



# The Scoop at Grand Lake

## Proposed Grand Lake Improvement District (LID)

In the last edition of our newsletter, the concept of a lake improvement district was discussed as a way to engage all Grand Lake property owners in lake improvement projects. The current raffle fundraiser puts responsibility on those who are active in the lake association, often missing other property owners who want clean water and wise management of our aquatic vegetation.

At our Lake Association meeting on September 2nd, the members voted to petition the City of Rockville to establish the Grand Lake Improvement District (LID for short). The petition is enclosed in this newsletter.

Briefly, LIDs provide a way to fund lake improvement projects.

By law, LIDs can:

- Conduct projects of water improvement and conservation.
- Provide funding to manage invasive aquatic vegetation in Grand Lake (like curlyleaf pondweed).
- Regulate water surface use
- Serve as local sponsors for state and federal water quality projects or grants
- Undertake lake improvement research projects

To form a Lake Improvement District, a petition must be signed by at least 51 percent of the proposed Lake Improvement District property owners. The petition is then

filed with the city, and the city has 30 days to hold a public hearing and act on the petition. Within 30 days after holding the public hearing, the city must establish or deny the establishment of the petitioned LID.

If the Lake Improvement District is approved by the city, the LID will be governed by a board of directors. A motion was made at the Lake Association meeting that 5 of the 7 board members must be listed as legal owners of property on Grand Lake. It is our hope that the other two board members will be experts or interested in conservation or the improvement of water quality.

So . . . Now to the questions:

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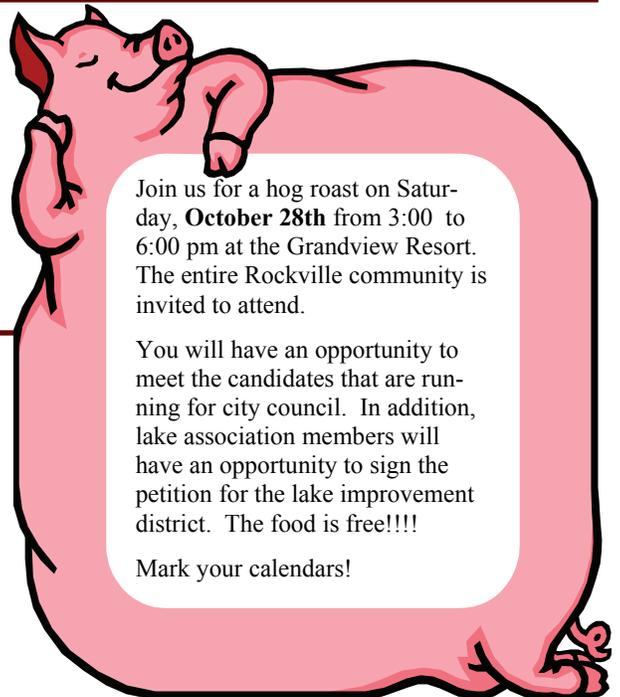
### Special points of interest:

*Mark your calendars for the Hog Roast on **October 28th***

*The petition for creating a lake improvement will be available for signing at the Hog Roast.*

*Restore Your Shore CD Available*

## Meet the City Council Candidates at the Hog Roast



Join us for a hog roast on Saturday, **October 28th** from 3:00 to 6:00 pm at the Grandview Resort. The entire Rockville community is invited to attend.

You will have an opportunity to meet the candidates that are running for city council. In addition, lake association members will have an opportunity to sign the petition for the lake improvement district. The food is free!!!!

Mark your calendars!

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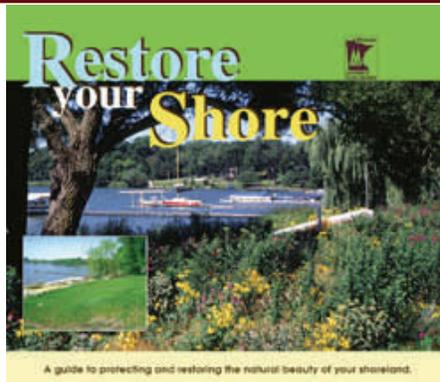
## Restore Your Shore CD Available

Shoreline degradation, erosion and increasing development pressures have prompted Minnesotans to take action. We now recognize how our activities can affect the health of the shoreland.

Your shoreline is part of a large community which can have impacts far and wide.

Maintaining or restoring your shoreline is essential for our water's health and to providing fish and wildlife habitat. This concept, often referred to as shoreland buffers or lakescaping, extends both lakeward and landward from the water's edge. Generally, a natural buffer strip at least 25 feet landward is preferred.

The *Restore Your Shore* CD is a powerful multimedia program for shoreland owners to use in implementing shoreland restoration and protection projects. The program will enable you to:



- Develop a deeper understanding of shoreland ecosystems and natural shoreland management.
- Discover how lakeshore problems similar to your own have been resolved through innovative approaches.

- Create your own plant list from an extensive interactive database of over 400 native plant species (photos included). Select native plant species suitable for planting in our area. Find out what to plant and what not to plant.
- Use worksheets and forms that will guide you step by step through the design and implementation process.

Are you interested in learning more?

The Grand Lake Area Association purchased 5 copies of the *Restore Your Shore* CD with funding from the Initiative Foundation. Please contact Scott or Sue Palmer at 253-8191 or [sspalmer@clearwire.net](mailto:sspalmer@clearwire.net) to check out a CD and return it when you are done.

## Changing Directions for Shoreland Management Policy

Minnesota Waters and the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) introduced legislation to promote a revision of the Minnesota's Shoreland Management Act, the law that defines shoreland management and gave the DNR the authority to promulgate statewide shoreland rules that local governments must adopt. The bill was revised in 2006 and MCEA and Minnesota Wa-

ters will again advance this legislation in 2007. These efforts include encouraging local government adoption of the Alternative Shoreland Development Standards.

In addition, Minnesota Waters supports the promulgation of new mandatory thresholds of environmental review (EAW and EIS) for shoreland development. As shoreland continues to be developed rapidly throughout Minnesota,

review will be critical.

The City of Rockville is taking a proactive approach to this and has convened a subcommittee of the Planning Commission to review and revise the shoreland standards for the city.

*"New shoreland management standards are critical to keeping our waters healthy."*

## Legislative Updates

**Clean Water Legacy**—after three years, the Clean Water Legacy Act passed and will provide the mechanics for the administration of the new CWL policy and funding. It created two new wastewater programs under the Public Facilities Authority and a 19 member Clean Water Council to oversee administration of funds, with one seat reserved for an organization dedicated to the protection of lakes and rivers.

**Aquatic Invasive Species Control**—Over the past two years, Minnesota Waters has tried to pass legislation that would increase funding for the management and prevention of aquatic invasive species such as Eurasian watermilfoil, Curlyleaf pondweed, zebra mussels and new aquatic invaders. Though legislation has not passed, additional funding was made available in 2005 and 2006. An additional \$308,000 was appropriated to the DNR for aquatic invasive species and was used in 2006 to start a grant program

to lake associations for lakewide treatments of Eurasian watermilfoil and Curlyleaf pondweed. Seven lake associations received funding for their control efforts. We applied for a grant, received positive feedback about our grant application, but did not receive it since we could not demonstrate that we could continue the funding of lakewide treatment in the event the grant was not renewed. A lake improvement district would have helped provide the needed funding.

## Highlights from the Summer

**4th of July**—As always, we had a terrific 4th of July at Grand Lake. Al and Doreen Kern hosted the 2006 flag ceremony on a beautiful July 4th morning. The call of a loon cried out loudly as we honored the flag of our country. Conversation and neighborly greetings were enjoyed by all as we sipped on hot coffee and enjoyed donuts from Cold Spring Bakery.



Yes, the flotilla parade continues to be a tradition on Grand Lake, and the winners of the 2006 parade were the Jecha's. Thank you to everyone who participated.

For those who enjoy the Grand Lake experience on the 4th of July, a highlight continues to be the Grand Lake fireworks. A huge thank you to Dave Lenhardt and to all those who contributed to the fireworks. The Grand Lake fireworks are the best around!



## Winners of the Raffle Drawing

Thank you to everyone who sold (and purchased) tickets for our raffle drawing. Currently, this is our major fundraising project that provides funding for our lake improvement projects. Congratulations to all the winners who were drawn at our meeting on September 2nd.

First place—Math Mimbach

Second place—Mrs. Gary Klein

Third place—Conrad Hollencamp

Fourth place—Janice Quale

Fifth place—Ed Reber

The net proceeds from the raffle, after prizes were paid, totaled \$3001.91.



## Lake Improvement District

Continued from Page 1

Q: Where does the funding come from.?

A: **All** owners of property on Grand Lake will contribute through an assessment on our property tax. By spreading out the costs of water quality projects (like the management of curlyleaf pondweed) to all property owners, the costs are minimized.

Q: How much will be assessed?

A: The answer is that it depends on what water quality improvement

projects you want to fund. It is anticipated that the assessed amount will range from \$50 to \$100 annually, depending on the assessed value listed on your property tax statement.

Q: How will this work?

A: A budget will be developed by the board of the Lake Improvement District. This budget will be presented at the annual meeting, and all Grand Lake property owners will have a

say and a vote on whether or not this budget is approved.

Q: Why not just continue with our raffle ticket fundraiser or the Grand Lake Fun Days?

A: We want to place a priority on water quality improvement projects and less time on fundraising. We also want **all** owners of property on Grand Lake to be engaged in efforts to improve the quality of our lake experience.



Lake Management Board

*Scott Palmer, President*

*Jeff Hagen, Past President*

*Bob White, Vice President*

*Sue Palmer, Secretary*

*Jim Hall, Treasurer*

*Susan Dean, Board Member*

*Paul Ludwig, Board Member*

*Jim Pflepsen, Board Member*

## Did You Know?

- There are 243 lakes over 10 acres in the Sauk River Watershed District.
- The 10 most common Minnesota Lake names are Mud, Long, Rice, Bass, Horseshoe, Twin, Island, Round, Johnson and Spring.
- Minnesota is ranked first in the nation for number of recreational watercraft per capita with one boat for every six residents.
- Minnesota has over 3,000 public lake accesses.

Information from the DNR website.



<http://www.grandlakeassociation.org/>

