# Meeting Notes

## Little Wall Lake Working Group

## August 29, 2013 - 1:00 P.M – 4:00 P.M.

## First American Bank- 702 Main Street, Jewell Iowa
## Meeting 2 Agenda

The meeting convened at 1:00 P.M. Those in attendance introduced themselves and either stated the organization they represented or their reason for coming. There were a number of local residents present which are not members of the Working Group. An attendance list is given in Appendix A. Jane Todey requested the meeting agenda be revised and have the first agenda item to be a short power point presentation showing recent aerial photos of the lake. Martin Konrad suggested moving the request prior to the "Report of Water Quality" agenda item. Ms. Todey agreed.

Konrad handed out the meeting agenda which also contained:

- Priority issues discussed at the June 29, 2013 meeting held in Des Moines and participants comments to that meeting.
- Historical precipitation data.
- Summer lake monitoring of lake elevations and any observation of water and dead fish
- A June 2013 lake topographic map with tables at ½' increments listing lake water volume and surface acreage.
- The DNR denial letter sent to Homeowners Association to pump water.

Konrad emphasized and recapped agenda items discussed at the June 29th meeting and that the purpose of forming the working group is resolve issues cited in the denial letter and others that come from the working group. He directed everyone's attention to the five priority issues on the back of the agenda page.

Jane Todey presented her power point presentation. Slides consisted of aerial photos of the lake, containment site and campground. She also presented results of a signed petition. The petition stated that Little Wall Lake "needs to be maintained at a proper, adequate water level to support the recreational needs of the visitors to the campground and the users of the lake." Ms. Todey said the results of this petition helps to address recreational user issued identified in the denial letter.

Konrad asked for a copy of the petition and brought everyone's attention to the packet of information attached to the agenda. He stated the importance of gathering available information into a file, its value for people to understand the issues, as reference material and to begin developing a long term plan.

On August 5, working group members received an email from Jane Todey (todey2739@gmail .com). The topic of this email was water quality; with it were several attachments. In the email Mark Skopec stated "the data clearly show a decrease in phosphorus as well as other parameter from site 1 to 5." This statement was in reference to pumped water from Mud Creek to the dredge containment site and which was delivered to Little Wall Lake by gravity flow.

Mary Skopec explained the email and attachments. She did state that her comments were based on the phosphorus concentration in the water and did not address phosphorus loading of that water to the lake. Considerable discussion followed. An explanation was given of the difference between phosphorus concentration and phosphorus loading after Jeff Knutson did not distinguish between the two. Jane Todey asked why the DNR does not pumping when there is no difference between the water leaving the containment site and lake water. Concentration and loading was explained again while Mark Skopec reviewed the 2005 Little Wall Lake TMDL. This TMDL states, "The pumped water (2004) can make up a large portion of the hydraulic budget for the lake, and therefore becomes a primary source of nutrient deliver." Based on her quick review of the TMDL report, Ms. Skopec didn't believe that pumping would be allowed. She thought that the Clean Water Act did permit variances be issued in the case of TMDL. Roger Bruner did not believe the CWA allowed for such a variance. **(Note: On September 3, 2013 R. Bruner discussed variances with Allen Bonini, Section Supervisor for Watershed Improvement. Bonini is not aware of any TMDL variances or if there is a process to go through to request a variance.)**

The next agenda item, long term plan, is for Working Group members to begin to think what a long term plan means to them. Konrad referenced the five issues that came out of the 1st meeting. He also said that the need for a long term plan ranked first by those who submitted their ranking. The example given in the agenda was for member consideration and the type plan will be discussed after the management option agenda item.

DNR staff presented management options for fisheries, wildlife and lake restoration for the purpose of setting a frame work for a long term plan.

1. Scott Grummer described the lake fishery as having a slow growing panfish population, containing undesirable yellow bass and grass carp populations. A short term option is to treat the lake with a low dose rotenone concentration. The objective of the treatment is to eliminate yellow bass, grass carp, improve water quality and sport fishing. The down side of the treatment is the elimination of the walleye fishery and potential for extensive areas of aquatic vegetation. DNR staff, before any chemical treatment will hold a public meeting and work with the local walleye club to explain the project's purpose and objectives. If a low dose treatment is not conducted Grummer stated that in the future a heavier rotenone concentration would be needed to completely remove all fish and to restock with

desirable fish species. Russ Teig opposed a rotenone treatment because the chemical odor forced him to vacate his residence after the 1980s treatment.

2. Mike McGhee stated that Little Wall Lake is not in the Lake Restoration 10-year program for restoration needs. He stated every lake restoration project the program undertakes hinges on improving water quality. The program is willing to pay for a study to determine if a constructed wetland would be effective in processing nutrients from water pumped from Mud Creek.
3. Josh Gansen, the Wildlife Bureau's short term goal is to consolidate the dredge containment sediment so the site can be managed for long term wildlife and recreational uses.

Time prevented going to the next stage to discuss how fish, wildlife and lake restoration management options could be combined to resolve lake issues and to brain storm other options.

Scheduling of future meetings:
Konrad mentioned that there has been frustration with some members in the time lapse between meetings. He was willing to try scheduling meetings far in advance to facilitate progress towards a long term plan. Area Working Group members expressed dissatisfaction in the meetings and the development of a long term plan and requested a permit to pump now. No discussion followed on the scheduling of future meetings.

Jeff Knutson suggested the on-site lake visit be cancelled due to the heat. Everyone was in agreement with this recommendation.

There were considerable comments and questions throughout the meeting about the immediate need to pump water to fill Little Wall Lake to crest elevation. Several individuals made DNR staff aware that the DNR must listen to the public and permit pumping of water to the Lake. Paraphrasing; others made statements such as:

- Money to pump is available now.
- I believe Little Wall Lake can be grandfathered in so that the DNR does not have to comply with the TMDL
- A temporary permit to pump should be issued even though we cannot pump.
- I am unhappy with the management effort on the wildlife management area.
- DNR should manage the lake for people not for fish.
- Some people in the area believe the DNR is "walking away from Little Wall Lake."

Near the end of the meeting Konrad, again, explained the purpose the working group's purpose is to resolve issues. It is not within this Group's scope of responsibility to discuss a permit to pump without first resolving the five issues addressed in the denial letter. Konrad said he will deliver their comments to Director Gipp.

August 29, 2013
LWL Working Group
First American Bank, Jewell

| Name | Address |
|---|---|
| Jane Todey | 2739 LWL Dr. Jewell |
| Russ Terp | 3681 LWL Rd. Jewell |
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| Scott Grummer | 1203 North Shore Dr Clear Lake |
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| Roger Brauner | 502 E 9th St. Des Moines, IA |
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