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**CITY OF MINNESOTA LAKE  
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
June 2, 2022**

**Council Attending:** Edie More, Joan Proehl, Richard Staloch, via Zoom Mayor Jeff Ramsley and Lon Stenzel.  
**City Clerk** - Dawn Whitehead. **State Representatives:** Bjorn Olson and Peggy Bennet; **Others Attending:** Ben Standahl, Brian Bruckhoff, Tyler Stindtman, Deb Ramsley and Jim More.

Mayor Ramsley called to order the Special City Council meeting at 6:06 p.m. Purpose of meeting is to discuss the future of the lake.

Representative Bjorn gave a brief history of lake to District's new Representative Peggy Bennett. Expired vegetation plan expired in 2016 and DNR would like to have a conversation with the City. Bjorn also drafted legislation redesignation of lake. Jeff stated the DNR was out a couple of weeks ago to cut an 8' swath through cattails, but that is all they've done. Bjorn stated he had only one landowner out of the 15-20 that would not like anything done with the lake due to erosion concerns. Lon asked for a meeting with the representatives and is in favor of getting it redesignated.

Peggy suggested writing legislation remove the funds from the DNR and reroute funds to city to get their obligations done. Could also do a bonding request/grant so city doesn't have to foot the whole bill. Richard stated the water level needs to be increased, as there is now a restriction on its level. Lon stated the natural level is supposed to be 1035 ft, but it is not currently that level. Public Works City Supervisor, Mike Bammert, had a conversation with Stein from DNR suggesting putting down a sand blanket.

Edie stated the DNR will still be involved even if the lake was redesignated. Lon believes there is an abundance of aggregate in the lake to be mined that would defray the costs of restoration. Jeff stated the mineral rights would have to be obtained from landowners and a large amount of research would be necessary. Peggy suggested the key people from the State need to be met with to find out what can and can't be done. Bjorn asked would the City like if the cattails were taken care of and water level is 1035 ft? Edie wants to sit with the DNR to see what a redesignation would mean for the City. Peggy worked with Albert Lea on their dredging project and can provide the City as the conduit and later help with finding money.

Richard asked if funds are available to remove cattails? There is also a possible hazard if rescue is necessary. Lon stated there is also a fire hazard.

Jeff read through some questions and determined that there is a lot of research that needs to be done. Jim More stated farmers concerned the level of lake affects the drainage tile.

Peggy stated she and Bjorn can press the DNR on holding up their end of terms.

Bjorn wants to sit with DNR to renegotiate the vegetation plan and suggests having a lake committee regardless.

Deb Ramsley suggested everyone that has expressed an interest in being on the Lake Committee be invited to do so, and then the people that actually put the time and work into the committee, will ultimately make up the committee. Richard volunteered to be the chairman to get the committee going and organized, and then let the committee decide the chair.

**Joan made a motion to change the structure of the Lake Committee, leaving the membership open and determining final membership at a later date , 2<sup>nd</sup> by Edie, motion carried unanimously.**

Bjorn recommends the committee (or Council) meet with the DNR for an updated vegetation plan. Bjorn will help setting up meeting with DNR after lake committee has general direction.

Peggy will get contacts from Albert Lea and get Richard and Lon together on how to address their lake concerns.

**Joan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richard, motion carried unanimously.**

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Mayor

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City Clerk/Treasurer