



**Big Pine Lake Association (BPLA) Annual Meeting
August 17, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.
Crosslake Community Center**

We ate first, and our speaker was Corrine Hodapp (supervisor) of US Army Corps of Engineers in Crosslake and has 24 years' experience with the Corps. She handed out flyers which gave a short summary of the history and duties of the Corps of Engineer. The chain of command is a three star General John Peabody (Mississippi Valley Division Commander) then Cornel Dan Koprowski (St. Paul District Commander) and the district consist of four states MN, WI, ND, and Iowa. Then it leads to the local area Crosslake. The corps is a branch of the Army; we are a civilian work force. In the district there are 28 dams and 22 recreation areas.

I inserted the hand out that Corrine passed out to the lake owners. (see below) The most important graph is the last page showing the average rain fall vs what we actually received in 2012.

[Corrine's handout](#)

1930 change over with the dam, instead of navigation for the lumber industry it focused mainly on recreation area. 1906 the dam change from timber to concrete. In 1931 the secretary of war established the high and low flow of water managing the reservoir. Since the 1960's this is how we regulate the dams through the season. Whitefish chain (14 lakes) is a 562 square miles and 17 dike system maintains the lake level. In 1970 they establish the Flood Act., in 2001-2009 they imputed the rope study (which is used to plan the elevation). 2004-2006 the public express concerns of the operation of the dam. Gull lake chain shrank their band (reservoir level) and Crosslake maintained their band. It wasn't until 2003 they added in to our Water Control Manual which took into consideration of the water flow downstream. Check the last two pages in the hand out, which shows the rain fall. In this year the (2012) corps of engineer change gates 3-4 times a day and it releases approximately 33 csf and 1csf = 7 ½ gallons a second to relieve the pressure on the main structure. This was mandated by Congress this was not decided by the local Crosslake dam, they have to stay within that band.

Corrine also brought in some examples of zebra mussels which were recently discovered on one of the lakes of the Whitefish Chain. She also brought in some milfoil and other handouts for invasive species.

Please stop by the US Army Corps of Engineer building in Crosslake campgrounds, there are other educational handouts and visual aids regarding to nature.

Information

- Cross.lake@usace.army.mil Crosslake Recreation Area 651-290-5793
- Corrine.k.hodapp@usace.army.mil Corrine Hodapp Park Ranger Supervisor 651-290-5790
- www.mvp.usace.army.mil
- www.usace.army.mil

Minutes from 2012 – were not read suggested to go to the web-site and handed out a few to the people that wanted them. The 2012 minutes are 3 pages long and again would take time to read them.

Treasurer report –

Beginning balance as of 8-18-12 \$6,361.03 adjustment of \$389.56 = total of \$6,750.59.

Expenses \$12,571.47 (printing, postage, web-site, mosquito spraying, no wake signs). Income (dues) \$825.00. Mosquito Spraying \$12,050.79 = TOTAL INCOME \$12,875.79

Balance as of 8-17-13 \$7,054.91.

OLD BUSINESS

Honor a NO WAKE policy – when the lake is high please use some common sense, if the signs are up or not.

If you are moving please inform someone on the board to please remove your name sign from the directory. It's yours, you paid for it.

Web-site in progress. We like to cut down on letters. This will help cut down on time and cost. Nancy will still send out 1-2 letters a year, but that will be it. For information like flooding, vandalism, items that are high importance please check the web site. We like to get more pictures on the web site of boating, fishing, nature etc. please submit to us and we can post them.

NEW BUSINESS

Water issues: Ever body received a blanket permit from the DNR about the removal of bogs. What is the plan for removal of bogs? If you read the permit, it will tell you how to remove them and anybody can as long as they have the permit with them, just follow the conditions on the permit. The board members are not the only people that can remove them. **DO NOT** take them to the middle of the lake and let

them float to the dam. This cost us, the lake association \$11,000.00 last year, for the removal of these bogs. **IT'S EVERYONE's responsibility.** Need help, need volunteers. Let Nancy know if you can help.

Zebra mussels found in Crosslake and Lower Hay Lake. As of now we have no zebra mussels.

Logging on Big Pine Trail – The DNR auctioned off timber rights under the MN school trust fund act. Where they are logging they will replant white pine.

Dam Update – In June the board members met with 3 Representatives from the Corps of Engineers, 4 people from the DNR, both County Engineers and the County Commissioner, just to get the talk started. Very informal meeting the object was to discuss a more permit fix to our dam. Very informative, the petition stated the object of the SSD was to maintain the existing or to come up with a permanent solution. We have been on the agenda of the last 2 board commissioner meetings, to discuss about where we are headed. The July 23rd meeting the County Engineer was told to put a plan together this was after our informal meeting and have this in place at the next board of commissions meeting. He called Nancy and said he doesn't have the time; the staff and we do not have expertise in constructing a dam, we are highway engineers and we are not qualified to do this. At the board meeting he told them that he cannot do this that they should hire an outside consulting firm to start putting things together and the County should pay for this up to \$10,000. There is some discussion, about who is going to pay for this initial consulting fee, there are grants out there but competition for them is heavy. The County knows we have no funds. Bill O'Brien said IF we have the funds we will do what we can do to pay the \$10,000. What we are afraid of.....Issues are: Are we going to get permits and what are we going to do the dam and how are we going to pay for this. There is a \$2,500.00 grant that was offered to us by the Soil and Water that would probably pay for our deficit which we own the County for our earlier fix on the dam this past spring. We are at the mercy of the Corps of Engineers, and Mother Nature so our lake is going to go up and down. We are trying to stop the money pit, so every time we get high water we don't wash out, we want to get more of a permit dam.

Repair History of the Dam

- 1970 Built
- 1987 \$3,000.00 (lake association did themselves)
- 1995 \$1,100.00 (County did repair and association spent)
- 1997 \$5,000.00 (Association spent and did the repair themselves)
- 1998 \$46,800.00 1 time agreement with County and DNR
- 2000 \$15,300.00
- 2008 \$15,900.00

- 2010 SSD was put in place
- 2012 \$11,000.00 bog removal
- 2013 \$27,000 for repairs

Bog and log removal (volunteers) Dennis, Richard, Tom and Allan

Minor repairs between 2000 and 2008 that were not documented. Why are we paying for this you ask???? We made an agreement with the County and the DNR when it was built that we would maintain it. They did not ask for the dam WE did. The repairs last for about 3-4 years.

Maintenance issues: It was suggested that we raise the amount of the SSD assessment to \$200.00 per owner as long as the parcels involved are adjacent. If the property is not adjacent they will have to pay twice. We can change it from year to year with approval from the Board of Commissioners. The majority of the owners at the meeting agreed with the increase.

Elections – The board positions of Nancy Rudberg, Jon Gfroerer, and Terri Rammer expire this year Jon will no longer be on the board as he is moving from the area .

We need one person to step up and be committed and pitch in, being computer savvy would help. The board was run by seasonal personnel in the past. Dennis Bengtson raised his hand and will be on the board and he will represent the North side for the first time. We did an informal vote and voted to accept another board person. Ken Ormsbee stepped up also from the North side and will also be on the board. Bill O'Brien will be Vice President and the other members will retain their current positions. We amend the by- laws to allow for seven people on the Lake Association Board.

Does anybody have ideas for a speaker for next year?

Again call the POLICE if you see anything that is suspicious. They are not going get mad at you if you call the police.

Meeting adjourn

Terri Rammer

Secretary