

**Lake Washington Improvement Association**  
**Annual meeting recap**  
**Tuesday, August 13, 2024**

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Lake Washington Improvement Association was held at Camp Patterson. The following directors were present: Gary Gavin, Harlan Mehlhop, Dan Sachau, Chuck Brandel, Joel Prybylla, Jerry Lynch, Greg Germscheid, Jason Femrite, Brenda Hennek, Spenser Bradley, and Kent Reeves. Also present: Past gambling manager John Lamm. Guests were Julie Blackburn of ISG, and Dr. Ryan Wersal of MSU. President Jason Femrite called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

President Femrite gave a report on the current activities of the Board. He made the point that the Board is using committees to make the Board more effective. He acknowledged the current directors. All were introduced with the exception of Jim Folden, Zack Jasper, and Kim Schmalzriedt who were not present. He reminded attendees that only paying members may vote on Association business, and it is one vote per property.

President Femrite opened a discussion on the changes to the Association's by laws which were necessitated by the recent changes in the Minnesota Gambling Control Board recommendations. Specifically as below:

Recommended and approved changes made by the Board on 1/16/2024:

Article 3, Section 1, Representation: Increasing at-large directors to two directors.

Article 3, section 2, Elections: Increasing to 2 at-large directors.

Article 3, section 2, Quorum: Removing mention of Gambling business

A motion was made and seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

President Femrite next held the election for the even numbered lake area directors, and the at large positions. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved for the addition of Kent Reeves as an at large member.

The At-Large director, Harlan Mehlhop (who had previously agreed to serve) was renominated. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to reelect.

For Areas 2 and 6, Kim Schmalzriedt, Nicki Veith, Jason Femrite and Dan Sachau (all who had previously agreed to serve) were renominated. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to reelect.

For Area 4, Chuck Brandel was up for reelection, and there was an empty seat. Greg Germscheid nominated Todd Johnson. A motion was made to elect Todd Johnson, and reelect Chuck Brandel. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

**Committee Annual Reports**

**Secretary's Report:** There was none, as the secretary was not present.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Gavin presented the report on our current finances including investments. A motion was made and seconded, and unanimously approved.

**Charitable Gambling Report:** Gambling Manager Kent Reeves presented the year end totals for income, expenses, sites and donations. There were many questions from the members. The documentation of the numbers is attached.

**Fund Raising Committee:** Director Veith discussed committee events, the upcoming golf tournament, and the need for more members. This will be worked on with a campaign to increase membership.

**Financial Update:** Director Bradley presented the budget for the upcoming year. We are barely covering expenses, and need to increase our income. Vice President Brandel opened a discussion about ways to get more funding for future projects. Members discussed a Tax District, and the raising of the current dues. Association member comments were “our taxes are too high”, and “would the county pay to implement the special “Tax District”. No motion was made regarding any action, so dues will remain the same for this upcoming year. County Commissioner Rohlfing was at the meeting, and announced he would be happy to discuss these issues with members individually.

President Femrite recognized and thanked John Lamm, past gambling manager for many years, and Kathy Frauenholtz for doing the gambling accounting for many years. He also recognized retiring director Greg Schwarck for his 20 years on the Board.

#### **Guest Speakers/Presentations**

Julie Blackburn from ISG gave a water quality update. Her discussion centered around how lakes change from year to year, and showed the changes in Lake Washington for different years and conditions. Vice President Brandel showed a slide of the lake levels in 2023 and 2024; contrasting the extremely low levels with the current high levels.

Vice President Brandel discussed the awarding of the “Conservationist of the Year Award” presented by the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to the Lake Washington Improvement Association, to much applause.

LeSueur County Deputy Jim Staupe was in attendance and acknowledged.

Dr. Ryan Wersal of MNSU-Mankato discussed aquatic plants and discussed lake chemistry, focusing on what is in our lake.

With no further business there was a motion and a second from the floor to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Transcribed from notes taken by Vice President Brandel

Jim Folden, Secretary

9/16/2024