

**May 20, 2023 Tulaby Lake Spring Meeting
Tulaby Lake Association Membership Meeting minutes**

Tulaby Lake Association Meeting was held Saturday, May 20, 2023, at 1:00PM at the Elbow and Tulaby Lakes Fire Hall.

Bryan Vidden called the meeting to order.

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented by Danny Pinske. To date income for 2023 = \$3,139.16. To date expenses for the association = \$2,533.15. The current balance of the account = \$10,298.36, which includes designated funds for water quality efforts of \$2,945.00. Individuals have donated dollars requesting they be used for water quality activities. Currently there are 80 paid members. Frank Wambach made a motion to approve the report; seconded by Dave Adams, and unanimously approved.

The **Secretary's Report** of the minutes of the August 2022 Annual Meeting was presented by Pat Adams. Steve Pfeiffer made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by John Oncken, and unanimously approved.

Old Business

The **survey** results regarding the lake association's directory that was sent with the 2023 membership form have been collected, but have not been processed. The results will be presented at the Membership Meeting in August.

It was shared that Becker County will be conducting **septic testing for all of Tulaby Lake**, including Mahnomen County residents, in 2024. Each resident will be responsible for the cost of the testing. It was noted that about ten years ago we heard rumors of septic testing causing some to be skeptical this plan will be implemented. If the plan is implemented some raised concern that the shortage of septic or excavating companies in the area would impede timely septic upgrades to meet inspection standards.

New Business

Danny Pinske gave a **presentation concerning the development of the Tulaby Lake Improvement Plan** as our response to the lake being classified as 'impaired waters' in 2010.

He summarized the work that has been done over the years to collect and study our lake data, which has resulted in a historical and comprehensive understanding of our 'unique' lake. In 2011 professionals from the University of Minnesota, along with U of M students, and a local hydrologist, hosted by lake residents, spent many days at Tulaby to better get to know the lake, investigate the water quality, and explore the reasons for the high phosphorus and algae blooms. They also reviewed the water sample data. As a result of their work a comprehensive report was written and presented to the lake association. In 2011 - 2012 data was collected about all the streams entering into the lake. RMB Labs in Detroit Lakes has processed our data.

Danny, along with the lake directors, support moving ahead with formally developing a lake improvement plan. This effort is aligned with the purpose of the association to "promote, protect and maintain the environmental and recreational values of the Tulaby area". Karen Ahman noted that plans are no longer required for lakes classified as impaired and there are no plans available as a model. The Directors believe that a plan will include direction for the association directors and lake residents to actively work to preserve the lake quality. A plan will include information on why and what practices best support lake quality. It was noted that having a formal plan may provide grant opportunities or eligibility in the future.

Danny Pinske has contacted Moriya Rufer, Scientist, with Houston Engineering Inc about writing a plan. Moriya has a history with Tulaby Lake from a time when she worked for RMB Labs. The quote from Houston Engineering, Inc. would include closely looking at our lake data, understanding our lake values, appreciating the enjoyment aspects of the lake, and specific actions to take to improve/preserve our lake quality.

Pat Pfund made a motion to approve a contract with Houston Engineering, Inc to write our Lake Improvement Plan for \$1,900 to \$2,500. Cathy Wambach seconded the motion. A discussion followed. Those

present expressed this was a good direction in making information and action plans accessible to residents, and potentially encouraging lake shore improvements, applying for grants, preventing invasive species, and assisting residents with solving costly or complex issues (noted was the flowing well, which pumps approximately 640 phosphorus-rich gallons/minute into the lake). The motion passed unanimously.

Fred and Connie Soch will be the Grand Marshals for the 4th of July Boat Parade. John Oncken volunteered to host them on his pontoon for the event.

Fred Soch gave a report regarding the collection of water data. He reminded those present that he collects his data at the same designated site - point 202- each time he gathers data. He gets his water sample and readings to RMB Labs in Detroit Lakes. Fred passed out a print out of Tulaby Lake data and trends and reviewed much of the information. Fred reminded the group that 20 years in a lake's history is but a second in its long life. Change is slow. His observation is that the algae in the lake has remained pretty constant, noting old timers don't fish Tulaby in August. He reminded the group the lake is in the Eutrophic Stage, meaning the lake has too much phosphorus and nitrogen causing algae to grow.

Fred shared that the Minnesota DNR has a Watershed Health Assessment Framework. Tulaby Lake and all the area lakes are in the Wild Rice River Watershed District. Below are some lakes he noted with their health assessment score. *(Also included in the handout from Fred.)*

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| Bass Lake 75/B+ | Sargent 75/B+ |
| Little Elbow 60/C+ | Snider 60/C+ |
| McCraney 70/B | South Twin 65/B |
| North Twin 60/C+ | Tulaby Lake 55/C+ |
| Roy Lake 55/C+ | White Earth Lake 75/B+ |

Dave Adams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lauri Pfeiffer seconded the motion. Pass unanimously.

Respectively fully submitted
Pat Adams, Secretary
Minutes approved, August 5, 2023