

**August 13, 2022 10AM Tulaby Lake Landing
Tulaby Lake Association Membership Meeting minutes**

Tulaby Lake Association Meeting was held Saturday, August 13, 2022 at 10AM at the Tulaby Lake landing. Fourteen people attended the outdoor meeting. No potluck meal was shared.

The **Secretary Report** of the May 5, 2021, membership meeting was read. Brian Ciak made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Fred Soch. The motion passed unanimously.

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented by John Oncken for Danny Pinske, who was unable to attend today's meeting.. The balance of the account at this time is \$8,090.15. There are designated dollars in the bank for fish stocking (\$200) and future lake quality efforts (\$2,210). John provided a summary of recent expenses for mailings, the 2022 directory, the website, and fish stocking.

There are **currently 90 members**. There is potential for over 130 memberships.

Heidi Matejka asked if there is **clothing or sportswear available** through the association. John Oncken shared that his son-in-law, Brock Risky, who is a graphic designer, has a line that can be ordered directly from Brock. John will share contact information (brockrisky@gmail.com) with Heidi. Others told Heidi that Tulaby Lake items (maps/mugs/can koozies) are available at Utke's Country Pine Furnishings north of Park Rapids on Highway 71.

Karen Ahmann made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded by Greg Matejka. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Brian Vidden reported that the **directories have been sent out**. Pat Adams shared that about 160 were mailed to all residents in the Tulaby Lake community to members and non-members. She reported that some locations receive more than one because of multiple families owning a property. There are additional directories for members who would like one for home and at the lake. There are also additional directories for new members. Please let Pat know if someone new moves onto the lake so she can send out a directory to them.

It was discussed that a **digital PDF of the directory be made available**. After some discussion it was determined that the digital release of the data could be objected to by some. The overall reaction to the printed directly is positive with no questions or worries about privacy. It was decided to not make a digital copy available to anyone.

NEW BUSINESS

Bryan Vidden shared that the lake association would like to continue efforts in **developing the Tulaby Lake quality improvement plan** which is required because Tulaby Lake has been listed on the Minnesota impaired waters list since about 2016. Danny Pinske has been leading in gathering data. It is now time to pull the data together and begin developing the plan.

At this time it is unclear what the exact process is and who receives the plan. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) works with monitoring lakes and offering guidance in developing a plan.

Pat Adams shared information from the MPCA website:

"Local government units, including counties, watershed districts, municipalities, and soil and water conservation districts, take the lead in developing and carrying out implementation plans based on what is learned during the earlier steps of the process (data collection). The Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources oversees local planning and implementation, including the 'One Watershed One Plan' process."

Pat suggested we contact the MN Board of Soil and Water Resources to find out more information on moving our planning ahead. Karen Ahmann was familiar with 'One Watershed One Plan' and will get more information locally to share with the board of directors. She noted this was a new initiative. Karen also thought she may be able to find other lake plans to give us guidance.

Dave Adams reviewed the natural sources of phosphorus in the lake and also the possibility that lawn care practices can add phosphorus to the water; both contribute to the algae growth. Heidi Matejka wondered if lawn services would be a source of good information for proper care of lake property.

The MPCA has a planning book online for developing the improvement plan, but the booklet was last updated in 2004. We wonder if there is an updated version. Danny Pinske has found a consultant in St. Cloud that would contract to write a comprehensive plan for our lake, but the cost is over \$5,000. It was discussed that before we make a decision to contract we need more information on who is able to help (local agencies/resources/grants). Bryan Vidden mentioned that Becker County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) is a resource we should consider and approach. Bryan said the COLA website has a lot of information. Will Bement, who owns property on Tulaby and is the manager of Natural Resources with the White Earth Tribe, may be a resource when developing our plan.

John Oncken recalled that in the past there have been grants for shoreline restoration. He wondered if this or other assistance exists today. Pat shared that the 2013 Hydrologic Report for Tulaby Lake is available and will be posted on the Tulaby Lake Association website. This thirty-page document has in depth information about Tulaby Lake.

Fred Soch, who has been on the lake fifty years, reflected that Tulaby Lake has always had spikes of phosphorus in May and August, even before there were cabins on the lake. The phosphorus comes from the lake springs water and streams that enter the lake from nearby bogs. Fred wondered if we could improve the water quality. Maybe looking at septic systems could help. Past state and county plans for systematic septic inspections on lake properties have not been implemented, that he is aware. Fred mentioned that all new construction in Minnesota which require a septic system are required to install a mound system that costs \$12 - 15,000. The best clarity on Tulaby Lake is about 21 feet, average is 8 feet; currently the clarity is about 3 - 4 feet. Fred believes clarity will begin to improve this week. Last year the water clarity of Tulaby Lake was better than this year.

Kathy Wambach questions if lower water level, like last year, results in clearer water, like last year. Fred said he has seen no relationship to that. The DNR has reported that cold springs and late ice-out, like this year, encourage algae and weed growth.

RMB Labs in Detroit Lakes collects and publishes the Tulaby Lake water data online. (<https://www.rmbel.info>) (Home > Lakes & Streams > Lake Monitoring Program >Lakes Database > Choose format & choose Mahnomen County, Tulaby Lake, Site 202 and date range)

Bryan Vidden asked if anyone would be willing to work on developing the lake improvement plan for Tulaby Lake. John Oncken suggested we continue to work towards a plan, but keep it simple. It is possible our plan may include ramping up the education of lake residents in good stewardship practice. It was noted by several that the lake association has no authority of enforcement of any practices on Tulaby Lake.

Bryan Vidden reported he has not seen any expanding reports of zebra mussels in the area lakes. Those present encouraged vigilance in taking care to not spread invasive species. Some noted an increased presence of the DNR on Tulaby Lake this year.

There was discussion about the **water level of Tulaby Lake**. There are different opinions of the historical levels and the current level. It was noted that thirty years ago there was a dam on the outlet, but that has been removed and the DNR will not manage that again and discourage the use as it creates friction between lake residents and is not necessary for the health of the lake. Some wondered if we had more control of the water level if we could improve the lake quality. It was noted that last year the landing was dredged because it was too shallow to launch some boats and pontoons. There was discussion if this was because of low water levels or power loading of boats.

Many at the meeting have concerns about **thick weed beds found on the lake this year**. Some wondered if this was a new species to the lake and if it was invasive. Many reported seeing a barge-looking weed cutter on the lake and wondered if a permit was needed for that. They would also like it if those cutting the weeds would remove the weeds from the lake to avoid floating mats of weeds or large piles of weeds piling up on shores. Bryan Vidden offered to contact Will Bement to ask about this process.

Bryan Vidden was asked if we **could promote the listing of a property that is currently for sale** on the lake. It was agreed by those present that this would not be appropriate and would open the door for other requests, which could result in additional work and diligence being equitable. The seller will be encouraged to post their listing on the Tulaby Lake Association Facebook Community Page.

Pat Adams asked if it would be helpful to let lake residents know about the **proper use of wake boats** on Tulaby Lake. Those present felt that would be a good idea.

Pat Adams **nominated Lauri Pfeiffer, Karen Ahmann, and Brian Ciak for director positions**. Kathy Wambach seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Thank you Lauri, Karen, and Brian for continuing to serve on the board. Their three-year term will begin January 1, 2023 and end December 31, 2026.

Pat Adams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathy Wambach seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

Submitted,

Pat Adams, Secretary Tulaby Lake Association

Approved May 2, 2023