board sent out a survey to property owners and Clancy will report on the results.

George gave the treasurer's report that summarized the District's current financial situation and explained the proposed budget for the coming year. Karl Frederick made a motion seconded by Nancy Vogt to approve the treasurer's report. That motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ginny Steber made a motion seconded by Kay Yanke to approve the proposed budget for 2017-18 with accompanying property tax levy. That motion carried by unanimous vote.

Karl read the proposed By-Law Amendment regarding permissible attendance at one Board Meeting per year by telephone. A discussion amongst property owners ensued. Karl made a Motion to approve the proposed By-Law Amendment which was seconded by Al Williamson. That motion carried by unanimous vote.

Clancy explained the property owner survey process. She summarized the responses in detail. Property owners' responses favored a minimalist approach on the activities of the Lake District going forward, beyond repair, maintenance and monitoring of the Dam. There was strong support for committee formation to monitor water quality and healthy weed growth, fishing population and possible stocking, and Dam Maintenance, monitoring and repair.

An election was held to fill the Board vacancy created by the three year term of Rich Ruffalo expiring. The board previously nominated Al Williamson to fill the vacancy. No nominations were received from property owners. Al Williamson introduced himself to all persons present. The election was held by secret ballot. Al Williamson was elected as a Lake District commissioner.

Karl reported on what's happening with the Town government and activities and improvements in the Town.

Public comment was invited. A comment was made about the higher water level and its effect on pier access. Rich reported that he has been monitoring lake levels regularly. Due to record rains the lake is at a record level height but has dropped a bit in recent days. This is a condition shared by most lakes in the County. Both the DNR and Ayres engineering have advised not to adjust the whistle tube logs in response to changes in precipitation, absent conditions which threaten overtopping at the Dam. That is not the current situation and Rich recommends that we continue to monitor lake levels in anticipation that levels will drop once the record rains return to more normal levels.

Bob Senechalle made a motion to adjourn seconded by Bob Vogt. The motion carried by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Clancy Senechalle, Board Secretary

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LAKE DISTRICT WEBSITE

Don't forget to check out the Little Tamarack Lake District website, which has been updated to reflect the transfer from the Flowage Preservation Alliance. Just enter littletamarackflowage.org/ and the "What's New" page will pop up with news and updates. On the "Archives" page, you will find all the meeting minutes – old and new – from the Flowage Preservation Alliance and the Lake District; also old and new newsletters, Treasurer's reports and budgets, and the pictorial review of the dam project.

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EMAIL CONTACT LIST

With the dissolution of the Alliance, we have worked to merge the mailing list and email list with the Lake District list, to ensure that friends and family of both organizations are kept informed about news and issues affecting the Flowage. If you know of someone who might want to be included in our newsletter and other email information, please drop us a line at littletamaracklakedistrict@gmail.com.

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NEXT LAKE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

The Lake District Board will again meet on October 14th at 9:30 at the Conover Town Center for anyone interested in attending. It is an open meeting as always, and all are welcome.

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JULY LOON OBSERVATIONS FROM "LOON WATCH"

Compliments of the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute of Northland College, Ashland WI

What's happening in July? Chicks are growing and learning to hunt, territorial pairs are parenting and protecting their chick(s), floater loons are gathering in small groups, and territorial pairs whose nests failed or chicks did not survive will join these small groups.

How old are your loon chicks? Use the following photos as a guide, age 1 day to 6 weeks. Typically, loons start nesting in mid-May and chicks hatch in mid-June. However, this year we had some early nesting, so some chicks will be approximately 6 weeks old at this time.



Recently Hatched
Linda Grenzer

Recently hatched



7 Day Old Chicks
Linda Grenzer

one week old



Two Week Old Chick
Linda Grenzer

two weeks old



3 Week Old Chick
Linda Grenzer

three weeks old



4 Week Old Chick
Linda Grenzer

Four weeks old



5 Week Old Chicks
Linda Grenzer

five weeks old



six weeks old

FLOATERS AND INTRUDERS IN JULY

In July and August, loons that didn't acquire territory or lost their nest or chicks will start to congregate. These groups will visit nearby territories. Often, I've heard these visits referred to as a "coffee clutch" or (my favorite) a "Friday night fish fry".

In fact, these visits have a greater purpose. The groups are canvassing for information about the territorial pairs. Have they successfully raised chicks? If they have, that territory becomes more "valuable" and those territorial pairs will more likely have to defend their homes and chicks.

These groups will try to disrupt the pair bond, sometimes by killing chicks. This is why you may observe chicks moving to a different area of the lake and hiding in emergent vegetation, sometimes accompanied by a parent.



In July and August, groups of loons will check out nearby territories and interact with one or both of the territorial pair.