

VERGAS LONG LAKE LAKE ASSOCIATION

The meeting to form the Vergas Long Lake Lake Association began shortly after 4:00 p.m. on August 3, 1996 in the meeting room at the Vergas State Bank. Wally Hegg officiated, informing the Long Lake residents who were present of the benefits of having a lake association on Long Lake. Elections were then held. There was one nomination for Chairman, which was Wally Hegg, and by a show of hands most of the people elected him as Chairman. Dennis Pausch was nominated for Vice Chairman, and a show of hands elected him also. The nomination for Secretary/Treasurer was Lori Skillings, and a show of hands elected her. There were no other nominations or volunteers for those positions.

It was then suggested that the lake be divided into sections, and a board member from each section would reside on the council. Boundaries for these sections were tentatively set up, and volunteers were then selected to fill the Board Member positions. Donovan L^eDoux from the east section, Kris Kellogg (who wasn't present) tentatively from the SE section; Charlie Johnson from the South Middle section; Bev Flateland from the town section on the SW shore; John Dorsey from the Loon to the point on the north shore; and Mike Pitzel from the point on the north shore to the creek on the east end. After a directory is made, section boundaries may be redrawn to more equalize the members or households in each section. The Executive Board will make the by-laws, a directory of everyone on the lake and the members belonging, and attend or find someone to attend state and county meetings. Board meetings were tentatively set for being quarterly, but may meet more often at first to make the Lake Directory and write the proposed by-laws.

Dues and the fiscal year were then discussed. It was agreed that \$15 per household per year would be the membership fee. The money collected would go towards testing lake water samples, directory costs, newsletter costs, membership dues for state and county associations, and any other costs that may arise as operating expenses. The fiscal year was voted on, having two choices: the calendar year and from August to August. Eleven hands were raised for the August to August fiscal year, and thirteen hands were raised for the calendar year. It was tentatively agreed by all that the board members would serve until January 1998, with elections held in August of 1997. That would give a few months for new officers to gradually be "trained in". A newsletter will be mailed out informing all residents of the lake and nearby residents about the association, telling of the benefits and encouraging them to join. Not everyone on the lake is aware of the association yet.

Boundaries for the association membership would not be limited to Highways 228, 36, and 35. Others from the town or who live close who have an interest in Long Lake could become members. Articles of Incorporation for a non-profit organization was mentioned by Chairman Wally Hegg, and he said he would check into it to see if it would be necessary.

Purposes and goals for the association, and concerns of the members were then discussed:

- Representatives attending county commissioners' meetings and reporting on them
- Well water testing possibly being free through the Perham School district as it was last year
- Variance requests concerning Long Lake

Newsletters to all members at least twice a year before meetings which will be held in May and August and at least one during the winter

A potluck social gathering to get acquainted with members at one summer meeting

The Sybil Rod & Gun Club building was suggested as a meeting place as the Vergas Community Center rent may be too costly

A meeting in Ottertail on Aug. 17 will be attended by Mike Pitzel. It is a forum for the candidates for County Commissioner

A neighborhood watch program, as there were break-ins last winter on the east end

Agricultural concerns

Snowmobilers finding a way off the lake and the new trespassing law

Road signs are available through the county and township commissioners

The meeting was then adjourned and dues were collected from 14 households. Wally Hegg gave his address for others to send their dues to him. There were 24 households represented at the meeting.

VERGAS LONG LAKE LAKE ASSOCIATION
R.R. 2 - BOX 212C
VERGAS, MN 56587

Dear Adjacent Property Owners,

An attempt was made to verbally inform property owners of a meeting held in Vergas on August 3, 1996. This meeting was to determine interest in forming a lake association. A significant number of people did attend and decided to form what will be known as the Vergas Long Lake Lake Association. Primary concern will focus on environmental issues, but new legislation or issues of concern to the membership will be included.

Minnesota's 10,000 lakes have been a source of pride and enjoyment for generations. We, as the current stewards, need to be concerned as to what is happening to our lake. This association can unite owners in worthwhile projects to protect this resource.

As an example, several shore owners began a water quality monitoring program to determine what condition our lake is in. Information obtained through measurement of total phosphorus and chlorophyll combined with a Secchi Disk clarity reading will determine the lake's fertility and resultant aquater productivity. Several years worth of this data will establish a trend and allow us to compare our stewardship with that of similar lakes. This newly formed association would like to encourage every adjacent property owner to become members. You can do that by sending a check for \$15.00 (one year's dues) made out to Vergas Long Lake Lake Association, and mail it to Wally Hegg at the above address.

Our association will join both the county and state associations. This will provide a voice of over 4000 members at the county level and over 100,000 at the state level. That influence can help develop guidelines relative to proper improvement and preservation of lakes and shoreline.

Please join us - much needs to be done - together we can succeed. Questions can be directed to Wally Hegg, newly elected president, at 342-2897.