

2009

January 2009:

- The Science Museum of Minnesota (SMM) hosts the international exhibit “Water”. The Lake Hallett Association is honored to be one of eight chosen groups in the state to be showcased at this exhibit featuring Trudi Olmanson as one of Minnesota's own "water heroes". The Lake Hallett Association is chosen for a decade of effort and accomplishment in protecting the water quality of Lake Hallett. The exhibit runs through April.
- The Star Tribune writes an article about Lake Hallett’s inclusion in the “Waters” exhibit.
- In preparation for the Kids Ice fishing contest and the Polar Plunge in February the City of Saint Peter plows an approximately 10 acre area for parking on the privately owned Northern ConAgg property. The City also continues to maintain the private property year round (snow removal on the Northern Conn-Agg property sidewalk and mowing all summer)

February 2009:

- In October of 2008 the Lake Hallett Association petitioned Nicollet County to name Unnamed Lake ID 52-1 “Lake Hallett.” The hearing was February 24th 2009. We filed a complaint with the County Attorney because the petition was denied due to erroneous information provided by Todd Prafke, the City Administrator, before the hearing and the County board’s ignorance of State laws pertaining to Public Waters. The County attorney did not respond. Here’s a recap:

The Official name for Lake Hallett remains Lake ID # 52-0001 after the City administrator, Todd Prafke, fails to give the lake a name. The Lake Hallett Association petitioned the Nicollet County Commissioners to give Lake id # 52-0001 the name Lake Hallett. The hearing was 10 am on a weekday morning making it difficult for many to attend but two highly paid City employees had no such problems : Russ Wille and Todd Prafke both showed up to protest naming the lake. Also present were City Council members Kimberly Schultz, John Kvamme and Jerry Pfieffer. The City administration was adamant that the term "lake" not be used to refer to this body of water because it does not fit in with their “future goals for the area.” We are still

trying to get information about what exactly these goals are as the official published City plans for this protected public waters are against the law. Due to ignorance of state law, the Nicollet County board unanimously agreed to vote according to the City Administration's wishes by denying the petition. As KEYCTV reported, Commissioner James Stenson commented "The Nicollet County Board recommended that the St. Peter City Council suggest a name since the city has assumed possession of Hallett's Pond". Commissioner Stenson and others who claim the City owns the lake are wrong. According to Minnesota State law the City of Saint Peter did not, cannot and never will be able to take possession of any public waters including Lake Hallett.

The status of the lake as a *Public Protected Waters Wetland* under the care of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources remains the same. Within the state of Minnesota no individual or municipality can own a public waters.

- The Mankato Free Press had a couple articles about the SMM exhibit and naming the Lake. Unfortunately accuracy was not high on their list of priorities.
- KEYC TV did two great stories about the naming of the Lake and one about about the Science Museum exhibit.
- Because of snowfall the City of Saint Peter again plows a parking area. Polar Plunge has 317 plungers and raises over \$20,000 for Special Olympics. Kids ice fishing contest has over 200 kids and over 250 fish are caught!
- The City continues to use mulch on the lake during the Polar Plunge. Once again it was left on the ice which contributes to spring algae blooms. The DNR hydrologist again reminds the City they must clean all the mulch off the ice but they do not.

March 2009:

- During research at the County Recorder's office we discovered the City had actually platted the lake in 2003. When the City "purchased" Lake Hallett in 1998, they discovered they did not have deed to the property under the water as Bill Gustafson & Trudi Olmanson on the

North side of the lake do. Apparently the City Administration felt this was important although it is irrelevant because Lake Hallett is a Public Waters and the water and property under the water is controlled by the State of Minnesota. As a result they platted the lake as though it was not there and dubbed it Swift Park subdivision # 2 L5 B3. Jerry Hawbaker, Todd Prafke and Barb Luker all signed the document. Because the City has refused to put in a Shoreland Ordinance – which would protect both the Minnesota River and Lake Hallett- this was legal. Fortunately platting has no bearing on the Public Waters designation or permit rules. Apparently it sounds better that the City “bought” a Public Waters if they can say that they “own the property under the water” although it means nothing as long as the water is there.

- There is a great article in the Saint Peter Herald about the “Waters” Exhibit at the Science Museum of Minnesota.
- The Mankato Free Press printed a correction stating that the City of Saint Peter does not own Lake Hallett as it is a public waters.
- March 21st Nik Myrha-Edwards arranged a lakeshore cleanup for his senior project. Nik attends Saint Peter High School. His senior paper "Lake Hallett should be preserved: Cleaning Lake Hallett" received the Senior Achievement Paper award. Part of the award was a scholarship through the Treaty Site History Center. Unfortunately a decision was made to not award this scholarship to Nik claiming lack of participation.
- Two pairs of Buffleheads, six Great Blue Herons, four Red Breasted Mergansers, One American coot and a small brown diving duck all visited Lake Hallett this month. Spring is here!

May 2009

- Great turnout for the Lake Hallett Association’s 8th annual lakeshore cleanup and annual meeting.
- Ethan Degner joined to Lake Hallett monitoring team this year. He will be doing weekly lake level and secchi dis readings all summer.
Thanks Ethan!

October 2009

- A City Council candidate informs us that Russ Wille – the economic development director for the city of Saint Peter – warns against getting involved with that “Lake Hallett group”. Why are we still seen as such a threat?

