

7/1/17 Skogman Lake Improvement District General Membership Meeting

The annual Skogman LID General Membership Meeting was held at New Hope Church. LID president, Mark Skoglund started the meeting at 9:10 am..

Mark encouraged members to review the lake map today, that Shari VanAlstine made. He asked the attendees for any additional info. on our Skogman Lake land owners, regarding addresses, phone numbers, emails, etc..

Mark then asked for volunteers for one LID board position. We need to fill Shari VanAlstine's position, as Public Relations Director, as her term will end this Dec.. We would prefer a resident from Shari's neighborhood, on 331st Ave., but would love to hear from all interested lake residents about serving on the LID board.

Mark listed who the current LID board members are, and where they reside on the lake. The aim is to continue to have the LID board made up from landowners that live in all of the various neighborhoods around the lake.

Brandon Oliver, a deputy from the Isanti Sheriff's Office, spoke to the group regarding water safety, carp hunting and jet ski rules.

Isanti County doesn't have a F.T. water patrol. Boating and water issues are handled on a volunteer/overtime basis by the Sheriff's office.

Life jackets and a throw able floatation item should be out and available while boating. Life jackets must worn while under transit, for those aged 10 or under. These measures can save lives. Brandon told the group that one doesn't need to be in a very deep lake, to be at risk of drowning. He has heard of adults drowning, in a little as 5' of water.

The next topic of discussion was the bright lights used by night time carp hunters. Some members felt that the carp hunter's lights were directed at their lake homes. Brandon told the group that carp hunting with bows and arrows is legal. However, they can't legally shine their bright lights directly into homes.

The group then discussed how carp hunter's motors tend to cut weeds like EWM, as they travel directly through weed beds in search of carp. This,

unfortunately, will spread the EWM, as the cut fragments float away and re-root elsewhere. This is an undesirable consequence of legal carp hunting. All injured carp must be removed from the lake.

There has been a large increase lately in thefts/break-ins into vehicles left at boat landings. Call 911 if you see any vandalism in progress, or if you have been victimized by such vandalism. He stressed the need to secure/lock up all items. Don't leave items stored in your boats, or along the shore.

Traffic on the boat landing road has reportedly been excessive lately. Three deputies are on staff through the Isanti County Sheriff's office, both night and day. They cannot be present here at all times, but do try to visit boat landing areas as often as possible. If anyone sees suspicious activity at the boat landing, please call the sheriff's office at: 763-689-2141, or simply call 911, both lines are answered by the same person. Isanti County has 492 square miles, and about 40 square miles of lakes, so they have a lot of area to cover.

Legal jet ski times listed on the DNR website are: "only between 9:30 am and one hour before sunset".

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/education_safety/safety/boatwater/pwc-brochure.pdf They must stay away from the wake of all boats, with or without a skier in tow.

Again, call 911 if issues with jet skis occur. Try to get the registration number from the offending operator's jet ski, so you can provide it to the sheriff's office.

Persons cannot legally be intoxicated while out on the water or frozen lakes.

The sheriff's officers will go out and talk to offenders if reported to them. Video assistance also helps them get the registration numbers from the watercraft. If you can take a video of the offenders, that would be very helpful.

For the DNR regulations regarding horns, floatation items, and lifejackets, etc., see the DNR website at:

<http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/rlp/regulations/boatwater/boatingguide.pdf>

Mark Skoglund went on to explain the differences between the Skogman LID and the Skogman Lake Improvement Association. The LID's sole purpose is to address water quality issues. The LID cannot do

things such as boat parades, picnics, etc.. Those things can be done through our lake association, if there is sufficient interest and funding. Mark said that anyone with an interest in working on the lake association board should contact him, and he will get them in contact with Kent Schutte and Steve Owens, our current SLIA board members. We are definitely looking for more board members !

The LID was started to address our increasing invasive species problem. Curly Leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Water Milfoil, and Purple Loosestrife are growing in Skogman Lake. During 2016, the EWM did not grow at the high rate that we had expected, based on the very high 2015 growth rates. For some reason, the growth of CLP and EWM was very minimal in 2016. Now, in 2017, the CLP so far seemed once again to be less troublesome than expected. We have yet to see what August and September will bring, as far as the EWM is concerned, but it doesn't seem to be as bad as expected. This may be due to the growth of filamentous algae, that may be slowing the CLP and EWM growth at this time, anyways. We started the Skogman LID tax assessment for the 2017 tax year at

\$200.00 per land owner/year. We plan to reduce this assessment amount for next year, due to the anchorage spraying constraints placed by the DNR.

The weed control by Lake Management for beach cleanups has had excellent results, both in 2016 and 2017. Also, the large (13.3 acre) area at the south end of the lake that was treated for CLP both years, has shown dramatic improvements for boating, fishing, etc..

Skogman Lake has 223 acres in total water area. The littoral zone, that area that is less than 15' of water depth, is 135 acres. Due to DNR regulations, we can only treat the amount equal to 15% of the littoral area, or 20.25 acres, without special lake-wide surveys and DNR input. We are recommending that our residents only have the minimum beach area treated that will provide them the swimming and boating areas that they truly need.

The 13.3 acre CLP treatment area at the south end, plus the beach clean-up spraying (5.576 acres) totaled 18.876 acres in 2017.

Our total this year is just below the annual amount that the DNR allows (20.25 acres) for our lake. If we

find a severe infestation of EWM later this summer, then we may use our remaining balance to have one additional area treated this year.

We would need to do a lake-wide survey if we wanted to attempt to increase the allotted treatment area. Even if we do a complete survey, then the DNR said that they will start out by cutting the individual beach treatment areas, lot by lot, and will apply that amount to the general lake treatments first. We are not planning to do this in the near future, but if the CLP and EWM get a lot worse, then we may do a lake wide weed survey to review with the DNR.

Mark made two recommendations to reduce the beach treatment anchorages, so that we can continue to treat the 13.3 acres in the south bay, and have some cushion for possible EWM spraying, if and when needed. He recommended that owners that have good lake depths (8'-10' deep), at 100' from shore, only need to hire Lake Management to spray out to 100', as the weeds don't seem to be prevalent in 10+' of water at this time. Also, homeowners may want to consider eliminating the second treatment next year, to reduce the stress on

the lake, and to save money. The DNR may count those beach treatment anchorages **twice** when there were two treatments done...we are still trying to get these details answered by the DNR. The homeowners at the meeting have been very pleased with the weed control that the first treatment provided, possibly eliminating the advantage of having a second spraying done. Please check your water depths at 100' from shore, to determine if maybe a reduction from 150' down to 100' may work for you next season.

Mark suggested that we lower the annual taxation for the LID from \$200, down to \$100.00 per owner, per year. The membership recommended a lesser reduction of the LID tax level, down to \$150.00/ year, instead of such a drastic reduction to \$100.00. They felt that due to the potential costs involved as we find more and more invasive species as time passes, it would be prudent not to lower the assessment too much just yet, as it could be difficult to raise the fees back up later on. Mark asked for any opposition to this proposal, and there was none.

The 2018 LID tax will be set at \$150.00 per year, per

property owner.

The annual assessment level may need to be increased again in the future, if more funds are needed for water quality issues in 2019 and beyond. Time will tell, as Zebra Mussels, Spiny Water Fleas, and Starry Stone Wart will likely invade Skogman Lake sometime in the future, as they have done in so many other MN lakes.

We then discussed the culverts that help to drain the chain of lakes from Skogman Lake, to the Rum River. The Skogman LID can address this issue through working with the county, as culverts get clogged. Isanti County will likely clean out the clogged culverts, once contacted. We will see if Todd Lind could possibly work on this with Isanti County, as he has done in the past.

Shore erosion was discussed. Large boat waves may be eroding the shore lines of some lots. Boaters are encouraged to keep a good distance from their boats to the shorelines, to minimize bank erosion. We discussed the DNR's current recommendations to reestablish the natural shoreline vegetation (which were cat tails in Skogman Lake), versus the old method of building

rock rip rap areas, in order to prevent shoreline erosion. Additionally, an un-mowed grassy buffer strip should be left along the shore, as it is helpful in reducing runoff of pollutants such as grass clippings and fertilizer.

Please remember that we need a volunteer to fill Shari VanAlstine's position, as the county requires us to have 7 LID board members, and Shari's term is ending this fall.

Respectfully submitted,
Bradley Videen,
Skogman LID Secretary

P.S. If you have received this via paper copy instead of email, then I would appreciate it if you would send your email address to me at:

videen36@msn.com This will cut down on the LID costs to you, and also reduce waste. Thanks much!!

2017 LID Board Members

Mark Skoglund, President 763-689-5671

John Cariveau, VP 763-267-3167

Brad Videen, Secretary

Grant Crocker, Treasurer

Shari VanAlstine, Public Relations (term expiring
Dec. 2017)

Jenny Hunt, General Board Member

Todd Lind, General Board Member

Below is a picture of the invasive species Purple-loosestrife. It invades/replaces the natural cattails and is not a favorable habitat for native birds, muskrats, etc.. If you see these plants, please consider cutting them off and burning them before the flowers mature and create millions of seeds.