

1977	The concerns were a petition to stop the construction of a dam between Lake Washington and Lake Stella, and the prevention of Dutch elm disease. The DNR stocked 322,560 walleye fry and 2,650 pounds of bullheads were removed from the lake. An entertainment night was held at Sportsman's Park. The treasury held \$225.84. President: Norm Ostrovak.
1978	Demonstrations of CRP and making a life jacket from a pair of pants were given at the annual meeting by Don Holgrem and Jill Scott. David Underhill and Larry Osborne put on a water ski show.
1979	Members look into marking the dangerous rocks in the lake, treating weeds with copper sulfate, and decided not to invite Lake Stella residents to join the Association. The treasury held \$303.56. President Marlyn Berquist.
1980	The concerns were illegal fishing at the north dam, wake control and water quality. Annual steak fries were being held at the Anderson's on the north side of the lake. The treasury held \$407.63.
1981	The DNR was asked to mark dangerous rocks, perhaps a sign of low water levels. Only two meetings were held. President: Shirley George.
1982	Yearly dues were \$3.00 The treasury held \$347.46.
1983	Only 35 members attended the spring picnic. Russ Debb presented a demonstration on taxidermy. President: Morris Anderson.
1984	The concern were weeds and more weeds. The Ecology Services division of the DNR visited the lake and made recommendations for weed control and swimmers itch control. 119 members attended the August Steak Fry. The treasury held \$508.00. President: Peter Olfelt.
1985	Water transparency readings started in conjunction with MN Pollution Control Agency' Citizen Monitoring program. No old or new business at the August steak fry so it was declared the shortest business meeting in the Association's history. The treasury held \$434.78. President: Harry Bengston.
1986	The Crow River Band played music for the August steak fry. The concerns were cormorants, high utility rates, and lake weeds. Only 30 members attended the spring meeting and there were discussions of abandoning this function. Annual dues were raised to \$5.00. The treasury held \$197.55
1987	A committee was formed to study information about a Lake Washington Watershed District to help control pollution. A limnologist was consulted and it was decided toform a district by petitioning the State Water Resource Board. The county would not help clean up the water unless the Association became more powerful, and peer pressure was the only recourse left to members. The committee began preliminary work.

1988	<p>By-laws were written for the Lake Washington Improvement Association (LWIA). 84 adults attended the spring meeting. The new membership committee mailed out 400 letters to potential members, and left the treasury with \$182.96. The watershed committee reported; to form a district, the association must become larger and stronger, \$3000 was needed to begin work, and 50% membership roster out of 400 eligible. The Board began monthly meetings and it was voted to ask each member to donate \$20 to start a lake clean-up fund. The membership committee distributed info packets to all lakeshore owners. By fall, the association had 151 members signed, \$1300 for the lake study, and \$665 in special donations. A consulting firm gave its report on the lake study, which included water-sampling program, identification of sources of pollution and zoning ordinances. The cost of hiring the firm was beyond the Associations' means. Steve Knapp was elected president, Chris Ullom, vice president and Peg Hampe secretary.</p>
1989	<p>The 1st directory of lakeshore owners was published, with advertising paying the cost. Dues were raised to \$20 per member in hopes of obtaining a lake study project. The board sent a letter to Meeker County Commissioners protesting a plan for a bait house and boat rental variance on Lake Washington and Stella. Signs warning of Eurasian Milfoil were posted at each public landing. It was suggested that water testing go forward without further funding. Fund raising was discussed and sweat and tee shirts were made available for sale. 13 members attended the fall steak fry and the balance on hand was \$2737.45. A Certificate of Deposit for \$2000. Treasury balance \$218.04.</p>
1990	<p>Spring newsletters were sent out, informing the lakeshore owners of the progress made on water quality issues and a general call for participation. Preliminary water quality testing was done by a lakeshore volunteer. The Association joined the Meeker County Association of Lakes.</p>
1991	<p>Harold Nohner was elected president, with Jim Kirchoff as chairperson. The Board studied issues of incorporation, and the by-laws were changed to accommodate more voting members. Thirteen members were elected to be on the Board of Directors. At the spring meeting, \$500 was given to the water patrol to go toward equipment, and agreement to participate in the Freshwater Foundation's Lake Watch. The water quality testing results indicated high concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorous entering the lake. It was agreed to contact those responsible for these sites including farmers, county road maintenance or private parties. Total funding the treasury were \$7920.</p>
1992	<p>Work plans from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency were studied as Lake Washington was chosen for the Lake Assessment Program. Ellsworth Township agreed to put in new culverts and control run-off as recommended from the perimeter inspections. An adoption by Meeker County of a new shoreline management program was announced. The first annual Lake Washington July 4th boat parade was noted as a success.</p>
1993	<p>It was voted to use the Meeker Count Tip Line to offer \$200 toward the apprehension of persons damaging lake property or breaking fishing laws. Garfield Busse did a survey of our septic system problems. The Association by-laws were revised and printed. Concerns of the board were south side wetlands preservation, improvement of septic systems and owner awareness of existing problems, increase awareness of Eurasian Milfoil, continuation of water testing, association membership in Minnesota Lakes Association, and larger involvement in programs by more of our members. A summary from the MPCA of the lake assessment was submitted to members.</p>

1994	The board researched fund raising options including pull tabs. The application process was much too difficult. President: Ken Neu.
1995	The board, under the direction of Dieter Bargel voted to incorporate the association. The articles of incorporation were filed under "Lake Washington Improvement Association of Meeker County". Strategies for reducing erosion were discussed and implemented. The board with DNR approval installed a year round light at Ellsworth landing and agreed to pay the electricity.
1996	A 4th of July boat parade was held with prizes going to the top 3 boats. Western Gas announced that natural gas would be available around the lake. A 4 color design Lake Washington Association logo was created and sweatshirts with the logo were ordered.
1997	New letterhead stationary with the Lake Washington logo was ordered. Publication of a new lake directory was approved and the process of updating addresses began. The Meeker County Planning Force approved a small wetland project for the south side of the lake, but the property was too expensive to purchase. A July 4th parade was held with prizes for a pontoon and boat division. The association looked into holding an ice fishing contest but the time frame was too short and the winter too warm. The Dassel Township board was approached regarding flooding of the road on the northeast corner and debris washing into the lake. The association sponsored a float in the Darwin Twine Ball Day and the Red Rooster Day parades. President: Kathy Allen.
1998	Lee and Peg Hampe were honored by the board for their many years of service and contributions to the Lake Washington Improvement Association. Applications were taken from property owners for a grant from the DNR to improve shoreline landscaping. The new directory was completed and distributed to all lakeshore owners. A 4th of July parade was held with the theme "Your Favorite Song"; there were 18 participants.
1999	The "Lake Washington Shore Lunches" cookbook was put together by Wilma Ahlgren, Kim Schimmelpfenning, and Connie Caspers as a fundraiser. This was the best money maker idea we have had in a longtime. There were 450 recipes, 500 copies were ordered and sold for \$10. Lakescaping projects funded by the DNR were awarded to Scott Drew and D. Lindquist/M Olson. Dassel Township begun discussion of building a new emergency access road and proposed putting some funds forward so the township can fix the runoff problem. 140 people attended the Spring Membership Meeting and pork chop dinner. July 4th boat parade theme "The Last 4th of July of the Century". Lake Association Board began a drive to have a severe weather warning siren installed on the lake at Ellsworth landing. Lake Association gets grant money for building a holding pond south of the Ellsworth landing, and began negotiating with the two property owners. Lake would do in-kind work and pay \$200 dollars per acre of the \$88-1000 dollars per acre proposed in the grant. Kathy Allen confirmed with local DNR fisheries people 5 healthy spots of Eurasian Milfoil in Lake Washington from Ellsworth landing to the southeast corner of the lake and in the channel to Stella. An open meeting on Eurasian Milfoil was held on August 26. The DNR will begin treating these areas this fall. Board purchased a GPS unit and volunteers began plotting milfoil found on the lake. The treasury held \$11,664.

2000

Phosphorous levels (unexplainably high) were found during the lake testing in 1999. Kathy will do more testing next year to see if a trend is developing. DNR milfoil specialist spoke at the spring membership meeting. Lake cast with brown tint in spring was tested and proved to be diatom bloom (microscopic organisms that can be good for fish) and cleared up later in the year. The treated 8 1/2 acres with 2 4 D last fall looked good. DNR hired applicators to check for milfoil on west and north side of the lake. July 4th parade theme "Story Books". 162 people attended the spring Membership meeting. The board put money towards a PA system at the Dassel Rod'n Gun Club.

2001

Money approved by RIM to build holding pond on south side of the lake. County Attorney's office helping with abandonment of court ditch and need proper owners to sign off on agreement. Orin Ortloff wrote the grant and is working with the county to get it started. Soil and Water people chose to drop this project because of difficulty getting landowners to sign off on it. Boards explored sharing a severe weather siren with Stella and have it put between the lakes. Concerns about how effective it would be reaching east side of the lake. Stella board members involved in discussions, but unable to raise their half of the cost. Lake Board ok'd starting a storm siren fund with donations marked specifically for this project. Board started holding regular monthly meetings February through October at Dassel Rod'n Gun Club. Treasuries at year's end \$16,872.91. Secchi disk reading more than 5 1/2 feet.

2002

New access road built on northeast corner of the lake. Township needed special request from Board to put in culvert. Orin continues work on development of a holding pond on south side of the lake. In discussions with property owners, he has found other funding. Discussions of putting in pumps to move the water were considered. Kathy Allen, longtime board member and president of Lake Washington Association, passed away this year, which left a huge void because of her knowledge of water testing and contacts through other state organizations. There was discussion at annual meeting about the granting of conditional use permits by the county and the potential impact this could have on the lake. The permit most discussed was the development of a large feeder pig operation south of the lake. Many members donated money for the specific purpose of questioning this proposal. Bob Paulson led plotting milfoil sites, communicating with DNR and getting grant money. The DNR classified Lake Washington as a maintenance management class lake, meaning they stop paying for milfoil treatments. There are several matted areas on the southwest side of the lake. Secchi disk reading were at times in the 4.5-5 foot range. Kim Winter elected president.

2003

Steve Thatcher Enterprises volunteered to do a septic feasibility study. Many ice houses fell into the lake during an unusual warm spell. Noted HEAVY infestation of Eurasian milfoil in northwest area of the lake. Bob Paulson contacted licensed applicators (there are only 5 in the state the DNR recognizes). Over 200 acres of matted milfoil were identified by DNR exotic species specialist. With funds from Lake Association treasury and grant money, \$27,690 was spent to treat 78 acres of milfoil on the lake. The 120 acre matted areas of the northwest corner were not treated as directed by the DNR. Some property owners hired a harvesting company to come in and cut paths so they could get boats out away from their docks. Addressing the milfoil problems became the board's focus and goal for this year and next year. Fund raising became the primary focus of the board. Formed milfoil committee to explore treatment options, develop plan, and track infestation on the lake. Began development of a 5-10 year treatment plan; looking at costs, treatment options, equipment, and volunteer applicators.

2004	<p>The milfoil committee (Bob Paulson, Earl Fitzloff, Donnie Hoversten and Gary Christianson) bought a spreader and chemicals and applied using a laptop and GPS. 135 acres was treated in June and 35 acres in July for \$33,000. Fundraising was done to cover \$25-30,000 for yearly milfoil treatments. Began organizing Shoreline Captains to improve communication with property owners and the Board. Each shoreline captain will represent approximately 25 neighbors each. Out Door Corp was hired for water testing 4-5 times (part of the UM extension service).</p>
2005	<p>The directory committee (Jenna O'Brien, Cammy Moses, Rick Fernstrom, Steve Ullom) are creating a lake directory. Kim Winter and Jim Wendling will sell ads to pay \$2714 for printing and binding. Kay Yoch volunteered to coordinate the Shore Line Captains. Donnie Hoversten updated LWIA website(http://www.lakewashingtonassn.com). Milfoil Committee (Bob Paulson, Gary Christianson, John VonEschen) reported very little milfoil on the lake. DNR found more curly leaf pond weed than milfoil this year. The board acknowledged the lack of milfoil was due to the great job of treatment by the Milfoil Committee and volunteers. LWIA developed a long range Lake Improvement Plan, which identifies goals and objectives to guide improvements in Water Quality, Education, Aquatic Plant Management, Fish Management, Shoreline Management, and Communication. Board developed standing committees for Exotic Species, Membership/Shore Line Captains, Social Committee, Communications/Public Relations, and Finance/Fundraising. Board approved ordering the Storm Siren to be installed before the summer storms and are asking for donations to pay for the balance. LWIA joined Stella and Manuella for a "Spring Fling" in March with a speaker to provide information for our lake associations. Jenna O'Brien and Cammy Moses set up a committee and began collecting recipes to publish a cookbook. Outdoor Corp continues doing water testing for \$500 per site. President: Kim Winter. Paid membership: 211.</p>
2006	<p>The Storm Siren was installed at Ellsworth Landing in May, with the help of Meeker Coop and Bob Ahlgren. The Dassel Fire Department agreed to annually check operation and batteries of the siren. Outdoor Corp will do water testing and provide a report for \$2500. At Spring Membership meeting, Lee Sundmark from Hutchinson DNR and Jacquelyn Bacigalupi, Exotic Species specialist from New Ulm talked. Exotic Species committee reported only three areas of matted milfoil and no areas were treated. Professional Lake Management began water testing and presented a detailed analysis of the sampling completed May thru October. The Board changed the August Picnic from a steak fry to having BBQ beef with the potluck dinner. Jean Ward found volunteers and Rick Fernstrom took charge of creating the newsletters. Rick Fernstrom and Jenna O'Brien have been getting email addresses of lake shore owners to quickly and easily share information and reduce costs. The Board approved purchasing general liability insurance for the LWIA Board. Jenna O'Brien and Cammy Moses formed a committee to publish a new Lake Washington cookbook. President: Kim Winter. Paid membership: 201</p>
2007	<p>Milfoil Committee treated 20 acres of curly leaf pond weed east of Cedar Point, an area of concern from last year but did not become an issue this year. DNR allowed PLM to treat three different areas of EWM (strips east of Cedar Point) for 16 acres. Received a DNR grant for \$6400 and \$3000 from Meeker County Associations of Lakes, thanks to the work of Bill Craig. "Celebration of 50 years for the Lake Association" cookbooks were ready in September, thanks to Jenna O'Brien and Cammy Moses. Local merchants will sell 657 copies at \$15, for a profit of \$6400. Mike Engel volunteered to update and maintain our website. Kay Yoch continues coordinating the Shore Line Captains. Began sending newsletters to local lake presidents, government officials, and DNR people we work with. President: Kim Winter. Paid membership: 219.</p>

2008

LWIA updated the Lake Improvement Plan with info about treatments, actions, and plans the Board has made the past 3 years. Agreed on a contract with PLM for exotic species treatments, water quality testing, and point intercept vegetation surveys. Vegetation Plans are required to get state grants. The Board discussed the formation of a Lake Improvement District. Kay Loch continues coordinating the Shore Line Captains. John Fink organized the March Spring Fling at Peter's and the county assessor spoke. 434 cookbooks sold since Sept 2007. Dennis Westendorp lead the development of a LWIA monthly and yearly budget. DNR approved treatment of 28 acres of EWM; west of Cedar Point and small strips east of Cedar Point to the mouth of the lake. Follow up surveys noted no signs of EWM in treated areas. The Exotic Species Committee and PLM identified 300 acres of EWM, but the DNR thought areas could be avoided by boaters and do not warrant treatments. The Board talks about a Lake Vegetation Management Plan. Peter's Signs (Litchfield) volunteered to replace information signs around the lake. LWIA donated \$1030 to the Dassel Fire Dept. President: Dennis Westendorp. Paid Memberships: 209.

2009

PLM completed a point intercept aquatic vegetation survey and matched with details from 2008. The information fulfilled a necessary requirement when applying for grant money. The Board approved filing for 501(c)3 status as a nonprofit; making all contributions to LWIA tax deductible and allows access to more grant money. Ken Klehr, Lyle Walker Cammy Moses and Steve Hanson, CPA, from Hutchinson complied the documentation and submitted it to the IRS. By Laws and Articles of Incorporation were updated as a result. Dave Berry, board member and lake spokesman passed away suddenly and is missed. The Board approved changing "Exotic" to "Invasive" Species Committee. PLM reported 200 acres of EWM and treated 78 acres NW side from the inlet, west and east of Cedar Point \$35,667. Bill Craig (Invasive Species Committee Chair) procured a state grant for \$18,124 and Meeker Co Association of Lakes contributed \$3000. Bill noted in 2007, treatments and water testing cost \$61,186 and Grants covered \$49,703. LWIA, Lee Sundmark (Hutchinson Fisheries) and Joe Eisterhold (Area Invasive Species) developed a Lake Vegetation Management Plan; a workable plan to define how many acres to treat yearly, with a five year rotation around the lake. The plan allows us to budget and setup treatment scenarios for quicker permitting and earlier treatments. Kay Yoch continues to lead Shore Line Captains. Jeff Norlin, Meeker County Sheriff, set up a county wide Crime Alert using email to notify people about crimes in the area. Thanks to Milt Lueneburg, we obtained a permit to dredge 14 inches of silt in the lake east of the culvert. Reiner Construction performed this service free. LWIA donated \$1320 to Dassel Fire Dept. President: Ken Klehr. Paid Memberships: 225.

2010

LWIA was approved as a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. Members approved changes to the By Laws and Articles of Incorporation at the spring meeting. The Lake Vegetation Management Plan was submitted to the DNR and approved. Work began on a directory to be completed summer of 2011. Jeff Norlin, Meeker County Sheriff, informed that Meeker County is taking over management and upkeep of the counties Storm Sirens. The lake received a Watercraft Inspection Grant from DNR and stationed trained individuals at Ellsworth and the Rod 'n Gun Club landings. Steve Grotbo continues to improve and update our website and facebook page. Edward Swain, Scientist with the MPCA spoke about the Water Quality Assessment from 2009, with no significant changes since the last report. A permit was submitted to treat 70 acres of EWM along the NW shore and around Cedar Point, but with inspections by Board members and the DNR, no problem sites developed. Jenny Kjell volunteered to lead the Shore Line Captains. Peter's Signs (Litchfield) donated a sign for Ellsworth Landing encouraging people to join LWIA. LWIA members donated \$1175 to the Dassel Fire Dept. President: Ken Klehr. Paid Membership: 227.

2011

With LWIA support, Rick Fernstrom and area lake associations formed a Cormorant/Pelican committee that met with DNR officials to discuss impacts these birds have on fish populations. Cormorant populations at Pigeon Lake have increased in recent years, with reports of several thousand nesting cormorants on the lake at one time. Cormorants are Federally protected migratory birds and DNR officials do not believe increased cormorant populations (estimate of 3,000-4,000) on our lake have a significant impact on fish populations. The Board completed a lake directory and Shoreline Captains distributed in August. It was a very wet spring with several heavy rains. A severe storm on July 1 damaged buildings and trees, mainly on the NW part of the lake. The Eurasian Milfoil Committee had 69 acres treated for \$31,281. PLM completed Water quality testing May-September. Additional water testing was completed in the NW corner showing increased suspended solids near culverts. Ken Klehr secured state grants of \$9995 and \$4000 from Meeker Co. Association of Lakes for milfoil treatments and water quality testing. LWIA donated \$1000 to Pheasants Forever to sponsor 62.2 acres of Conservation Reserve Program for farm land draining into Lake Washington. Steve Grotbo continues to update our website and Facebook page. LWIA donated \$1235 to the Dassel Fire Dept. New board members: Cathy Klehr, Tom Hauser, Sandy & Mike Wosmek. President: Ken Klehr. Paid Membership 227.

2012

Cormorant and Pelican impacts are a primary focus for lakes within a 10 mile radius of Pigeon Lake. Rick Fernstrom and George Kraemer (Collinswood Lake) created a committee with DNR officials, local and federal representatives, and Federal Wildlife Agencies due to receiving many calls and emails from lakes in Cokato and Howard Lake concerning cormorant populations. In DNR officials opinions the declining fish populations are normal. The Fisheries people decided to do another fish survey in Lake Washington this year. An outbreak of Newcastle disease in the cormorant population has diminished their population. We were unable to get an idea of how many dead bird bodies were burned to stem the spread of this disease. It was a very warm spring with many hot days during the summer and very little rain. Many had to move docks and lifts out by mid July. PLM treated 70 acres of milfoil, primarily on the east and south sides of the lake for \$31,850 and Ken Klehr secured a \$10,500 state grant. A follow up survey showed 25 acres near the Rod and Gun Club needed to be retreated in 2013. The Invasive Species Specialist from Hutchinson DNR did a point intercept vegetation survey of the entire lake in May and August and found concentrations of milfoil infestations in untreated areas were significantly decreased in the August survey. They have never seen this decline in vegetation surveys throughout the state. Ken Klehr secured a \$3550 grant from MCAL for water testing and milfoil treatment. LWIA members donated \$1335 to the Dassel Fire Department. President: Ken Klehr. Paid Membership 217.

2013

146 acres of Eurasian Milfoil was treated by PLM and Lake Restoration, using 2,4-D liquid for \$31,468. Ken Klehr secured \$14,950 grant from the State and \$3,550 from MCAL to pay for this treatment and water quality testing. The cormorant/pelican committee and 18 members met with DNR reps from around the state. DNR Fisheries person stated "I don't think there is a problem." When pressed about the fish survey information, they agreed to perform fish surveys every 2 years. A survey conducted by the UM reported 2,325 nesting cormorant pairs on Pigeon Lake. One comment was that Lake Vermillion used baby oil on eggs to decrease the hatch rate of cormorants. The Board conducted a Survey to gather historical, demographic, and logistical data on property owners ideas, knowledge, and perception of the boards role. The four most used words in written responses were cormorant, pelican, milfoil, and re-stocking. Ken Klehr & Skip Sustacek worked with Meeker Co. Soil and Water to develop plans to slow runoff specifically upgrading drainage on the SW corner of the lake. Steve Grotbo monitored visits to our website and the Facebook page showed promise as a way to share information. President: Ken Klehr. Paid Membership: 220

2014

Invasive Species Committee led by Ron Bubany started to analyze collected vegetation data and chart vegetation growth trends. PLM continued water quality testing and Vegetation surveys found no milfoil. Cormorants/Pelican committee met with DNR officials and reviewed last years fish survey. DNR still states that fish population fluctuations are normal and not due to cormorants and pelican populations. DNR agreed to another fish survey and the results suggested that sizes and numbers of fish found in the survey is lower than in the past and the results are within the normal range for comparable lakes in our region. The Watershed Committee led by Skip Sustacek and Meeker Co. Soil & Water, completed construction of a holding pond on the lakes SW corner. The farmer across the road made changes to drain tile heads to slow the flow of water to the pond. The pond cost \$13,500, paid by Meeker Co., MCAL, Darwin Township and LWIA. Ron Bubany redesigned the LWIA Newsletters adding professional touches that include more pictures, articles and info for property owners. Lake Property Owners Survey data was compiled, graphed, and summarized in newsletter articles. Caroline Ullom presented the survey results at the spring membership meeting. Steve Grotbo reports 3-4 visits to our website per day during the summer. LWIA members donated \$1,235 to the Dassel Fire Department. President: Ken Klehr. Paid Membership: 217.

2015

The Invasive Species Committee reported no Eurasian milfoil found on any of the 50 waypoint vegetation surveys and for a second year, no Eurasian milfoil treatments required. The Hutchinson DNR also did vegetation assessments and reported finding no Eurasian milfoil. Zebra mussels were discovered in Lake Stella and due to our connection, Lake Washington was designated infested. Surveys of docks and lifts around the channel found no zebra mussels. The Board led by Dave Rathe began working on how to identify zebra mussels in our lake. Another invasive, Starry Stonewart has been found on Lake Koronis. Meeker County established an AIS committee to manage the monies legislated for addressing Invasive species at a local level instead of state. LWIA is exploring a camera system at the Ellsworth Landing that provides steps to take when putting watercraft in and out of the lake. Cormorants/Pelicans committee met with DNR for their interpretation of the 2014 fish survey. The DNR used fish survey data from 2012 and 2014 and compared data to other parts of the state, concluding there is no difference of fish populations compared to similar lakes around the state. Latest count has 2600 nesting pairs on Pigeon Lake. Fewer cormorant and pelican sightings have been reported this summer. Rick Fernstrom's analysis of the fish survey going back to 1990 showed a significant decline in fish sizes and populations over time. The DNR's analysis: fish populations maybe lower and smaller than in the past, but compared to other comparable lakes in our region our fish populations are normal. The DNR plans to do surveys in "Halo" lakes around Pigeon Lake next summer. Asked the DNR if they would consider stocking walleye fingerlings vs. fry. Lee Sundmark, Hutchinson DNR Fisheries, added that increased northern populations and the presence of milfoil could be impacting fish populations in our lake. The LWIA completed water quality testing once a month from 3 different sites and sent to a lab for testing. Seechi disk reading will be done every 2-3 weeks from May through September, with results reported to the MPCA. Ken Klehr prepared a summary of the water samplings submitted for analysis showing no significant differences from previous testing. This year was marked by a wetter spring and summer, with lake levels remaining at higher levels throughout the year. It was a warm fall, but with several frosty evenings in September. The Watershed Committee, spear headed by Skip Sustacek, reported the holding pond appears to be working effectively. The farmer partnering with LWIA reworked tile outlets to slow water flowing from them for a cost of \$7000. Skip, in cooperation with Joe Norman, Meeker Co. Soil & Water, have identified nine culverts that they will work on modifying to slow the flow of water. Skip's plan is to look at all areas that carry runoff into the lake over the next 2-3 years. \$1860.00 was donated to the Dassel Fire Department. President: Ken Klehr. Paid Membership: 203.

The Invasive Species Committee vegetation surveys this year found no milfoil. Nick Brown, DNR Invasive Species Specialist Hutchinson office, completed a point intercept vegetation survey and did not find any milfoil during this survey. This is the third year in a row where vegetation surveys have found no milfoil. Nick reported they have never seen anything like this, where lakes infested with milfoil suddenly has no milfoil. Dave Rathe and Mike Wosmek built zebra mussel settlement plates/hotels, a series of plastic plates that are hung off docks and/or lifts, designed to detect zebra mussels in a lake. Eleven sights around the lake were chosen to place these hotels and they were inspected each month. When removing the hotels several zebra mussels were found along the western shoreline near the culvert from Lake Stella. Several property owners, near the culvert, reported a few zebra mussels on docks and lifts.

LWIA purchased an I-LIDS unit, a video monitoring system triggered by vehicle traffic that records a video and delivers a message to individuals as they put water craft in and out of the lake. This unit was installed by Dave Rathe, Skip Sustacek, Mike Wosmek, and Tom Hauer on the east side of the Ellsworth landing. The cost for this unit was \$10,000, with Meeker Co AIS Committee providing a grant of \$4600 for this purchase and to help offset the yearly monitoring cost of about \$1850. Water quality testing continued this year, testing water at one sight in the middle of the lake. Secchi disk readings every 2-3 weeks were done in 5 sites around the lake. Water in the holding pond were also tested. Results from Mark Johnson showed slight fluctuations during the year but readings were very similar to the past. This information was shared with the MPCA. Grant money from Meeker Co. of \$300 was made available to help pay for water testing.

The Watershed Committee in cooperation with Joe Norman, Meeker Co Soil & Water, have identified 10 areas to address regarding runoff into the lake. More rocks were added to the field tiles to slow the rate of water flow into the holding pond on the southwest corner of the lake. Some of the things this group is doing: changing culverts by adding a 90 degree pipe, in some cases putting rocks around these sites, getting cooperation of land owners with modifying ditches that drain into the lake, and exploring ways to slow the flow of water going into the lake. A grant for \$2500 was awarded from MCAL to offset some of these costs.

This year was marked by an early spring, but cool weather in May. There was a tornado north of Litchfield in July. A mild fall with ice freeze over on the lake occurring in late November. Scott Mathenthun, DNR Fisheries in Hutchinson, met with the Cormorant/Pelican Committee. When it comes to reducing the population of double crested cormorants it is required to have a Private Depredation Order and show a need and adverse impacts the birds demonstrate. Scott shared preliminary data on the most recent fish survey with more analysis by the DNR coming later this year. Dean Shaner reported there is a lawsuit in Federal Court that is moving slowly that would look at limiting overpopulations of cormorants. US Fish and Wildlife must get involved and be willing to accept the numbers reported by state organizations. Scott Mathenthun shared articles about Federal Judges reviewing cormorants as protected migratory bird.

Sharon Daniels took over grant applications and put together a Five-Year Plan detailing total costs, in kind volunteer hours, cooperating organizations, expenses related to invasive species, education for property owners, water quality testing, and watershed activities related to control of runoff. Dave Rathe updated the Lake Washington Management Plan and posted on our website. 68 members donated \$1885 for the Dassel Fire Department President: Steve Grotbo. Paid Membership: 209.

The Invasive Species Committee completed vegetation surveys in May, July, August checking 40-60 waypoints. For the 4th year in a row no Eurasian Milfoil was found. Overall, vegetation appeared to be diminished this year. LWIA has built a reserve of \$120,000 after 4 years of not having to treat milfoil. However, as treasurer Lyle Walker notes; a few major treatments of milfoil, zebra mussels or other Aquatic Invasive Species would use up much of these funds; Many zebra mussels were found this year. Mike Wosmek and Dave Rathe placed 11 hotels around the lake and in September many of the hotels showed the presence of smaller zebra mussels (microscopic to ½ to ¾ inch) around much of the lake. Dave Rathe froze 35 samples and took them to the University of Minnesota for DNA testing. At our spring membership meeting, Dr. Mike McCartney, U of M Invasive Species Research Project, shared information regarding zebra mussels at different sites around the state. There is no cost-effective treatment for zebra mussels that would not affect other native aquatic species. LWIA donated \$5000 to the U of M Invasive Species Zebra Mussels Research Project.

LWIA continued the practice of water quality testing at one site on the lake and secchi disk readings every 2-3 weeks throughout the summer. Test results and secchi disk readings were sent to the MPCA. A grant from Meeker Co. AIS for \$750 was used to help pay for water testing costs. It was a very cool dry summer with only a few days in the 90's, but rains in late August thru mid September kept water flowing over the dam. LWIA purchased a new GPS device, Ron Bubany reports the new device will be able to provide us more information about what the lake looks like below the surface. The I-LIDS unit was installed before fishing opener and has been updated and moved resulting in much better pictures. A grant from Meeker Co. AIS for \$1750 helped pay for the annual cost of the I-LIDS system.

Steve Grotbo wrote an article for the spring newsletter looking at the increase in swimmers itch throughout the summer and correlation to the increase of cormorants being on the lake all summer vs. migratory birds that move through in the spring resulting in out breaks only in early June.

The Watershed Committee led by Skip Sustacek and Dave Rathe supported by other volunteers have reworked several culverts, added rocks to some outlets, and cleared the ditch on the east side of Ellsworth landing. Meeker Soil and Water have agreed to over-seed this area. There have been several heavy rains this summer and the flow from reworked culverts and ditches show water flowing into the lake with very little if any silt in it. Skip continues to work his way around the lake looking at all culverts or areas of run off into the lake. Sharon Daniels was able to get the following grants \$2500 with the possibility of up to \$5000 to help pay for these improvements from MCAL. Meeker County paid a \$3,165.91 grant request for AIS and I-LIDS expenses.

Mark Johnson volunteered to be the lead in publishing a new 2018 Directory. Board members volunteered to find advertisers and help with the editing. As part of this effort Cathy Klehr provided lists of all properties on Lake Washington for Shore Line Captains to use in contacting residents. These contacts updated ownership, permanent addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers. The goal is to have the directories available for Shore Line Captains to begin passing them out by the end of May 2018. 68 members donated \$1845 to the Dassel Fire Department
President: Steve Grotbo. Paid Membership: 214