



The Mel-Sal

President's Letter

Board of Directors Current-June 2024

President	Birch Burdick
Vice President	Sandi Gruhot
Secretary	Kathy Kuhn
Treasurer	Kristine Christensen
Assistant Treasurer	Jim Bond

Committee Chairs

Government Liaison	Mary Ann Bond
Activities	Mary Rotter
Membership Chair	
Publicity/Social	Marsha Johansen/
Media	Sandy Alinder
Head Beach Captains	Melissa: Carole Schornack Sallie: Kathy Michaelson
Database	MacKenzie Arnold
Media Consultant	Lee Massey
Newsletter	Sandy Alinder
Coordinator	

Spring Beach Captain's Meeting, June 8th 9:00 am • Shoreham Chapel

**Annual Meeting: Saturday, June 15th
Social 9:30am • Meeting 10:00 am •
Shoreham Chapel**

**Melissa/Sallie Home Tour, Saturday
June 22nd from 10 AM - 2 PM**

The Lakes Melissa Sallie Improvement Association was started in 1936. As a non-profit organization, we exist to safeguard our shoreline, water front, and the recreational advantages of Lakes Melissa and Sallie.

Dear Members:

Below I comment on three topics which I expect are of mutual interest: development on We Fest property, the Pelican River Watershed District's (PRWD) activities, and lake levels.

The owner of We Fest is developing a portion of his property at the east end of Lake Sallie, just north of the Lakeview golf course, with access from Lake Ridge Lane. The planned development consists of sixteen individual units on the back side of a bluff. Several governmental agencies have been involved in reviewing plans, including the Becker County Planning Commission, the Becker County Commission, the PRWD and the DNR. The planned development will be a minimum of thirty feet from the crest of the bluff, there will be no grading on the existing slope to the lake, and no fill will be added at the top of the bluff. They will grade to ensure water in the development drains to a retention area on the back side of the bluff. The soils around the bluff, and in the development area, have been studied by soils engineers at Braun Intertec, and here are a couple of their conclusions: (1) they did not observe active sliding at the top of the bluff nor at the toe of the bluff along the edge of Lake Sallie; and (2) the soils loading from the housing foundations will have a negligible affect and apply a negligible load to the face of the bluff. The owner is working with the city of Detroit Lakes on a feasibility study for the possibility of using city water and sewer for the development (presumably linking to existing infrastructure at Soo Pass). There will be a dock with up to sixteen slips which will be located pursuant to DNR direction.

Jim Bond and I attended PRWD meetings during the Fall and Winter months. The PRWD's role, among other things, is to protect and enhance the water quality in our two lakes. At the start of attending the meetings last Fall, the relationships amongst the water managers, and potentially with staff, felt contentious. However, after collaborating with consultants, and engaging new outside counsel and engineers, the relationships amongst the managers and with staff appear to have markedly improved, leading to more constructive and harmonious meetings. The MSLA has considered the work of the PRWD important in ensuring the quality of our lake water. I applaud the efforts PRWD has made to improve its internal workings. The MSLA will remain attentive to PRWD's ongoing efforts over the next year to review its mission and methods.

(continued next page)

LMSA News

As an aside, after significant sand ridges arose along beaches this winter, I worked with PRWD which produced clear guidance on work owners may do to remedy their ridges without a permit. See further information about ice ridges and PRWD at www.prwd.org. My thanks to fellow lake neighbors Phil Hansen (Melissa) and Rick Michaelson (Sallie) for their work on PRWD's Board.

Lake levels are, understandably, always a hot topic. As I installed my dock recently, I noticed the lake was lower than usual at this time of year. No surprise, there was limited rain last summer and little snow during the winter. Many owners consider lake levels related to the Buck's Mill dam. I spoke with DNR about the proposed project to redevelop the Dam area. Earlier this year DNR received a 5-year grant for the project. They will implement the project in multiple stages. During 2024, they intend to contract with engineers to conduct design work during the 2024/2025 winter. The PRWD will also be a local project partner. I am advised the Dam project is not intended to lower lake levels. We will monitor the developing project and keep you updated. (Afternote: The lake rose a couple of inches with recent rains, so ... some more of that please ... gently, in the middle of the night.)

Birch Burdick, President cell: (701) 261-3747, email: birch.burdick1955@gmail.com

A Note from the Vice President Sandi Gruhot

Welcome back to our lakes! We look forward to another year of great times with you. If you did not pick up the new directory last year, you may pick it up this year with paid dues. Some other information and dates to remember are...

Annual meeting- Saturday, June 15, social at 9:30AM, meeting at 10:00AM, Shoreham Chapel
Beach Captains Meeting- June 8, 9:00AM, Shoreham Chapel

Environment- The compost sites on West Sallie and near Mill Pond are open.
Sandi Gruhot at swgruhot@outlook.com or 701-235-6408



MEL/SAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

Home tour: Saturday, June 22, 10:00AM-2:00PM. Three homes are currently scheduled, but the committee would like to add a fourth home. If you would like to volunteer your home, or know someone who may, please contact Linda Jalbert (chair, lindajalbert@hotmail.com, (701) 232-2730). If you would like to volunteer to be a guide at one of the homes, please contact volunteer coordinator Nancy Schuett (nancyschuett@gmail.com, (612) 396-2810). Tickets will be available about two weeks before the event at the Mel/Sal office at Shoreham, or the DL Chamber of Commerce. The cost is \$25/ticket.

4th of July Boat Parade: Not surprisingly, it is scheduled for July 4. Given this is an even-numbered year, the parade will start at the Shoreham channel and move clockwise. For those of you challenged by only having digital clocks, follow the others. If you choose to celebrate on land, awards are also given to the most enthusiastic/decorated properties.

2024 Mel Sal Office Volunteering! Hello, Lake Neighbors!

Attached is this summer's Lakes Melissa and Sallie Association Office Sign Up link (below hammock picture). We'd love to have you volunteer again this summer.

We are keeping the hours 10:00-12:00 p.m. on Sat/Sundays and 5:00-7:00 p.m. the third Thursday of each month, and give one more summer to see how the visits go. We know that if there are customers right before noon, that volunteers will respond as needed in order for the individuals to get their needs met.

We will be working on some new children's apparel, and freshening up some size gaps in the options from last year.

New this year, there will be a coffee pot and water available! We also have some clothing racks that have been donated, so more of the apparel can be hung up both inside and outside during operating hours. We hope this brings in some more patrons.

Additionally, I am hoping to host a small happy hour at our home on Lake Sallie sometime mid-summer, so that volunteers can put more faces to names and share our appreciation of your help.

Please spread the word about volunteering in the store to any individuals-spouses, kids, and grandkids are great additions to our sign up.

Take care,
Mary Rotter



signupgenius.com (link is active on website)

Cleanup by Lakeview Township:

The dates of the annual township cleanup “week” have not yet been set, but will likely be during July. We will update you when we have that information.

Recent deaths of lake neighbors:

Recent deaths of lake neighbors: Barbie Cooper, Linda Dillard, Bill Laskey, Mary Mahoney, Ilene Maloney, Joe Roach, Victor Rolle, and Kathy Score. This may be an incomplete list. If you know of other lake friends who have passed over the last 12 months, please email Birch Burdick with that information so we can properly recognize them at the annual meeting.



(Bridge on the beach circa 1960's)



Food Pantry Drive:

In October 2023 we donated \$9,890.00 to the Becker County Food Pantry. The Detroit Lakes Tribune published an article recognizing the contribution. We have done so well in this important effort over the years, we expect to encourage your generosity again towards the end of this summer.

Staying in touch:

On page 13 of the Membership Directory, it lists a number of ways to stay in touch with the lake association. I repeat a few here: www.melissasallie.com, www.facebook.com/lakesmelissasallie; MelSal Association, PO Box 1003, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502. And, of course, at the Annual Meeting!



Membership dues: It is time to renew your membership in the lake association! There are two ways to do that: (1) use the enclosed form* and mail in your dues check, or bring your check to the LMSA office; or (2) submit your dues electronically as shown on the MSLA website: www.melissasallie.com. (*You will also find the dues form on page 125 of your membership directory.) In addition to paying your dues, please update any of your personal information. Thank you!



The following form makes it easy to mail your 2024 Homeowner fees/donations along with providing updates to our database.

PERSONAL CHECK payment: Mail form and payment to the following address.

MelSal Association
PO Box 1003
Detroit Lakes MN 56502

Property Owner Name(s): _____ Date: _____

Lake Address: _____ Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Homeowner Fees **\$ 35.00**

The Association needs your continued support to finance various issues surrounding our mission to promote healthy lake environments. Please consider donating to the Foundation and the Environmental funds. Thank you.

MelSal Foundation Donation \$ _____

Environmental Fund Donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed: **\$ _____**

CONTACT INFORMATION/Changes

PRINT CLEARLY.

We received many more email addresses from our members, which was great!

This is our main form of communication so THANK YOU for keeping us updated with your personal information.

If there are NO CHANGES from last year, please do not submit.

EMAIL ADDRESSES: _____

First name & cell: (if changed) _____

First name & cell: (if changed) _____

Home/Winter land line phone: _____

Home/Winter Address (if changed):

(Optional) Other Contacts associated with the property:

Did you Know? Minnesota Statute 169.21 Subdivision 5 states that pedestrians walking along a roadway “shall, when practicable, walk or move on the left side of the roadway or its shoulder giving way to oncoming traffic”. **Walk in the direction to face on-coming traffic so you can see the cars, bring a bag for any garbage you see, and stay safe!**