

**EAST BATTLE LAKE
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING - AUGUST 22, 1998**

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Introduction of officers, directors and guests
3. Treasurer's report
4. Committee reports
 - Membership
 - Lake monitoring
5. Old business
 - Membership
 - Newsletter
6. New business
 - Experimental northern pike regulations
 - New DNR rules for personal watercraft
 - Elections for directors
 - Other
7. Program
 - 911 and Neighborhood Watch
 - Ottertail County Sheriff Gary Nelson
8. Adjournment

<u>Director</u>	<u>Board of Directors</u>	<u>Nominees</u>
	<u>Lake Area</u>	
vacant	1	
Barb Young	2	
Rollie Saetre, Lee Amundson	3	
Don Swanson, Jim Wheeler	4	
vacant	5	
Al Koep, John Lindlief	6	
Duane Olson, Lisa Brendefur	7	
Tom Greenagel, Gary Spies	8	

Lake Monitoring Data

<u>secchi disk readings</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>rainfall inches, may - august</u>
may	17.0	16.5	<u>1997</u> <u>1998</u>
june	16.5	13.5	11.25 14.25
july	14.5	8.0	
august	9.5	8.5	
			<u>1998 lake levels</u>
			april 28 - 1333.0 ft.
			0.72 below OHW (9")
			july 19 - 1334.4 ft.
			0.60 above OHW (8")

East Battle Lake Watershed Association General membership Meeting
August 22, 1998

President Art Rotman called the Meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

He introduced the officers and directors present, and our guest speaker sheriff Gary Nelson.

Barb Young reported a total of \$3659.37 in the treasury after all current bills have been paid.

Barb Young reported for the membership committee that we have a total of 406 households around the lake. Of those, we have between 132-145 members each year. This is about 1/4th of the potential members. We would like to get more lake residents/users to join.

Art Rotman reported on the lake-monitoring project. He showed a Secchi disk and explained its use. East Battle Lake lost clarity this summer due to the heavy rainfall in July that washed a lot of silt and agricultural debris into the lake that normally does not enter. In spite of this, our lake is one of the clearest lakes in our district.

Vernon Childress reported a naturally occurring sand dam on the stream that empties East Battle into West Battle. He wondered if that is part of the cause for this year's high water. He also suspects there may be another such sand dam on the outlet of West Battle Lake since West Battle also has high water, but the Otter Tail River is not high. All water problems must be dealt with through the office of the DNR. We will contact them about the problem to see what can be done. The Mason Lakes are also very high. Dick Hanson suggested we need to work with the West Battle Lake Association because our water passes to West Battle and anything we do will impact them.

Art explained the experimental Northern Pike fishing regulations on East Battle Lake, and the thinking behind them. He reported the results of the DNR's net survey of the lake this year, one year after the new regulations went into effect. Of 187 Northerns caught in the net, only 12 were over 22 inches. At the end of one year there was no change in the lake's Northern Pike population.

Art drew the memberships' attention to the article in the last newsletter delineating the new state laws regulating personal watercraft.

The need for directors in two watershed areas was announced.

A member asked about control of Purple Loosestrife. It has appeared at various places around the lake and is rampant in the foot log area of Chippewa Island. Bill Stone, County Commissioner stated that is the province of the State Department of Agriculture.

We need to talk to the "weed inspector". Bill will get us his/their name(s) and telephone numbers. Follow-up talks with the weed inspector will be reported in the next newsletter. Our guest speaker, Otter Tail County Sheriff Gary Nelson was introduced. He came with several handouts for the citizens to use. He said the Crime Watch or Beach Watch program was actually a combination of several programs.

There are 1048 lakes in Otter Tail County. It's like 1048 little towns that don't have a police force. It's too large an area for the existing law enforcement units to cover well; therefore they must rely on us. He said law enforcement is not a police problem, it's a community problem.

He provided us with signs to be mounted on the roads entering neighborhoods announcing that the area was a part of the neighborhood watch. This serves two purposes. It notifies would-be thieves and vandals that the neighborhood is organized, and someone is watching. The signs alone deter many criminals.

He recommended we all make a list of our valuable possessions and note their serial numbers. If we have items that do not have serial numbers, we should call the sheriff's office and talk to Sue Nelson. She will assign us a personal I.D. number and make an inscriber tool available for us to mark those items. This list is extremely helpful to the police after a burglary in identifying stolen items and returning them to their rightful owners.

He handed out window stickers to place on our doors to warn burglars that the house is being watched. There was also a sign to be placed on the refrigerator listing alternate telephone numbers and the name and number of someone in the immediate community who can help the police in time of need when the owner is not present. This card needs to be on the refrigerator, because that is where the police will look for it. It's a good idea to have with it pertinent medical information about the residents. It's a help in an ambulance call.

The sheriff has a tip line to use if we see something that looks suspicious in the neighborhood. He recommends we take down the license plate number and call that in. Under no circumstances should anyone approach a suspicious stranger. Many burglars are mentally unstable, probably on drugs, and armed.

If we see an actual crime in progress, call 911. Otter Tail County has a cooperative effort throughout the county that involves every law enforcement organization in it. Any one of these who is the closest to the problem will respond, no matter what their capacity. Nelson said the Otter Tail County Sheriff's office fields on average seventeen 911 calls each day.

We do not yet have enhanced 911, that is one that has a monitor screen that shows the location of the 911 call and how to get there. Therefore, we need to give specific direction to the 911 operator. Gary handed out a card to be kept by the telephone that

gives those instructions. These are very useful in an emergency because people get rattled and can't give clear directions, or sometimes the caller is a visitor and doesn't know how to give those directions. He said, "We can't help you if we can't find you."

He brought up the problem of telephone solicitor scams. They are apparently on the rise. He gave us magnets to mount near the phone with suggestions of what to watch for, and who to call if in doubt. Remember, it's your money. When in doubt, hang up.

He suggested we have block—or beach—captains.

Sheriff Nelson also brought up gun control. He is opposed to it, because it takes guns away from the potential victims without hindering the criminals at all. He said the idea that the victims may be armed also deters criminals. He went on to say this does not mean he thinks everyone should run out and buy a gun. If you don't have guns on your property, don't advertise that. Handgun permits are issued by the local police departments and are recognized throughout the state. If they are valid in other states depends on the state, but most will honor them.

Al Koep made a motion that East Battle Lake Watershed Association takes on the task of setting up the neighborhood watches around the lake. He and Richard Hanson volunteered to captain the project. Jane Rotman seconded the motion. A vote carried the motion.

The problem of stolen street signs came up. The loss of these signs is a nuisance at best, and dangerous at the worst. Emergency services can't find the locations they are looking for. The County engineer is responsible for road signs. He is the person to call about missing signs. The county will have a map out in a couple of months listing the names of all the roads. The post office will assign house numbers to us. This will discontinue the rural route designations we now have. It could take up to two years to complete this project.

Bruce Stoddard is concerned with the overgrowth of weeds in the Vining Bay. It is now weed choked, dangerous to swimmers, and difficult to boat in. We will be talking to the DNR regarding anything we can do about it.

Eva Koep is concerned about foam on the north half of the lake. There is concern the problem originates with defective septic systems. We requested help from Shore-land Management with the problem about three years ago and have seen no action. Bill Stone said they were backed-up with other problems that have been taking up all their time. We will approach them again. They did check Clitherall Lake a few years ago and condemned 100-200 septic systems that were malfunctioning.

At 10:30 a.m. Emmy Lou Hanson motioned for adjournment. The motion was seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted by Virginia Zachmann, Secretary.