

Green Lake Breeze

P.O. Box 362 • Spicer, MN 56288

www.greenlakespicer.com

September 2011

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Last Sunday morning I was enjoying a cup of coffee when my seven-year-old son came down the stairs and said, "Dad, I had a really bad nightmare last night! I dreamt that we moved off Green Lake to another lake that had zebra mussels!" After a good laugh, I realized that his dream could have been much worse.

The real nightmare would be getting zebra mussels in Green Lake.



Recently, my family and I went for a boat ride around the lake at a leisurely pace, close to the shore. As we admired the beautiful homes, my kids enjoyed hearing the stories of who lives where, and which of the classic old boathouses dotting the shoreline have been there for over a century. During our ride, I was reminded, once again, of

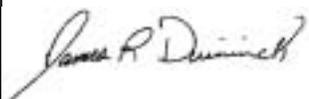
Green Lake's rich history among generations of property owners. I was also reminded of the enormous responsibility we have to preserve and protect this place we love so dearly for future generations of our families to enjoy.

So, please, ask yourself— what can I do to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species?

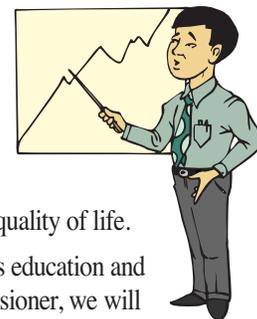
I believe the answer starts with education. Educate yourself about zebra mussels and how we can reduce the risk of spreading them. Talk to others about how destructive zebra mussels would be to our lake. Help our community understand the enormity of this devastating threat to our quality of life.

The GLPOA board believes that our best defense against zebra mussels is education and containment. In an upcoming meeting with the Minnesota DNR Commissioner, we will be brainstorming about ways that the GLPOA can work with them to prevent the spread of zebra mussels into Green Lake. So far, most of our ideas revolve around containing zebra mussels to the lakes where they currently thrive. Our goal is to educate boaters about how important it is drain, wash and dry their boats before launching them into non-infested waters. That simple step would allow us to continue enjoying ALL of Minnesota's lakes, while reducing or eliminating the spread of this dangerous aquatic invasive species.

See you on the lake,



Jamie Duinick
President GLPOA



PLEASE ASSIST US!

The Board of Directors, of the Green Lake Property Owners Association, will print a new directory, to be mailed when dues are paid, starting in May 2012.

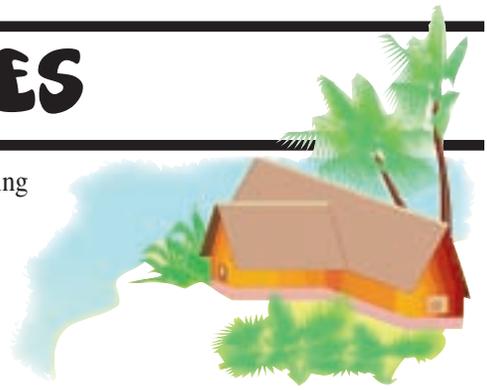
We would like to ask for your assistance to make sure that we have your name and address spelled correctly. Please check the 2009 directory to see that this information is the way you wish to have it printed.

We wish to ask you to inform anyone new to the neighborhood about the directory so their names may be printed. We need to hear from you, as we do not know the changes! Please write to us.

The Board of Directors is also looking for colored and black and white pictures which might be used for the front cover of the directory. If you have a picture which you wish for the Board to consider, please print your name, address and telephone number on the back side of the print and mail it to: **Green Lake Property Owners Association • P. O. Box 362 • Spicer, Minnesota 56288**



LAKE BASE RATES



It has been stated before, in this annual report, that Green Lake is located in four different taxing districts and two different school districts. Each different district has its own budget thus the resulting tax for each district will vary. However, the estimated market value placed upon each parcel on Green Lake is figured the same way in each district. Lakeshore property structures are valued the same as they are in any other part of the City or Township. The land is what causes different values. Lakeshore property is valued on a per-front-foot basis. The Kandiyohi County Assessors office establishes a base (starting) rate for each lake in the County. This base rate is adjusted annually based on the sales that occur the previous year.

After the base rate has been established, each individual property is looked at to see if any adjustments need to be made to that base rate. The following is a list of the lake base rates on some of the lakes in Kandiyohi County.

2011 KANDIYOHI COUNTY LAKE BASE RATES

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>		<u>2005</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Green Lake	4600	5700	5500		Nest Lake	1100	1300
Lake Florida	2100	2300	2300		Big Kandiyohi Lake	1250	1400
George Lake	1600	2200	2200		North Long Lake	600	900
Lake Andrew	1600	2000	2000		Calhoun Lake	600	800
Eagle Lake	2100	1750	1700		Elkhorn Lake	850	800
Diamond Lake	1600	1800	1650		Lake Carrie	600	600
Henderson Lake	1100	1700	1600		Lake Elizabeth	325	600
Games Lake	1500	1600	1600		Swenson Lake	470	600
Norway Lake	1300	1400	1400		Crow River Frontage	400	400

All property is viewed at least once in a five year period. This year we are reviewing all the parcels on Green Lake. Some of you may have already been visited by an appraiser from the Kandiyohi County Assessors office. If you have not, you may expect to be with in the next few months. These nice young ladies are reviewing and remeasuring in order to get the most accurate information possible on each parcel. The more accurate we can be on each property, the closer we can get to a true estimated market value for each of you.



We assessors are historians in the sense that we use last year's sales to determine current value. For example, we use sales that occur from October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011 to determine the January 2, 2012 estimated market value for taxes that will be due in 2013. That is why we are behind the market when values are going up and also behind the market when values are going down.

In March of each year the assessors office mails out a notice of valuation which may be appealed at your Local Board of Appeal and Equalization in April of each year. These notices are for the current year value for the following years taxes. They are mailed with the current years taxes which are based on the previous years value. I hope that makes sense to all of you but if not you may call our office and we would be happy to explain it further. Below I have listed the base per-front-value for Green Lake over the last 20 years.

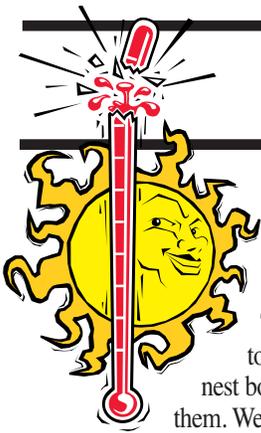
1992=1250	1996=1550	2000=1950	2004=3800	2008=5600
1993=1350	1997=1700	2001=2250	2005=4600	2009=5700
1994=1400	1998=1850	2002=2475	2006=5500	2010=5700
1995=1475	1999=1950	2003=3000	2007=5600	2011=5500



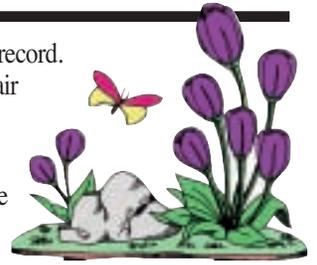
If you have any questions or concerns about your value or classification, please call the County Assessors office at 320-231-6200.

*Sincerely, Tim Falkum
Kandiyohi County Assessor*

NATURE OBSERVATIONS



One doesn't need a newsletter to let you know that July was one of the hottest, steamiest Julys on record. Anyone around Green Lake experienced windows dripping with moisture in the morning—if the air conditioning was on in the house, eyeglasses steaming up when wearers were going outside, grass growing faster, and flowers—held back by a cold spring and June—bursting into blossoms, etc.



The birds still built their nests and on July 7 a neighbor from six doors down came running across the top of the bank, rapping on my patio door and saying, "The baby wood ducks just jumped from their nest box." We watched them swimming with their mother along the shore until we suddenly couldn't see them. We had not seen them go beyond my place, but where were they? After a few moments rest, they calmly emerged from under the end of my canoe that was tipped upside down on the bank. A few hundred yards beyond that stop, they rested again on shore, then swam off again. Sometimes the little ones were strung out in a line behind Mama; at other times, they were clustered like one feathery ball. July seemed late for their hatch, but with so many other things late, it should have been no surprise. (Has anyone figured out how the mother duck can stop so abruptly when flying directly into her nest without smashing her bill against the opposite wall?)



Passengers on pontoons have spotted several groups of loons, and friends on the north shore called to say nine loons were swimming by in front of their place. At this point it is difficult to tell which are the young ones. I occasionally have a solitary loon out front, but not so frequently as other years—maybe it's a different one each time. We each like to think "our" loon as returned. In another year or so we'll see the effects of the Gulf oil spill on our loons as those young have stayed south for a couple years before returning to our woodland waters. I always breathe a sigh of relief when I hear that first loon in the spring.

Hummingbirds frequent their feeders. Be sure to keep the feeders up, as they need all the fortification they get before beginning their long migration south. Their flight is amazing. As Jim Gilbert mentioned a couple weeks ago, 150 humming birds equal one pound, yet those tiny beings fly so far to their winter homes.



Although some orioles have left the area, a few are still spotted at their feeders. Some finches share the oriole's liking for grape jelly. The finches—gold, purple, house—empty sunflower seed feeders more quickly than one can imagine, even if they are occasionally helped in the process by a downy woodpecker or red-winged blackbird. They also enjoy cavorting in the bird bath besides stopping by for a refreshing drink.

Green Lake itself has been at near record heights—the highest was in 1986 when we had not a pebble of beach below the high water mark. High winds have wreaked havoc with the shoreline and some owners have protected their banks with riprap, much more effective than seawalls or the like that are easily undermined in high water.



May the rest of our lake season see blue skies, moderate temperatures and gentle breezes that caress the waters of Green Lake.

Gloria Benson

GLPOA PROVIDES FUNDS FOR GREEN LAKE VIEWING DECK



Some time ago a long-time resident of Green Lake presented a check in the amount of \$10,000 to the Green Lake Property Owners Association in honor of her deceased husband. The instructions accompanying the anonymous gift were to use the funds in a way that would benefit residents of and visitors to Green Lake; however, the funds were not to be used for general expenses. The GLPOA board exercised patience in waiting for the right opportunity to appear. About one year ago a letter was received outlining a project that was under consideration by a volunteer committee working with the City of Spicer. The project involved the construction of a "viewing deck" to be located on the shore of the West side of Green Lake next to the park. The letter contained a request for a lead gift to help fund the project. The GLPOA board evaluated the request and became convinced it was very consistent with the wishes of the donor; therefore, late in 2010 a commitment was made to provide a gift of \$10,000 to the city for the viewing deck.

Subsequently, additional funds were raised by the volunteer committee, which together with the gift of the GLPOA, will be sufficient to cover the cost of the \$35,000 project. The location of the viewing deck will facilitate a wonderful view of the lake. It will have handicap access, be completely landscaped and can be used for a variety of functions including receptions and small-group recitals. The GLPOA has expressed its appreciation to the donor and is very pleased to have been able to provide the lead gift. On August 3rd a check for \$10,000 was presented by Dick Gunderson, GLPOA Treasurer, and Terry Frazee, GLPOA Executive Director, to Mary Wahnoutka, Chair of the volunteer committee. Construction of the Viewing Deck is scheduled to begin this fall.



LETTER REGARDING WATER ACCESS SITE

Gregg Soupir
District Supervisor
DNR Parks and Trails
P.O. Box 457
Spicer, Minnesota 56288

21 June 2011



Dear Mr. Soupir:

On behalf of the Green Lake Property Owners Board of Directors, I wish to comment regarding public input of the expansion of an existing public water access site on Green Lake in Spicer, Minnesota. The proposed item of concern would expand the existing public water access site which is located on Lots 1, 2 and 3 of Block 1 in the First Addition of Spicer.



Two years ago, the Green Lake Property Owners Association invited Mr. Bob Meier, Assistant Commissioner under Mark Holmstein along with Luke Skinner to visit with the Board of Directors of the Green Lake Property Owners Association. An item of concern, which was visited by Bob and Luke, was the boat access of the proposed of which you are wishing to expand. Mr. Meier stated "this is a very poor design as all the water runs back into the lake!" We agreed, as Mr. Meier stated this was to be changed! We are waiting, as of 22 June 2011.

We, of the Green Lake Property Owners Association, do not feel that we need to expand the number of sites for parking. Immediately across highway 23, you will find numerous parking spaces for cars/trailers for all concerned. We do not need additional parking.

What we do need, is a minimum of two stalls for the power washing of boats/trailers prior to their entrance into Green Lake. Along with the minimum of two stalls for power washing, we need fresh water for the pressure washing, electrical hook up for power washing, plus a large holding pond in which all the water from the boats/trailers/the entire asphalt area would receive any/all waters not allowing for any water(s) to drain back into Green Lake!



Parking, we do not need, prevention of A.I.S. facilities we do need. Rather than build a monument, why not be Pro-Active in protecting the waters of Green Lake rather than being ReActive.

We ask that the Green Lake Property Owners, be included in any drawing, any plans, any changes, anything to public water access site on Green Lake in Spicer, Minnesota PRIOR to the development of the same which you state would occur in 2012.

Please address all changes which YOU wish for, so we may be invited to study, look, compare and add to by contacting Terry W. Frazee, Executive Secretary, Green Lake Property Owners Association,

P.O. Box 362, Spicer, Minnesota 56288.

It is our concern to protect Green Lake for future generations, to be Pro-Active along with having state-of-the-art power washing facilities for the prevention of A. I. S.

Respectfully,
Terry W. Frazee, Executive Secretary



LETTER REGARDING FISHING TOURNAMENTS

Mr. Tom Landwehr
Commissioner of Natural Resources
Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota

30 May 2011



Dear Commissioner Landwehr:

What a wonderful session this has been for the people of Minnesota, those of us who wish to protect our lakes, rivers and streams!



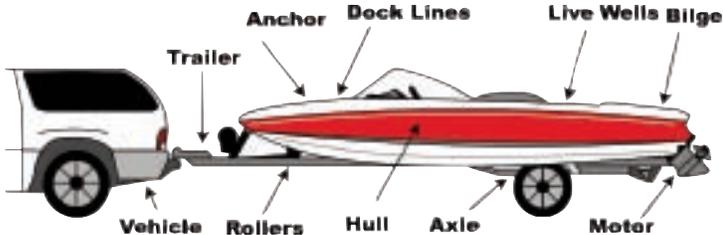
One of the many laws which were signed by Governor Dayton “that the Commissioner of Natural Resources may require decontamination of tournament boats.”

Green Lake, Kandiyohi County, has been selected to hold six Fishing Tournaments for the scheduled year of 2011, which are permitted by the Department of Natural Resources!

Of these tournaments, please remember there is many days/nights of “PRE FISHING,” not only that but Green Lake is a NON INFESTED LAKE, but we do have Douglas County lakes to the west of us, Mille Lacs to the north of us, Prior Lake along with Minnetonka to the East of us which are infested with Zebra Mussels, which are on the DNR list for fishing tournaments!

We, of Green Lake, are very concerned about the infestation of Zebra Mussels from an infested lake to this non-infested lake!

You, according to the signage of the bill the Commissioner has the power to REQUIRE decontamination of tournament boats!



Would you please notify the Green Lake Property Owners Association that this will happen? That this will become the responsibility of the Tournament Managers? That you will fulfill your duty as the Commissioner of Natural Resources by requiring that ALL BOATS ARE DECONTAMINATED PRIOR TO ENTERING WATERS OF NON INFESTED LAKES for fishing tournaments!

With 20-40 lakes infested, why not be Pro-Active to save the other 10,000 lakes! It is within your hands Tom. Work with us, save our lakes for future generations. The law was signed! The people of Minnesota have spoken!

Respectfully,
Terry W. Frazee, Executive Secretary
Green Lake Property Owners Association

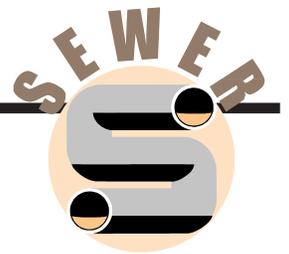
SEWER REPORT



The final sewer usage agreement with the city of Kandiyohi has been approved by the city. The Wadsworth Trailer Court project is moving forward. The estimated cost is \$75,000 and the owner has requested the district’s assistance in financing the cost. It is a nine-year deal at 4.5% interest. Final approval by the district is expected in August.

The Diamond Lake project has 79 properties connected. Tier one has 84% signed up. The resort is hooked up and 63% of pump stations are in. Six crews are working on it and the project is on schedule for completion in September.

Water losses averaged 27.2% which is not acceptable given a DNR target of 20%. No leaks have been detected to explain the losses.



2011 SESSION - SPECIAL SESSION REPORT

On Tuesday, July 14, on the fourteenth day of the state government shutdown, Governor Dayton abruptly dropped his plans to raise \$1.5 billion in taxes and instead announced that he would agree to a Republican plan offered on June 30: increase the shift in K-12 payments to school districts by an additional \$700 million and raise \$700 million by borrowing against future revenue from the tobacco endowment fund that was created during the 1998 settlement between the state of Minnesota and the tobacco companies. The \$35.5 billion deal closes the budget gap between House and Senate Republicans who didn't want to spend more than \$34 billion and Governor Dayton who wanted



to spend \$37 billion. It also gives Dayton the money he wanted and allows Republicans to say they did not raise taxes to expand government spending. But as a condition of agreeing to the deal, Dayton required the Republicans drop all controversial social issues from the budget bills, give up on their plan to institute a 15% across-the-board reduction in the number of state employees, and pass a \$500 million bonding bill. Republican leaders agreed to those three conditions, although rank and file legislators in both parties were very unhappy with the deal. Staff worked all weekend to prepare the bills for passage, most of it behind closed doors, while legislative leaders worked to secure enough votes. Governor Dayton's original goal was to call a special session for Monday, July 18, but he waited a day for the bills to be finalized. At approximately 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 19, he announced there would be a special session at 3:00 p.m. that same day.



A total of twelve separate bills were taken up during the one-day, twelve-hour special session and all twelve were signed by Governor Dayton on Wednesday, July 20. They included finance bills covering public safety (SF-1/HF-1); economic development (SF-2/HF-3); environment (SF-3/HF-5); transportation (SF-4/HF-2); higher education finance (SF-5/HF-4); dedicated funds for clean water and outdoor heritage (SF-6/HF-6); state retirement programs (SF-7/HF-14); taxes (SF-8/HF-20); bonding (SF-9/HF-23); health and human services (SF-10/HF-25); K-12 education (SF-11/HF-26) and state government finance (SF-12/HF-27). Most votes were along party lines although Democrats crossed over on a few of the bills.

Environment Finance Bill. The environment finance bill, SF-3 (Ingebrigtsen) and HF-5 (McNamara), provides \$225.289 million in the first year of the bi-ennium and \$224.971 million in the second year of the bi-ennium from the general fund to the DNR. Of that amount, \$4.416 million in the first year and \$4.416 million in the second year are appropriated for management, law enforcement, public awareness, assessment and monitoring research, and water access inspection to prevent the spread of invasive species; management of invasive plants in public waters; and management of terrestrial invasive species on state-administered lands.

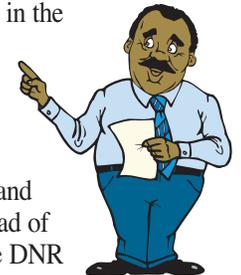


Another \$2 million is appropriated for law enforcement and water access inspection to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. From the LCCMR fund (the lottery money), the bill provides \$2.177 million the first year and \$3.513 million the second year to accelerate aquatic invasive species programs, including the development and implementation of best management practices for public water access facilities to implement aquatic invasive species prevention strategies. \$50,000 of the LCCMR appropriation

has been earmarked to create a documentary identifying the challenges presented by AIS. That's a grand total of \$16.522 million for AIS

prevention over the next two years in the bill. The figures for AIS prevention are exactly the same in this bill as they were in the environment finance bill passed during the regular session. The bill passed 43-22 in the Senate and 71-57 in the House.

Governor Dayton has signed the bill, and now that the budget is in place, it is my understanding that the DNR is prepared to hire 20 specially trained boat inspectors and they are also purchasing more portable wash stations (they have three now).



Bonding Bill. As part of the global agreement, the legislature agreed to pass a \$500 million bonding bill, SF-9 (Senjem) and HF-23 (Howes). The bill provides \$16 million for the Coon Rapids dam, in part to establish a barrier to help stop the spread of Asian carp. Including money in the bonding bill for the Coon Rapids dam is helpful to the zebra mussel effort because the DNR will not have to use any of the general fund appropriations for the dam project. The bill passed overwhelmingly in the Senate 53-11 and 112-16 in the House. Governor Dayton has signed the bill.

Dedicated Funds. The bill to allocate the Constitutionally dedicated sales tax funds, HF-6 (Urdahl), and SF-6 (Ingebrigtsen), contains funding for the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council recommendations as well as the clean water portion of the dedicated sales tax fund. The

Lessard recommendations total approximately \$86.484 million for the next fiscal year, primarily for acquisition of land, while the clean water funds total approximately \$179.437 million for the next two fiscal years. The bill also contains policy language to establish a Lessard-Sams type council to make recommendations for the clean water funds because currently there is no similar process to review proposed projects for the clean water fund. Currently, the Clean Water Council is made up of 23 members. The language in the bill would change that to four legislators and eight citizens and make the Clean Water Council more like the Lessard-Sams Council. The bill passed overwhelmingly in the Senate 63-0 and 98-30 in the House.

Governor Dayton has signed the bill.

Other Bills. There was nothing of particular importance to the SZMA in any of the other bills passed during the special session. No other business was taken up during the special session, including a Vikings stadium.



The legislature is scheduled to convene the next regular session on January 24, 2012.

MEETING!!

GLPOA MEETING WITH DNR



A meeting organized by Terry Frazee, Executive Director of the GLPOA, was held on July 27, 2011. In attendance were Skip Wright, DNR; Ethan Jenzen, DNR; Chad Anderson, Middle Fork Crow River Water Shed District; Roger Stehn, GLPOA board; Dennis Peterson, Kandiyohi County Commissioner; Jeff Bredberg, County Water Quality Director; Val Sechlar, GLPOA board; Tom Chearvey, West Central Tribune; Leonard Rossel, Green Lake property owner; Terry Frazee, Ex. Secretary, GLPOA; Dick Gunderson, GLPOA board member.

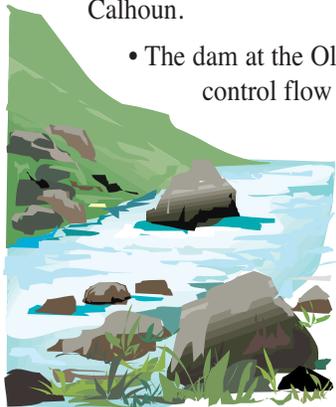
Opening comments were offered by each of the attendees, all of whom acknowledged that Green Lake is at a very high level, a condition that is contributing to lakeshore erosion, property damage and cause for general concern of property owners. The total amount of damage is unknown at this point but based on anecdotal evidence is likely to be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. If the current level of Green Lake persists until it freezes over additional damage could occur because of the expansion of ice on the lake this winter.



Comments by representatives of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provided perspective on the current situation. High water conditions exist throughout Minnesota. Factors involving above average rainfall throughout the region, especially in the watershed area affecting Green Lake and extreme ground saturation which contributes to significant run-off after each rain, are the major reasons explaining why the level of Green Lake has risen and remains so high. As of this date the level of Green Lake is 1,157.97 ft. (above sea-level), about 9.8 inches below the all-time high of the lake recorded in 1986.

During the meeting the following points were offered and discussed:

- The current rate of waterflow into Green Lake through the dam at the Olde Mill is about equal to the flow out of Green Lake into Lake Calhoun.



- The dam at the Olde Mill is controlled by a private party (and has been for decades) who coordinates actions with the DNR to control flow out of Nest Lake into Green Lake to match the rate of flow from the New London dam.

- There is currently no way to control the rate of flow out of Lake Calhoun. A concrete structure was put into place decades ago that cannot be manually adjusted to control the flow rate.

- There is virtually nothing that can be done in the short-run by the DNR or any government agency to control the level of Green Lake. However, favorable conditions downstream from Lake Calhoun may at some point result in a higher rate of outflow from Green Lake vs. inflow, which would be a favorable development. The water level before the lake freezes will be governed by the amount of rainfall, humidity, wind and temperature.

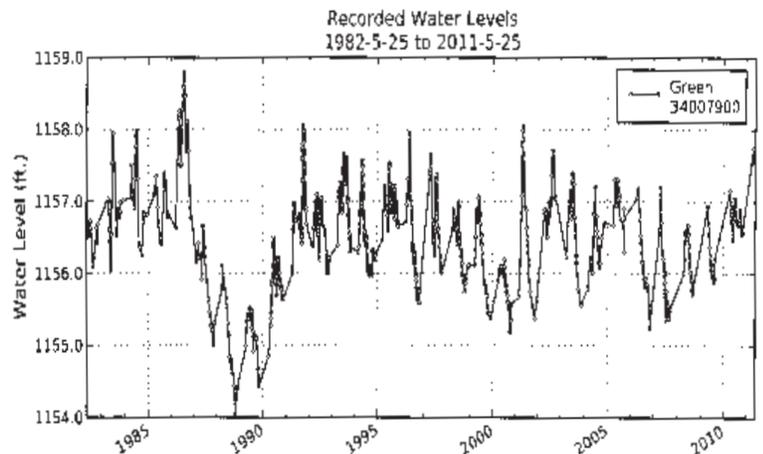


- We are currently in a “wet” cycle and conditions are likely to change in the future; however, the timing is highly uncertain. Under “ideal” conditions the water level of Green Lake could drop several inches over a period of two to three weeks; however, the most likely scenario, assuming no additional heavy rains, is a gradual reduction in the lake level over the balance of the year. In 2010 the drop between July and November was about four inches.

- Decades ago water level control systems impacting Green Lake were largely eliminated in an effort to allow waterflows to proceed more naturally. Given the absence of these controls, Green Lake property owners have been and remain subject to the impact of weather patterns.

Looking ahead, if this coming winter results in above average snow-fall, and the spring/summer of 2012 produces above average amounts of rain, next year could be “wet” again. However, because of the unusual circumstances surrounding the events of 1986, breaking the record lake level recorded that year is somewhat remote. As a way of injecting levity into the discussion it was suggested there might be a future meeting at which the focus would be on Green Lake being too low. Weather goes in cycles. Recall that the record high for Green Lake was set in 1986 and only two years later the record low was achieved.

*Dick Gunderson
GLPOA Board Member and Treasurer*

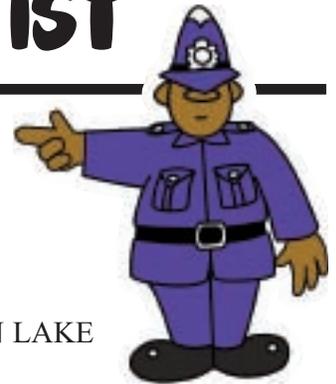


The Green Lake Breeze
Green Lake Property Owners Association
P.O. Box 362
Spicer, Minnesota 56288
www.greenlakespicer.com

Return Service Requested

PATROL TO BEGIN OCTOBER 1ST

If you paid for membership, along with the patrol service you will notice that the “PATROL SIGNS” will be placed on your residence shortly after the 1st of October.



The bi-monthly patrol will begin near the middle of October.

The person who does the patrol will be identified this year by a vest with the words “GREEN LAKE PATROL” on the back. If further I.D. is needed an identification card with the picture of the employee has been issued by the Kandiyohi County Sheriff’s Office.



Post cards will be mailed to your home residence during the six month period, as we do not know when you leave for your winter home. Please advise your postmaster to forward your PATROL CARDS as they do your regular mail.

October 1st is the deadline for signing up for patrol service.

Thank you and have a wonderful winter season!

