

The Sibley Steward

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SIBLEY LAKE ASSOCIATION
Summer 2016

SIBLEY LAKE ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 83
PEQUOT LAKES, MN 56472

Sibley Lake Shoreline

Our Association applied for and was awarded a \$22,000 Community Centered Runoff mini-grant to restore the buffer zone and shoreline of Sibley Park. The project will include the restoration of eroded areas along the shoreline and planting of native grasses, shrubs, and trees. The fishing pier will also be relocated to a site just north of the existing location.

Dave Lind and Mark Jurchen will chair the project which is scheduled to begin this summer and completed by December of 2018. The project will include volunteers from various community groups, city staff, and lake association members.

The shoreline restoration is part of our overall efforts on improving the water quality of Sibley Lake by reducing runoff of sediment from eroded areas. Sediment contributes to the increase in phosphorus levels which speeds the eutrophication process and increases plant growth within the lake. This project is part of our focus on shoreline issues that can impact our water quality which also includes septic systems, erosion control, and buffer zones.

Watershed/Water Quality Update

The second year of water quality testing on the Sibley Lake watershed is underway. This year an expanded and more comprehensive sampling will be completed both in the watershed and on the lake to gain a better understanding of how the watershed affects water quality in both Mayo Creek and Sibley Lake. Sibley has a little over 80 acres of watershed for each acre of lake.

An initial sampling was completed on April 3rd to provide a baseline reading of phosphorus in both the watershed and the lake along with E.coli readings in Mayo Creek. This provided levels prior to increased water temperatures and significant rainfall events. Phosphorus levels on the lake averaged around 0.027 milligrams per liter (mg/l). 0.030 is the level that places a lake in impaired status. Watershed phosphorus readings ranged from 0.031mg/l at the furthest reading from the lake to 0.044 mg/l. MPCA standard for watershed impaired status is .100mg/l. The area had little spring runoff and little precipitation prior to the April 3rd sampling which accounted for the lower levels in the watershed.

A second water sampling was taken on May 4th subsequent to about 1.5 inches of rain in the 5 days preceding the testing. Levels of phosphorus rose on the lake to readings of 0.031 to 0.038mg/l with the highest reading close to the inlet. Readings on the watershed increased to 0.029mg/l at the outer limit of the testing to 0.111mg/l immediately past the feedlots off County Rd 17. Average water

temperature on the April reading was 45 degrees, and 52 degrees at the May reading. Water clarity ranged from around 7 feet in April to almost 8.5 feet at our latest reading May 30th.

E.Coli has been detected in Mayo Creek at all testing sites, with the highest reading at 99 MPN/100MPL in May. Maximum standards for recreational use range from 286 to 400 in various states (MPCA standard is 126.) We will continue to monitor the levels throughout the summer and take E.Coli readings at the inlet also. An analysis will be completed with the assistance of A&W Research, Crow Wing and Cass County Soil and Water, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

The committee consists of Mark Jurchen, Jeff Walden, Maury Graham, and John Murphy, President of the Mayo Lake Association. Questions or comments can be addressed to Mark Jurchen by calling him at 218-820-5458 or emailing him at lowhat@tds.net.

Annual Meeting Notice

Sibley Lake Association

Sibley Lake Improvement District

Saturday, July 16, 2016 @ 10:00 am
Sibley Lake Park Pavilion

We cordially welcome you to attend this year's Sibley Lake Association's Annual Meeting. The meeting's agenda includes:

1. Introduction of the Board
2. Review of 2015-2016 Association activities
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Secretary's Report
5. Election of Officers
6. Open Forum

Immediately following the Association meeting, our annual Sibley Lake Improvement District meeting will be held.

Included in this year's agenda:

1. Introduction of Board
2. Review of financial activity for 2015-2016
3. Election of Officers
4. Set the Levy for our next fiscal and levy year

The meetings will be followed by our traditional raffle and annual picnic. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings!

Treasurer's Report (by Jeff Benson)

Hello Sibley Lake Enthusiasts,

First order of business is to thank all of you for your generosity! 2015 annual membership drive generated \$3,546.80, of which 115 members contributed. Additionally, 10 members from Cass County contributed to our Lake Maintenance Fund for a total of \$1,018.80. Fireworks donations totaled \$940.00. Last year's operating cost was \$3,989.47. This included the following fees: \$288.51 newsletter mailing & supplies, \$358.12 annual picnic, \$1,149 insurance premiums, \$332 postal, \$763.75 lake maint., \$320 subscriptions, \$10.31 advertising, \$650 beaver eradication, \$85.68 TCP database, \$32.10 meeting supplies.

Annual membership dues are \$25.00. Please encourage your neighbors to support the Sibley Lake Association.

Once again, thank you Sibley Lake Association members for your generosity, your efforts have enabled us to enjoy a pleasant lake area experience!

SLA Account Balances as of June 15, 2016.

Checking	\$13,488.52
Savings*	\$4,885.96
Lake Maint. Fund	\$12,079.24
Total	\$30,453.72

*Savings includes \$1,884.09 designated for Bob Johnson Memorial Pier.

Lake Improvement District Update

The Sibley Lake Improvement District (LID) continues to be very effective tool for Sibley Lake. On May 10, 2016, Professional Lakes Management (PLM) treated approximately 37 acres of curly leaf pondweed in various areas of the lake. The LID continues to work with PLM and the DNR to control curly leaf and conduct other maintenance of Sibley Lake.

The LID will continue to work with the Sibley Lake Association to explore ways to improve Sibley's water quality. Thanks to each riparian owner, the LID has been a very effective tool to help maintain control of curly leaf. We will continue to evaluate other methods to improve the water quality of Sibley.

Currently, each riparian owner in Crow Wing County donates \$108.40 per year to the LID. We also accept donations for those on the lake who reside in Cass County. The cost for the 2016 treatments was \$10,640.02. The balance of the LID account funds as of 03/30/16 was \$60,793.74.

There are two lake mapping surveys needed for the DNR to issue permits for lake treatments. In the past the LID hired professionals to have the lake mapping done. We asked the DNR if it is possible for members of the LID to do one of the surveys, thereby saving money each year. They said yes, as long as we have a locator to do it. The LID bought a locator and will be doing one of the lake mapping surveys going forward.

The annual meetings of the LID will be immediately following the Lake Association meeting. There will be an election of officers for those moving onto or off the LID board at that time.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the LID, please call or email Dave Lind at (218) 341-2853 or bigbobber3@charter.net.

More News on the Sibley Lake Watershed

Members of the committee have been active meeting with various agencies and non-profit organizations. Initial contacts have been made with the Soil and Water Districts in both Cass and Crow Wing County along with meetings with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Nature Conservancy. Mark Jurchen attended the Governor's Water Quality Summit on February 27th along with almost 1,000 other individuals from throughout the state. The attendees consisted of governmental agency representatives, farmers, non-profit organizations, and lake and river associations.

The concern over water quality is rapidly becoming a statewide as well as national issue as more and more bodies of water are declared impaired each year along with sub-surface water contamination. This results in well water that is not suitable for human consumption. Globally this scenario will become a greater challenge as populations increase, placing increased stress on water consumption and decreased water quality.

Agricultural activity in watersheds throughout the state is impacting the water quality in various lakes and rivers. Locally, Mayo Creek runs through an area of concentrated pastureland and several feedlots. The water quality testing is being done to determine if we have data that reveals specific locations and activities that have a significant impact on our water quality. The data will be used in a coordinated effort with governmental agencies to open dialogue with the local farm community on practices that can reduce the runoff of water from farm land along with filtering methods.

One such method is utilization of buffer zones along the creek. Mayo creek is designated as a public waterway and not a private ditch. The 50 foot buffer zone requirement currently applies to public waterways. Another process involves "Sustainable Farming Practices" which includes allowing pasturelands to replenish through rotation of crops and pasture utilization. These concepts will be part of the discussion with our local farm families.

We will also be inviting our local legislators to be part of the process to inform them of the specific challenges on our lake along with the programs and efforts our lake association is utilizing to improve our water quality.

Sibley Lake Association Board of Directors

Officers:

President: Mike Ridgley, 2017
39049 Pequot Blvd, Pequot Lakes, MN 56472
218-568-8562. mikelaurieridgley@charter.net

Vice President: Sean Kaneski, 2017
Sibley Lake Road, Pequot Lakes, MN 56472
218-330-9205. kaneski9205@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jeff Benson, 2016
30515 Pequot Blvd. Pequot Lakes, MN 56472
218-251-6321. jefeben1@gmail.com

Secretary: Tim Paulus, 2018
2990 Ontario Road, Little Canada, MN 55117
651-482-9357. tpaulus63@aol.com

Honorary Member:

Mark Jurchen
31378 Lakeside Ave. Pequot Lakes, MN 56472
218-568-4167. lowhat@tds.net

Board Members:

Kirby Koster, 2016
651-484-6820. kirby@clubkoster.com

Pete Clement, 2016
218-820-8201. plclement@tds.net

Dave Lind, 2016
218-3412853. bigbobber3@charter.net

Joe Peterson, 2016
952-484-2945. joe.peterson@petersonprobst.com

Steve Caouette, 2018
763-441-4793, Email: steve@signaturestucco.com

John Fontecchio, 2016
612-309-5775, Email: 222cobalt@gmail.com

Jon Fogarty, 2016
218-831-2638 Email: mailto:jon@landsenddev.com

Mari Irmiter, 2018
763-238-9891, Email: hairycallmari@gmail.com

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SIBLEY LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 83
PEQUOT LAKES, MN 56472

ANNUAL MEETING **SATURDAY, JULY 16TH**

CUSTOMER NAME
STREET ADDRESS
ADDRESS 2
CITY, ST ZIP CODE

Message from our Lake Association President

Greetings,

Another year has passed and I am still waiting for summer!

The Board has been very busy during this past year and has accomplished a number of great things. Please read the articles about the watershed issues and the activities of the Watershed Taskforce. In addition, the LID has continued their vigilance in keeping the lake weeds under control and I am optimistic that we will see even more positive change in the near future.

I am truly grateful to work with such a dedicated and creative team!

Respectfully,
Mike Ridgley

Mark Your Calendars for a Sibley Lake Tradition

The July 3rd Boat Parade!

The Annual Sibley Lake Boat Parade starts at 7:00PM on Sunday, July 3rd.

We'll meet by the island on the south end of the lake and follow the parade route illustrated on the right. Everyone is invited!

Start planning your boat decorations today and don't forget to join us on the lake for fireworks after the parade!

