

IDA LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 175, Garfield, MN 56332-0175

Website: www.lakeida.org

Ida Township website: www.idatownship.com

August 2007

FROM THE PREZ: (by Bud Nielsen)

We have a need for district directors. Our lake is divided into 17 districts to share the work of representation. Some districts do not presently have a director, and other directors may be “retiring”. It is important for each district to have representation on the Board of Directors to facilitate communication between the Board and each district. The obligations are really minimal, non-mandatory attendance at 4 monthly meetings and the annual meeting, updating information on property owner changes, following up on delinquent membership, and delivery of the directory every three years. The lake association is only as strong as its membership and Board. Please consider becoming a director from your district. Directors of odd-numbered districts will be elected at this year’s annual August meeting. Some even-numbered districts need directors also, and volunteers can fill these openings without waiting for next years elections. Nominations are still being taken for president and secretary. A newsletter following the August meeting will summarize the election results and identify remaining openings. Any past directors, who still possess the binder of by-laws, please return them to Board for re-issue.

The Board acted on a motion to check the feasibility of requesting a walleye slot limit for Lake Ida. The Board followed up on this and determined that there is insufficient or no evidence to support this sanction. Other sanctions such as the state reducing the walleye daily limit from 6 to 4 could possibly be more effective and less restrictive.

Anyone interested in organizing a **rain dance**?

2007 ANNUAL ASSOCIATION MEETING:

The Ida Lake Association Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, August 25, 9:00 a.m. at the Ida Township hall located at county roads 6 and 22.

MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Membership dues in the amount of **\$25** are payable on an annual basis. **Please check your mailing address label to verify your district number and the last year for which your dues have been paid.** If you recently paid your label may not reflect the current year. Included with this newsletter is an insert for Annual Dues payment. Please complete the form and mail it, with your check, to Ida Lake Association, P. O. Box 175, Garfield, MN 56332-0175. You may also pay your dues during the Annual Meeting on Saturday, August, 25.

ELECTIONS DURING ANNUAL ASSOCIATION MEETING:

Nominations and election of president and secretary plus directors for odd numbered districts will be conducted. In addition new directors are needed for even numbered districts 6 and 16. Please reference Bud Nielsen's comments under president's article. Please remember only those who are current in dues payment are allowed to vote.

SERIOUS REMINDERS: (Burning and Fertilizer)

- As you begin fall work on your yard **please** remember that Douglas County Ordinance restricts burning within 100 feet of the lakeshore or any drainage area. Burning closer than 100 feet requires the use of a fire ring. Ashes are very high in phosphorus and a major contributor to algae and weed growth.
- Home burning of household waste is illegal.
- Remember Minnesota state law prohibits the application of fertilizer containing phosphorus.

Let's all do our part to help keep our Lake Ida clean and beautiful.

7 – T IDA TOWNSHIP ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: (by Don Erstad)

During the initial public hearing conducted by the Ida Township Board of Supervisors on July 23, 2007 the following primary roads affecting the west and south sides of Lake Ida were approved for asphalt paving.

- Lake Ida Way from County Road 61 north to Wahtomin Trail.
- Wahtomin Trail east to the "T" in the road way.
- Christopherson Road east from County Rd. 6 to Water Lily Trail.
- 81st Avenue (Foxy Lane) east from County Rd. 6 to Lake Ida Way.
- Oakridge Road east to "T" in the road way.
- Bedman Dr. north from LaGrande Township boundry (Lake Louise) to Sahara Lane NW.

The estimated project cost is \$1,437,993.50. There are an estimated 508 parcels that will benefit from this project and each parcel will be assessed \$1,345.90 (\$683,717.20). The balance of the project cost (\$754,276.30) will be paid by the Ida Township under the current road policy.

Bids are being advertised for up grading these road ways to begin taking place this fall and the paving to be completed during the summer of 2008.

In addition to the above project, Sunset Strip from County Road 61 north to Burkeys Lane has been rebuilt with additional work to be scheduled next year. This road will be considered for asphalt paving at a later date.

MEETING WITH DNR FISHERIES BIOLOGIST: (by Rob Auel)

On March 14, 2007, seven individuals met with Dean Beck, DNR Fisheries Biologist for this area. The purpose of the meeting was to determine 1) the current status, 2) the DNR's plans and 3) what the Ida Lake Association should be doing in regard to fish stocking.

To our surprise, he is in the third year of a Fisheries Management Plan for 2005 – 2016, for which he provided copies. The last full (net) survey in 2003n showed a continued decline in the number of walleyes. Per the plan, a full survey is scheduled for this August with additional fall electrofishing to determine the YOY (young of the year). The DNR plan is to stock fry annually and, depending upon the above testing, may also stock fingerlings.

In regard to Ida Lake Association stocking additional fingerlings, dependent upon the above testing, Dean will allow us and other lakes to do so. Dean says it provides a “feel good” atmosphere. He personally feels there is a much better chance for more fish to survive from the large amount of fry, if for example, 1% survive. However, there is no proof the survival rate is 1% or .01%

There were several other items either discussed or in the plan which the Ida Lake Association has an interest in.

The DNR's data shows a high number of both northern pike and bass. Yet, there is an extremely low number of perch. From past surveys, low walleye populations are typical whenever the northern population is high. Apparently, there is competition for the food (perch). If this continues with this year's survey, we may need to promote selective harvesting of northerns and bass.

In regard to size limits, Dean personally does not support a slot limit. This is due to his concern over additional catch and release mortality, especially the walleyes taken from deep water. However, he did refer to “The Regulation Toolbox” which is an effort by DNR biologists to “maintain and improve” Minnesota's fish population “through a simplified set of special possession limits and length-based regulations.” The 3 walleye options are 1) three fish limit, 2) 17 – inch minimum size limit, and 3) 17 – 20 inch protected slot size limit.

The plan provided to us states “The greatest challenges in effective fish management include protecting and sustaining current habitat conditions.”

MISSION STATEMENT FOR IDA LAKE ASSOCIATION: (a reminder)

“The mission of the Ida Lake Association is to preserve and protect the serenity, quality, and natural beauty of Lake Ida. In addition, it is our purpose to organize and educate all those concerned with Lake Ida including lakeshore property owners, area residents, and visitors. We acknowledge our role as caretakers and propose to work as one to accomplish our responsibility to water and land.”

CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED ALERT:

Curly – leaf pondweed has been identified in over 500 water bodies in Minnesota. A sighting has been reported in Lake Ida but this has not been officially confirmed. We all need to be vigilant in observing for this invasive nuisance species and report suspected sightings to your district director or co-director for assistance.

Please refer to the enclosed document for specific information.

ADOPT – A – HIGHWAY - PROJECT:

Members of districts 4, 5, 6, and 7 under the leadership of Jim Peterson, have volunteered to participate in the Adopt A Highway project along a 3 mile segment of County Road 34 that runs from County Road 5 south to Pilgrims Point Camp Road. This is a two year commitment with Douglas County. The county provides plastic bags, safety colored vests, and pick up of the bagged trash. Appropriate signs have been posted along the roadway. Volunteers are needed to successfully fill the responsibility of this very worth while project. Pick up occurs each spring and fall. Please respond in the affirmative when contacted for participation.

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