

Annual Picnic Meeting
July 20, 2024

Held at Levi's field, approximately 80 adults and 6 kids in attendance

Meeting came to order at 5:30 pm

Present: Chuck Pettipiece, Jim Luttrell, Jerry Finnerty, Linda Berglund, Pam Nordahl, Leo Offerman, Patrice Bogart, Tom Stremski

Absent: Linda Ferdelman

Old Business:

Chuck Pettipiece began meeting by stating that the meeting minutes from last year were posted and made a motion to accept them. The motion was passed.

Jim Luttrell had donated \$600 to be used for the picnic in honor of his mother, Shirley.

There are new residents on the lake as follows:

Jennifer Vesser, Tyler and Kayla Skeate, Ron and Shelly Pexa, Candice Christanson and Lucas Dvorak, Richard and Angela Pederson

Several residents had passed away this year and were recognized.

Our guest speakers were current Board members:

Jerry Finnerty	Treasurer's report
Leo Offerman	Ross Lake Township and beaver situation
Tom Stremski	Pontoon Trailer
Mark Caspers	Pontoon Trailer
Jim Luttrell	Fishing Contest

Jerry Finnerty: Treasurer's Report

There were 20 people who participated in our boat parade. Our beginning bank balance was \$ 8431.00. Our current balance is \$9831.00. This is our highest balance ever. We had \$1699 in expenses. We gained \$1900.00 from

dues. The other income was from donations. We again had an anonymous donation of \$500.00. Some people also gave more than the \$20 in dues. We put \$7500.00 into a certificate of deposit. We earned \$197.02 in interest from that. We earned \$0.11 in interest savings. We will again put everything except \$1000.00 into an interest gaining certificate. We spent \$750 on the calendars, \$500.00 for pontoon trailer repairs, \$200 for the fishing contest prizes. Various expenses for the remainder of this summer will run about \$600.00 and the fall newsletter will cost about \$200.00. We spent about \$400.00 for the DNR sign(installed this year but last year's bill). There were 104 paid members in 2023. So far this year , we have 88. We will send a friendly reminder letter to those not paid. Checks were used by 52 people to pay their dues, 22 paid by Venmo, and 11 used Paypal. Paypal does charge a fee. Leo Offerman made a motion to accept the treasury report. It was seconded and passed.

Leo Offerman Ross Lake Township and beavers
Ross Lake Township now has a website. It is <https://Rosslaketownship.com>. There will be no more newsletters. There are 5 board members. Ross Lake Township has a population of 229 people. There are 500 homes. The median age is 68. Since 2021, there has been a 63% rise in property values. The total levy is \$186,000. This is tax money brought in. Roads and bridges cost \$125,000. Seven beaver were trapped last year. Fire protection cost \$26,000.(Emily \$16,000.00 and Aitkin \$10,000.00). The general fund is \$35,000.00, used for insurance and salaries. This board are the eyes and ears of county planing. We have 14.5 miles of township roads. Of that, 3.5 are blacktop. We do get some state aid. They would like to hear from residents regarding any concerns. There is a new power line coming in the future. It will upgrade the voltage. The state inspects our bridges. We have one , over the Mud Lake channel.

Tom Stremski Pontoon Trailer

This trailer was purchased by the Lake Association to keep invasive species out of our lake. There is a lock box with a new key and pass code. People must let Mark Caspers know to set up a time for usage.

Mark Caspers Pontoon Trailer

The trailer was used by 25 people this spring. The code will change in the fall. It is important to heed the rules for usage, to use the safety chains, to not keep your boat in the water for a long period of time. It is to be used only on Island and Mud Lakes. Last year, our guest speaker estimated that it cost \$40,000 to \$60,000 to contain an invasive species problem on their lake. Property owners were assessed \$125.00 added to their taxes. It is much better to keep them out than to deal with this issue if it arises. We have no invasive species, so far.

Jim Luttrell Fishing Contest

There were 51 adults and 26 kids who participated his year. A record amount. The winning, and only, walleye was 26 inches long. The winning northern was 28 inches. The winning bass was 18 inches. The DNR is surprised at our accounting of walleye catches.. It is useful info for them. Next year is our year for stocking walleyes.

President's Report

This is the 45th anniversary of the beginning of our Lake Association. The first annual meeting of the IMLPOA was attended by 40 people, representing 25 properties. The initial officers were Charles Price, Larry Luetmer, Bea Dierling, John Kruse, Larry Rudek, Larry DiSanto and Charles Banks.. The annual dues were \$10.00. We now have 104 members. Dues have increased once to our current \$20.00 To celebrate this anniversary, you can purchase shirts, tanks, tees, hoodies, zip ups, and more. The online store opens July 20 and closes on August 4. Items will be shipped out about 2 weeks after closing. The store is Shirts Plus in Aitkin, and the link is <https://shirtsplumn.com/imlpoa>.

Door prizes are awarded to paid dues members at the end of the picnic.

Each property received a complimentary 2024/2025 calendar. There are a few left that can be purchased for \$5.00 apiece.

The pontoon trailer was used over 40 times last year.

Our lakes have a combined estimated value of over \$45 million dollars. The occurrence of invasive species is something potential buyers look at. Most importantly, we want to keep our lakes healthy, but this is an interesting side note.

The AIS sign is up at the public boat landing. It is a visual display showing residents the proper methods to control invasive species.

We continue to receive reports of successful walleye catches on our website. This is useful to the DNR for them to continue their stocking program. In 24 months, we have reports of 41 walleye catches. The largest is 26 inches, the overall average is 15.4 inches. The average size kept is 18.1 inches. Average size release is 13.6 inches. Over 74% of all caught have been released.

The spring newsletter highlighted the impact jigs sinkers have on loon population. To help, we promote voluntary removal of lead from fishing gear. There is a lead disposal box available at the picnic. We will dispose of appropriately.

There was a baby loon on the lake this spring, but the chick was gone in a few days. This was the third year in a row we didn't have a loon chick on the lake.

We have been registered as a non profit corporation since 1986 with the State, and have been approved by the IRS as a 501-c-3 non profit organization. This eliminates any confusion and also helps to seek and receive funding if the need arises to address future issues , such as invasive species.

Last year we donated \$200 to the \$273.00 from cash donated at the picnic to the Emily Food Shelf. We cap the match donation at \$200.00. This is an annual part of our picnic.

We have an informational map and listing, if interested. The info is developed using the Crow Wing interactive Property listings public

information.

We want to thank Theresa Offerman for developing and keeping current our website. You can post pictures, info or topics of interest there.

The Bulletin Board and Little Library are in need of repairs and hopefully will be made yet in 2024.

A fun end of summer event is planned for August 10. There will be a floating ice cream social at the end of the sand bar. Linda Ferdelman will give out free treats.

Another end of summer event will be happening on August 31 from 3:00-to 5:00 pm at 36205 Whitewater Road(end of road) This is the third annual music concert. Bring your own chair. It will be outside.

RSVP to Donna. Info is on our website.

We have received inquiries about jet skis. The required distance from shore is 150 feet in creating a wake. This is a safety issue and also a shoreline erosion impact issue.

We need your photos for our next calendar. We are going to develop a 13-18 month calendar. See our website for submission info.

Considerations for next year We send our newsletters via email. It saves money for postage. Do you want them this way? Would an increase in dues to \$35 seem reasonable? Would you like to see a garage sale with dumpster available? Would you like to see the calendar continue?

Questions were invited at the end of the meeting. A question was asked about the advertising signs at our names board. We are discouraging them and placing them behind our board.

It was suggested that people go counterclockwise around the lake. This is good lake etiquette.

It was asked why we quit doing the minnow races because they were fun. It was answered that we don't have as many kids, but that if they do come, we could do them again.

New Business:

There are 5 Board positions open this year- President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and one director position. Kim Swatosh and Morgan Buetow Staples have stepped up to fill positions. Linda Berglund will leave as secretary and Leo Offerman will leave as Director. The motion had been passed by the Board to keep Chuck Pettipiece for another term as President, Jim Luttrell as Vice President, and Jerry Finnerty as Treasurer. The recommended slate of Officers is as follows

Chuck Pettipiece, Jim Luttrell, Jerry Finnerty, Kim Swatosh, Pam Nordahl, Tom Stremski, Linda Ferdelman, Patrice Bogart, and Morgan Buetow Staples. Kim Swatosh would be Secretary and Morgan Buetow Staples a Director. A motion was made to accept the slate of Officers and was seconded and passed. New terms begin after the picnic.

Prize Winners at the picnic:

There was \$275 of gift cards purchased from Ace Hardware in Emily, with \$50.00 donated by Emily Ace Hardware. There were also extras from the fishing contest.

Candy Guessing Game:

Adult	Kelly Paulson guessing 79
Kid	Jack Spencer guessing 82

Minnow Bucket with aerator and minnows

Vincent Levi guessing 106

Ace Hardware Gift Cards:

\$25.00 Card	Mike Pearson
\$25.00 Card	Linda Pearson

\$50.00 Card	Karen Stremski
\$50.00 Card	Patrice Bogart
\$75.00 Card	Fred Nordahl
\$100.00 Card	Mark Caspers

Reddings Bait Store Gift Cards

\$20.00 Card	Carolyn Mikkelson
\$20.00 Card	Jim Luttrell

A plaque was given to all current board members to honor their work on the Board. They were handmade by Chuck Pettipiece and very much appreciated.

A special thanks to Jax and Cole Spencer and Jovon and John Collier for picking names out of the box.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Berglund, Secretary

After the picnic it was reported that we have \$293.00 collected for the Emily Food Shelf and we will add \$200.00 in matching funds.

