**Summary of Oct. 12,  2023 Healthy Lakes Meeting**

There were five people in attendance. We discussed ways to attract more people to our meetings. Food? Meet in homes? Discussion to be continued.

* Update from BLCA board
  + Great education videos and resources can be found on [MN Traditions](https://www.mississippiheadwaters.org/education.asp) and [Clean Water MN](https://www.cleanwatermn.org/resources/).
  + Ditch Cleanup, Oct. 28, Lighted Train, Dec. 2, Ice Day will be Feb. 10
  + The board is working to streamline membership signup online
  + The DNR has made some updates to signage and launches since Shelly sent pictures and a letter of concerns
  + COLA  is exploring AIS cleaning stations at launches
* Alum grant update–water testing is complete, core sediment samples are expected to be taken yet this month, carp testing will take place next year. A preliminary report (minus carp info) is expected this winter
* Water testing update—last sampling will take place next week
* Gentle Footprints update–members have already expressed interest for next year
* HL Plant program update–approx. 8 projects were completed this year
* Old business:
  + Educational content on lake friendly fall/winter yard prep for residents and winter cabin prep for seasonal residents has been posted on Facebook and Instagram and will be in the Oct. newsletter.
  + Shelly is creating a handout regarding best practices to hand out to all those who enter the Ice Day fishing contest, and hopes to hand deliver them with trash bags to fish houses on the ice this winter.
  + At our December meeting, we will vote on verbiage for signs placed along the ice road from the Julia Landing out to Ice Day to encourage (with some humor) people to properly dispose of garbage, and dog and human waste when out on the ice.
  + The filamentous algae has gone dormant for the year
* Action items:
  + Shelly is working on ice fishing handouts
  + Bre will create 3 more infographics regarding winter prep to put on Instagram. Ruth will look for info on CleanWater MN to share on Instagram.
  + Dave Maiers will contact Nature’s Caretaker to make sure they are not blowing leaves toward the lake. We will all take note of fall cleanup companies that advertise in our area and contact them to make sure they understand the importance of keeping leaves/debris out of the lake. To consider: Could we promote companies that use best practices?
  + Ruth will ask Dan Cibulka about the feasibility of using beavers to create wetlands along the Elk River vs. other more costly alternatives
  + Dave suggested we start an “Ask the Lake Detective” question a month series with a 5 minute video response. Shelly will contact Steve McComas to see if he would consider doing this and what he would charge. Ruth will contact Minda to see if her brother would also be interested.
  + Shelly will explore the possibility of hanging an educational sign on the fence of the property owner next to the Julia landing.
  + For further discussion: placing educational signs in yards on the lake side.