

Lake George Conservation Club Meeting Oct 12, 2023

The Meeting began at 7pm and President Becky Ridge welcomed the 25 members and all invited guests and speakers. She explained that this was a joint meeting of Lake George Conservation Club with the LGID to hear end of year reports from Anoka County, DNR, fisheries and wildlife. Welcome to the City council representatives John West and Mike Wylie. She reminded everyone how important it is for us all to work together in preserving the health and vitality of this our most valuable natural habitat and lake. Becky gave a brief history of the Lake George Conservation Club, which was formed 85 years ago by her father, William G. Ridge as an Eagle Scout project at age 18. He had a vision. even then, about the need for conservation and community. In 2007 Alex Stitt and members of LGCC worked to form a proposal and gain the necessary support from taxpayers around the lake to create the plan for the development of the LGID.

The meeting began with our usual reports

A. Lake Reports by Tami,

Sept rain total: 5.16"

Lake level: 901.28 (Oct 9)

Lake temp: 70 (Oct 3)

Lake clarity: 8ft (Oct 3)

Road clean-up (Oct 7) participants were Birdie and Tom Rotramel, Aaron Ridge and John Villandre. Dick Werner, John and JoAnne Jameson cleaned their usual section the weekend before. Special thanks to Roger and Chris Thompson who couldn't make our clean-up session but cleaned at a time more convenient for them.

Thanks to Margie Faherty for supplying delicious donuts to energize the crew!

It is wonderful to see the ditches from 197th Ave to 217th Ave clean again!

A big thanks to Birdie for cleaning 3 sections! Her extra efforts were very much appreciated!

B. Pat gave an update or summary of Todd's project with Anoka Parks,

C. Treasury report and Request for New Treasurer and Secretary for 2024 as Tim is resigning.

D. Plans for organization of webpage and what we will include:

1. Conservation club news/minutes, 2. Lake Related news including Lake George Regional Park as it relates to LGCC, 3. Lost and found items on the lake and 4. LGID news that they have decided to share on our website.

Blasts will be updates on things like Road -side clean-up, Picnic, death announcements.

- D. Birdie Rotramel has defined her role of vice-president update: to include Organize and set up meetings for next year with Refuge, set-up room, distribute name tags, drawing of door prizes.

Becky Introduced Juanita and turned the meeting over to her at this point.

I. Introduction

A. Thank LGCC for hosting this joint meeting,
Privilege to share leadership with Becky
Juanita moved to Lake George 48 years ago --Will Ridge was responsible for her start in community leadership in Oak Grove. She was elected to the first city council.

B .LGID-

Formed and authorized in 2009 by Oak Grove City Council through the City's Establishing Orders. As part of the orders the District was given taxing authority. This means they have the power to assess landowners whose property abuts the lake. Set at \$200 a year in the beginning, have not had to change that.

C. Governed by Board of Directors which include: Juanita, Don Nast, Jay Edwardson, Robyn Erickson and Dick Werner. 2 staff: Lake Ecology Coordinator, Jaiden Edwardson and Administrative Services Coordinator, John Vilandre.

D. Established to address aquatic plant control, lake levels and other in-lake studies and activities and related services for Lake George.

II. How do we address those items?

Simple answer is Partnerships--

Everything we do is in partnership--Anoka Conservation District, Upper Rum River Watershed District, MN Dept. of Natural Resources, Anoka County Parks, LGCC, and City of Oak Grove. This Includes

- Plant mapping and treatment.

- Boat Inspectors at the landing
- New This Year Cooperation with Anoka County Parks Day Camps

III. Tonight Focus- What has been done, what are results of the actions taken with these partnerships.

Guests:

April Londo-Invasive Specialist/Sr. Aquatic Biologist, MDNR

Received Bachelor of Science degree from U of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Masters of Science at Minnesota State University, Mankato with majors in biology with a special interest in limnology and aquatic systems. Her master's research focused on zebra mussels abiotic and biotic habitats in West-Central

Minnesota. She has had 15 years of SCUBA experience, 10 years of native and aquatic plant identification, preservation and collections and 6 years of monitoring, sampling, recording and surveying aquatic sites for macroinvertebrates, fish and aquatic plants.

Report:

- In spring 2023 the Anoka Conservation District mapped Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) and curly leaf pondweed (CLP). That map was used to identify 37.65 acres for treatment of EWM. No CLP was found, which is great news. The CLP treatment permit was withdrawn. By comparison, EWM treatment in 2021 was 0 acres and in 2022 37.7 acres.
- In August, the MN DNR did a point-intercept survey of all vegetation. They found an 18% frequency of occurrence of EWM. By comparison it was 28% in 2022. Native plants remain well distributed throughout the lake, with a high number of species and frequency occurrence being maintained for most.

Jamie Schurbon. [Anoka Conservation District Watershed Projects Manager](#)

Jamie holds a Bachelor's degree in Animal Ecology from Iowa State University and a Master's degree in Environmental Biology from the Medical University of South Carolina and the University of Charleston.

Jamie is responsible for a variety of projects that protect or improve water quality including watershed level planning, county geologic atlas and diagnostic studies. He leads construction of water quality projects such as riverbank and lakeshore stabilizations and rain gardens. He works closely with the county watershed management organizations--including the Upper Rum River group._____

Report:

- Lake levels continue to be monitored throughout the open water season. Thanks to Tammy Isaacson for taking readings!

- Lake water quality monitoring in 2023 found good conditions, preliminarily with an overall “A” letter grade. By comparison, 2022 was a “B” and 2018-2021 were “A.” Funding for monitoring has rotated between the LGID, Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization, and Met Council.
- Water quality improvement projects continue. In 2023 two lakeshore restorations were done, in addition to the 7 done in 2021-22. We had a grant goal of 500 linear feet and have accomplished 579. Funding has been from landowners, the Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization, and a state grant from the Clean Water Land and Legacy Fund.

Paul Kretsch, VP of Sales and Marketing, Lake Restoration, Inc.

Graduate of UW-Madison with Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and Certificate in Business. A member of the Lake Restoration team, a full-service family operated aquatic plant management company for lakes in Minnesota and western Wisconsin along with ponds in the eleven county Metro area.

Report:

- On May 31, 2023 they did a treatment of 39.81 acres for EWM using the herbicide diquat.

Jessica Leverty--Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Anoka County Parks

Graduate of Bemidji State University with double major, Environmental Studies and Biology and minors in Chemistry and Wetland Ecology. Worked for the past 8 years in Anoka County where her main responsibilities are educating the public about AIS and the importance of slowing the spread to protect our Minnesota lakes and rivers.

Report:

- Zebra mussel spotters continue in their 8th year of the program. No zebra mussels found. Currently there are 9 volunteers.
- Watercraft inspections continue, with 1,144 inspections over 285 hours. Boat plug (arriving with plug in boat) violations were 1.94%, similar to previous years. Plant violations (trailer boat arriving at boat landing with plants on it) was 5.38% which is up from 1% the previous year.

· Aqua weed stick station needs repairs. Its counter doesn't work.
Vandalism has been a problem.

The powerpoint presentations were succinct and helpful. The good news was that our lake, although low due to current drought, has excellent clarity. No curly leaf pond weed this year and a smaller area was cleared for Eurasian Milfoil. NO zebra mussels have been reported and we have 6-8 new lake shore restoration projects completed this year.

Following their presentations, questions from the floor were answered and information was shared and explained.

- Tami Issacson won the evenings door prize drawing,
- Meeting closed at 8 :45