

**MEETING OF THE ELK RIVER
LAKE ORONO WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE ELK RIVER CITY HALL
Thursday, May 12, 2009**

Members present: Nicki Blake-Bradley, Cindi Edwards-Plant, Patrick Plant, John Weicht, Vance Zehringer

Members absent: Mark Basiletti, Tiffany Determan, Ed Buttweiler, Jim Tacheny

Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m.

There were no minutes from the previous meeting and no agenda. Nicki cannot take minutes any longer. Cindi said she would; Patrick agreed to do the agendas.

Updates:

a. LOIA Annual Meeting report

Fireworks. The City has \$6,000 allotted for fireworks, LOIA voted to have \$1,000 available, and the Lions are contributing \$2,000. The American Legion committed to be the sponsor.

Work session. This should be set up between the City Council and LOIA officers to set priorities and to get to know one another. John said that this committee (LOWQC) should set the agenda for the work session. Ideas for agenda items were the Wenck study and the Lake Plan. It was suggested to ask Councilmember Nick Zerwas about the meeting and what he thinks would be appropriate agenda items.

Fish stocking. The City budget still has money to reimburse for fish stocking. Vance said that the gates on the dam have been open all spring. The fish get sucked through the gates when this happens. There are new people operating the gates, and the DNR likes the water lower to reduce pressure on the gates, but it's not worth stocking if the fish get sucked downstream.

Vance wanted a vote to talk to them about keeping the gates closed as much as possible; everyone agreed.

Vance would like to know what kind of fish were approved to stock at the Annual Meeting: pan fish or walleye? No one was sure who took the minutes at the LOIA Annual Meeting: Paul Sheets acting secretary or Judy Dirkes, the new secretary. Cindi will check her notes about stocking and call him.

b. Curly Leaf Pondweed

Vance is already seeing it floating on top of the water. Nicki will submit to the DNR for the permit to pull the plants.

The Curly Leaf survey was set for the 10th, 11th or 12th whichever day the weather would be favorable.

- c. *Shoreland permit.* Nicki said that now it costs \$40 to obtain a City shoreland permit which is required for anything done within the shoreland impact zone above the ordinary high water level. It includes laying riprap, clearing trees, building water-oriented structures like boathouses, decks, etc.

- d. *Water testing*
This year in addition to SECCHI disk and fecal coliform testing, we are performing the more comprehensive water testing which includes Chlorophyll-A and Total Phosphorus at three sites in the lake. The City budget still has money for this. Patrick will call Tiffany to set up and coordinate lab pickup. Nicki wants to know when the testing occurs so she can get the billing set up with the City.

- e. *Shoreland buffer maintenance workshop*
This event is to be held in July at Orono Park. This is a joint effort by the SWCD and the Rural Living Workforce.

Set Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items

Next meeting time to be determined via email.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.