

**Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Members of  
Pelican Lakeshore Owners Association**

**Sunday, July 25, 2010**

Pursuant to written notice in accordance with the bylaws of Pelican Lakeshore Owners Association (the "Association") and applicable law, the annual regular meeting of the Members of the Association was held on Sunday, July 25, 2010, at the Orr American Legion Post 480, in Orr, Minnesota. A quorum of Members was present in person and by proxy. Dan Donovan, President of the Association, acted as chairman for the meeting. Keith Baker, Assistant Secretary of the Association, acted as secretary for the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Donovan at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Donovan welcomed and thanked those Members in attendance for the second annual meeting of the Association's Members. He introduced the Directors and Officers of the Association. He noted that a good portion of the meeting will be devoted to a presentation by Mr. Kevin Peterson, DNR Area Fisheries Manager and an opportunity for questions. In addition, the Directors will provide updates on the Association's activities and the Treasurer's report will be reviewed. The Members will also cast votes for Directors. He asked the Members with internet access to periodically check the Association's website, [www.pelicanlakeshoreowners.org](http://www.pelicanlakeshoreowners.org), for updates and new information. At this time, Mr. Donovan introduced Mr. Peterson.

**Status of the Fishery and Management of Pelican Lake**

Mr. Peterson reviewed a Power Point presentation of the history of the Pelican Lake fishery and the DNR's surveying and management activities. Between 1908 and 1942, a variety of fish species were stocked in Pelican Lake, including trout, whitefish, walleye, crappie, sunfish, northern pike, and bass. He then provided more detailed information concerning stocking and assessment efforts during the last 60 years. During the 1950's and 1960's, stocking efforts focused on sunfish, crappie, rock bass, largemouth bass, northern pike, and muskellunge. No stocking took place in the 1970's or 1980's. In 1991, 6,000,000 walleye fry (the "standard quota" for Pelican Lake's littoral acreage) were stocked in Pelican Lake. In 1992, another 6,000,000 walleye fry were again placed in the lake. No stocking has taken place since that time. He noted that slot limits for northern pike and bass were implemented in 1998, with the northern pike slot limit expanded to 36" in 2008.

Mr. Peterson also presented the results of historical gill net and trap net data. Few walleyes were observed in 1993 and 1994 during creel surveys. There was a lengthy discussion of the netting/sampling results in 1995 and 1998. At these intervals in time after the 1991 – 1992 stocking efforts, the DNR would have expected to see a material increase in walleyes. From the DNR's perspective, however, there was no material increase in walleyes. Turning to other species, Mr. Peterson advised that northern pike and bass size appears to have increased after the implementation of slot limits. Black crappie and bluegill numbers are also above "target levels" for Pelican Lake. He related that catch rates from 2007 samplings evidenced the second highest walleye catch rate. The walleyes ranged from 12" to 28" and, most noteworthy, nine different "year classes" were present, ranging from 2 to 21 years old. Presently, yellow perch numbers were at their highest since the 1950's – especially important for walleyes, northern pike, and bass.

Copies of the DNR's present Lake Management Plan had been distributed prior to the meeting. *[Members should note that the Lake Management Plan and Mr. Peterson's presentation on the History of the Fishery and Management of Pelican Lake are posted on the Association's website.]* He explained that

the Lake Management Plan is the DNR's guiding document for fishery management decision making and planning. Fish population assessments are scheduled for 2012 and 2016. Creel surveys are scheduled for 2016 and the protected slot limits will be evaluated in 2017. He concluded his portion of the presentation by stating that Pelican Lake has been, is presently, and in the long term will most always likely be, best suited as a northern pike, smallmouth and largemouth bass, bluegill, and crappie fishery. Walleyes have a self sustaining population and, as noted by the most recent sampling, are fairly nice sized (even compared to some of the state's best known walleye lakes) but with lower numbers. The present perch population is likely benefiting the walleyes.

Mr. Peterson then opened up the discussion for Members' questions and suggestions. Some Members questioned the northern pike slot limits and why the lower end wasn't raised from 24" to 26". Mr. Peterson replied that, in his opinion, the change would have a detrimental impact on the promotion of larger – sized pike. Other Members shared their opinion as to whether the size of pike was, in fact, increasing in the last 2 years. Exotic species were discussed. Rusty crayfish are present, but they do not seem to be having an impact on Pelican Lake, as opposed to some concern within the DNR about an impact on Lake Vermilion. Mr. Peterson noted that spiny water fleas were now found in the border lakes and, in a matter of time, many other lakes may be impacted. Finally, there was also substantial discussion about walleyes and walleye stocking from some of the Members present. In response to a specific question about whether the DNR will consider stocking walleyes again, Mr. Peterson said he would not be strongly opposed to an occasional walleye stocking. However, he does not want to create an expectation that Pelican Lake will become a walleye fishery. Pelican Lake is best suited for northern pike, bass, crappie, and bluegills. He and the Members also discussed the difference between fingerling and fry stocking. Due to the size of the lake, fingerling stocking at the "quota" rate for the lake would be very expensive with a lower probability of success. Mr. Peterson believes that stocking with fry would make more sense than fingerlings. Members also asked his opinion on "lower than quota" levels of stocking – financed by private donations. Mr. Peterson thought that these efforts may likely be a waste of funds. In response to a question, he described how the fry are actually placed in the lake.

In conclusion, Mr. Donovan thanked Mr. Peterson for attending the meeting. Mr. Peterson said he would remain after the meeting to answer any other questions. *[After the meeting, based upon Members' input, questions, and interest, Mr. Peterson noted he may advance the date of the DNR's next scheduled survey of the Pelican Lake fishery from 2012 to 2011.]*

### **Treasurer's Report**

Next, Treasurer Len Zabrocki presented the annual Treasurer's Report. Copies of the Report were distributed prior the meeting. Ninety-three Members had paid 2010 dues prior to today's meeting, and a few more paid today at the door. So, 132 Members had paid dues to the Association prior to today, although not all have paid the 2010 dues. Mr. Zabrocki detailed the Association's starting (\$1,395) and ending (\$2,449) balances and the major expense items. Assistant Secretary Baker explained that the \$300 expense to the U.S. Treasury/IRS was a one time expenditure required by applicable law so that the Association could be a tax exempt organization. While the Association did not seek "501(c)(3)" status, it did receive a favorable ruling letter from the IRS that it is an "exempt organization." The Directors will decide at a later date whether additional dues will be charged for 2011.

### **Hazard Buoys**

Last year, the Association's efforts led to the County's purchase of 26 buoys and related equipment for marking some of the lake's navigational hazards. As Members know, there are now 50 buoys on the lake! Mr. Donovan and the Members present thanked the Pelican Lake Resort Owners Association, the holder of the permit for the buoys, for purchasing an additional 30 buoys earlier this spring. Mr. Ingebretsen, an Association Director and the President of the Resort Owners Association, stated the Resort Owners

Association will likely begin a numbering system for the buoys next year to facilitate tracking. Now that more experience has been gained with their installation and placement, he said the locations will be marked by GPS this fall. He asked Members to see him after the meeting with any suggestions for new locations. The Members again thanked the Directors and the Pelican Lake Resort Owners Association for successfully spearheading the buoy effort and the purchase of additional buoys.

### **Outlet Dam and Lake Water Levels**

Mr. Donovan proceeded to summarize the efforts undertaken by the Directors with respect to the lake's water level and the outlet dam since the last annual Members meeting. The Association's website contains copies of correspondence between the Association and the DNR. The DNR did acknowledge that the dam had settled approximately 2 inches and authorized both the restoration of the dam by 2 inches and the closure of the "fish hole" (low flow slot) in the dam. But, no repairs have occurred to date. After receiving, in September 2009, a disappointing response from the DNR to additional questions from the Directors, the Directors met with Rep. Dave Dill and solicited his assistance in voicing our concerns and coordinating additional discussions with the DNR. Rep. Dill then wrote the DNR Commissioner around Thanksgiving. No response was forthcoming from the DNR – to either the Association or Rep. Dill. At the fishing opener, a Director introduced himself to the Commissioner and requested a meeting. Subsequent and persistent efforts by the Directors to follow up and schedule a meeting have proven unsuccessful. The Directors acknowledged their frustration but assured the Members they will continue their efforts. Mr. Zabrocki asked whether the Members would support a letter writing campaign – and the Members present indicated their support. A Member expressed his disappointment with the elected representatives. It was noted that Rep. Dill has spent some time and effort on the issue, but Sen. Bakk has never responded.

There were a handful of other questions and then the Directors thanked the Members for their support of the Association. Mr. Donovan again urged Members to visit the website and to send any questions, suggestions, and other input to the Directors at any time by email ([info@pelicanlakeshoreowners.org](mailto:info@pelicanlakeshoreowners.org)) or by mail (P.O. Box 52, Orr, MN 55771).

### **Election of Directors**

Mr. Donovan then turned the Members' attention to the election of Directors. He reviewed the ballot that had been distributed prior to the meeting during check-in and noted that a number of proxies had been received prior to the meeting. Mr. Donovan then asked the Members to proceed and vote for Directors. All ballots were then collected and counted. The following persons were elected Directors of the Association for the ensuing year: Dan Donovan, Grover Gillespie, Ray Ingebretsen, Jim Hawkinson, Tom Pelach, John Poczekaj, and Len Zabrocki. The meeting then concluded.

*/s/ Keith W. Baker*

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Keith W. Baker, Secretary for the Meeting