

# **Minutes**

## **Upper Mississippi River Headwaters ROPE Studies Meeting #2, Cass/Winnie Lake Group**

Meeting began at 10:35 a.m. at Shangri La Resort. Persons present were Ryan Hilmer, Earl Ockenga, Chuck Conway, Dan Thul, Tom Selwold, Mike Schwab, Harry Myklebust, Daisy Ritter, Jan Enquist, Pete Swanson, Steve Mortensen, Tom Recht, John Endres, Brenda Glenn.

Introductions were made and discussion was had regarding who else should be part of the committee. It was agreed to solicit Cass County Soil and Water as well as and Lake Winnie representation. General lake reports were given focusing on water levels and quality. The current concern seems to be getting water levels of Cass, Andrusia, and Wolf lakes lower for the winter freeze.

Brenda Glenn gave news that the ROPE Study funding looks like it's going to happen with \$165,000 going towards various surveys and assessments for this year and \$500,000 for next year. This means that the critical preliminary work will be done. The Cass/Winnie Lake Group can move forward in its organization and work towards determining issues, gathering information, and making suggestions for a better water level management plan.

Discussion was had on the organization of the Lake Group. Mike Schwab and others will present at the next meeting a proposal for our organization based around a steering committee model with Roberts Rules of Order or some variation. The next meeting we will assign a Recorder/Secretary and a person or persons to attend other Lake Group Meetings and/or monitor the web site for meeting minutes. We will also discuss publicity and begin determining issues. It was generally agreed that all issues would be heard and reported perhaps through a majority and minority report. Mike Schwab and Ryan Hilmer will remain co-chairs of the Cass/Winnie Lake Group.

A copy of the Ottertail Power – Bemidji Dam Operations Manual was briefly reviewed as well as a letter from the Beltrami County Attorney suggesting that the DNR is the controlling body of Ottertail Power Dam operations according to Minnesota Statute 103G.255. A discussion followed regarding the need for “normal” summer pool to be determined on Wolf and Andrusia Lakes as Cass Lake readings and Bemidji readings alone would not indicate a high water problem on Wolf or Andrusia this year. Dan Thul (DNR) is working on that and getting updated survey work and mapping. Pete Swanson referred Dan to completed surveys and elevation and hydro maps from the past used in various bridge construction over the Mississippi. Dan Thul brought three years of water level readings for committee review.

Next meeting is Thursday, October 17, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. at Shangri-La Resort.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryan Hilmer