

Round Lake Property Owners Meeting 6/19/2010

This is just a few of the highlights of the meeting for our Carlson Lane neighbors. I will also ask the RLPOA Board if they would like something like this in the newsletter, or on the website.

About 60 people were in attendance.

Water Safety Buoys

Jack Ardoyno reported on the buoys. The entrance to Richardson's Bay had about 12" of water when the buoys were placed. It is up a bit now, and one of them has moved. Be careful going in there. Schoolhouse bay is also very rocky and hazardous. Comments were that the entrance to Hinton Bay is also precarious. Jack is looking for someone to take on this position next year. He said the Round Lake Marina contributes the use of their barge every year, making the buoy placement a fairly simple task.

Membership

Wally Narr reported that we have 308 members. Our highest ever was 405 in 2007, out of the 635 lots on the lake.

Fish Committee

Al Reinemann reported on the fish cribs placed in the lake. Together with the LCO the committee placed about 300 cribs of various designs in the flats just beyond the entrance to Richardson Bay. Dan Tyrol from the LCO reported that they put in a variety of cribs to study the effectiveness of the different types. They were encouraged to stack them on top of each other, as the fish seem more interested in taller structures. They could see fish gathering as they were placed.

The DNR has Round Lake designated as able to sustain a walleye population, but that is not the case. The DNR stocked Little Round with large mouth bass a few years ago, which decimated the walleye population.

Dan Tyrolt (LCO environmental engineer) and Al Reinemann reported that they regularly stock the lake with walleye. Their goal is to replace every fish which is speared with 10 fish. They normally stock larger fish, 10 – 12", which are fed on minnows, not pellets, so that the fish have a much higher survival rate. They normally stock 1,200 to 2,500 fish each year. The current walleye population of the lake is about 1 per acre. The long term goal would be to have 6 to 8 per acre. That would require over 22,000 fish to reach the 6 per acre level.

The water quality of Round Lake is very high. There is no advisory on eating any fish from the lake. For many other lakes in Sawyer County, including the Chippewa Flowage, the recommendations are to not eat more than one meal per month on fish from the lake.

Milfoil

Milfoil is an extremely problematic weed. If left unchecked, it would eventually clog all shoreline and other areas. It can seriously degrade the quality of the lake for everyone. If it gets out of hand, the expense to eliminate it would be much higher than regular maintenance. The board distributed pictures and descriptions of the weed.

Dan Kollodge and Frank Tyson reported that they were successful in obtaining a \$57,000 grant to combat the Milfoil. The association must contribute a similar amount of in-kind support. The volunteer observers are a part of this.

The RLPOA has hired 2 staff to inspect boats as they enter or leave the lake. They reported that some of the worst offenders with respect to milfoil are the professional guides.

We need an education program about milfoil. Running through a patch of it at a high speed can easily spread it around, as all of the cut pieces can become another new plant.

Dan Tyrolt and Frank Tyson distributed maps of Big Round and Little Round showing the areas affected that will be treated this year. (I'll scan those and attach when I get home.) The small dots are areas where the plants will be pulled by hand. The larger areas will be sprayed with herbicide. He said that the normal application rate of 150 lb per acre does not seem to do the job. He is going to increase that to 200 lbs this year. If that doesn't work, they will try some other kind of herbicide. This one is somewhat selective, to not kill of the other weeds, which would leave even more room for the milfoil to propagate.

Milfoil Taxing District

The Board presented a recommendation that the Association draft legislation for the Town of Round Lake and Hayward Township to create a special taxing district for milfoil control in Round Lake. The way this would work, is that the Association would spend whatever is required to control milfoil for the year, and the taxing district would levy that amount on the affected properties the following year to reimburse the milfoil fund.

The estimate is that this would run about \$12,000 per year, or about \$20 per home. If we can bring the situation under control, the annual expense and tax would fall accordingly. The Board assured the members that the legislation would be drafted such that the district could only be used for this purpose.

Dredging Bridge area and Richardson Bay

The Marina and DJ's Dock have requested permission to dredge the entrance to Richardson Bay and under the bridge. The Board recommended that we contribute \$1,000 to this effort. The entire task will require between \$15,000 and \$20,000. We are requesting that the County and the DNR participate as well. The dredging under the bridge on B has to be done by hand. The machines will dig holes on either side, and then staff will move rocks and things by hand from under the bridge. There are some fiber optic communication lines under the bridge that cannot be disturbed.

New Board Positions – Special Water Level Task Force

Two new Board members were proposed and elected: Bill Cadogan and Jim Purdin. They are charged by the Board to undertake negotiations with the County and DNR from a fresh perspective. Jim Purdin has owned a place on the lake since 1987, and has been visiting the lake for a much longer time. He recently retired from a management position with Fiskars. The hope is that they can take a fresh approach to the problem, and negotiate a win / win agreement for all parties concerned. We have about \$20,000 in a defense fund for eventual litigation, but a minimum up front payment to a litigation attorney is in the neighborhood of \$100,000. We would like to avoid litigation and arrive at a mutually satisfactory outcome. Discussion revolved around looking to a long term solution for the outflow when the water level returns. We could potentially forget about the 2 to 4 % contributed by Lake Placid if we could guarantee a water level management program when we have some water to manage.

The paper reported this week that there will be a public meeting regarding the Placid Lake abandonment. Any opposition would likely drag this out – at this moment, we would like to prolong this discussion. When the meeting is scheduled, a note will be sent to members regarding it.

July 4th fireworks at Famous Dave's

The Board recommended that we contribute a token amount to the fireworks for July 4. Dave spends \$20,000 to \$30,000 on the display each year, and he asked us if we support that. We approved a contribution of \$500.