

Preferences



WEISS PROPERTY UPDATE....

The Briggs Lake Chain Association has been asked to write a letter in support of the county receiving a grant to purchase the Howard Weiss property.

This land will either go to the county for a park or preserve or the family may sell it to a developer for a housing development, or sell it in individual lots. The last two scenarios would not be good for the lake.

At the February board meeting that was attended by approximately 40 Elk Lake Residents it was decided that Brad Kipp (President of the BLCA) would write a letter supporting the grant but also stating that we are opposed to a campground, a fishing pier, boat access, etc.

Below is his letter with the changes requested. This letter will be mailed on March 1st, 2021.

Please address all concerns, comments, questions to bradkipp1@gmail.com.

BRIGGS LAKE CHAIN ASSOCIATION... Big Elk...Briggs...Julia...Rush
Remembering the past, Improving the future. promoting the care, improvement, and general welfare of the Briggs Lake Chain and adjoining and connecting watershed.

February 17,2021

Mai Neng Moua, Grants Specialist Coordinator
Parks and Trails
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4039

Greetings Ms. Moua,

The Brigg's Lake Chain Association Board strongly support Sherburne County's funding proposal for the Natural and Scenic Areas Grant Program to purchase 430 acres of land. The acres lie in the center of our chain of four lakes. Protection and enhancement of the natural resources on this land will positively impact the water quality we work so hard to improve through our active association.

The acquisition of this land for nature-based recreation would protect it from alternative land uses and the inevitable water quality degradation that could follow. Further this land has over 170 acres of tillable land. Conversion of these acres to native habitat would not only complement views from trails, but also reduce sediment and nutrient loading to Elk Lake and the Elk River.

We support Howard Weise's vision of a natural rustic park with walking trails meandering through restored native habitat. We want walking trails to be a nature preserve like the refuge. We are not in favor of

... Any campground or campsites

... A boat access or fishing pier

... Trails that allow any motorized vehicles like snowmobiles or four-wheelers.

.... Horseback riding trails

The four lakes have 550 property owners. About half are year-round residents and 260 are members of the BLCA (Briggs Lake Chain Association). Our homes and cabins are on small parcels and the roads are narrow – leaving little safe space for walking. The proposed use of these acres for recreation would fill a gap in recreation opportunities for our lake, giving people a close, safe, and scenic space to engage in healthy outdoor activity and connect with nature.

Thank you for considering our words of endorsement for this proposal. The BLCA support the opinions of residents of Big Elk.

Submitted on behalf of the BLCA.

Brad Kipp President

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