

Approved and accepted 12/4/09

Ninovan Home Owners Association
September 2009

Due to limited items for an agenda and scheduling conflicts the following agenda was discussed via e-mail.

1) Teryl - Can you put together a list of bills paid and a list of bills that are in need of payment. Checking & Savings balances.

Mike: I have a bill for \$18.70 for postage.

2) Fall fish stocking is due to the Grundy County Soil Water Conservation District by October 8th. We have been stocking 30 to 40 grass carp each year for the past 6 years to help control weed problems. It appears to be helping as we have had very little weed problems this year.

3) Pat is reporting that fishing has been very poor this year and would like to see the HOA impose a Catch and Release rule again.

If anyone has any other simple items to address please REPLY-ALL with motion. Also, REPLY-ALL with seconds and/or votes on the other items.

If this e-mail meeting format works I will combine the final results for everyone to verify at the end.

Mike Mass

Item #1 – Balances and bills

No report, No Action taken

Item 2 – Fall Fish Stocking

Introduction: Fall fish stocking is due to the Grundy County Soil Water Conservation District by October 8th. We have been stocking 30 to 40 grass carp each year for the past 6 years to help control weed problems. It appears to be helping as we have had very little weed problems this year.

Mike: I motion that we continue the grass carp stocking program with 35 grass carp this year at a cost of \$11.25 each, total \$393.75.

Keith: I second the motion to stock an additional 30 Grass Carp.

Margo: I vote no to both items.

Jim: How bout getting \$150 worth of grass carp, compromise?

Mike: I believe the grass carp are helping with the weed problems. Many studies are available on the internet regarding grass carp. Most indicate a moderate to significant success rate. Stocking rates vary wildly from 20 to 500 fish per acre. We stock a Illinois DNR approved Triploid Grass Carp which is sterile and will not reproduce. They have about a 7 year life span and grow to about 36 inches. They are very shy and generally do not bother swimmers or fishing. Chara (Musk Grass) is one of their more desirable food sources and has been one of the plants that we have been treating this year to maintain control of. As a secondary source of food they will begin to consume Illinois Pond Weed which is a long wide leaf plant that we have tried to keep in our lake as a desirable plant. I am still seeing some Chara beds and Illinois Pond Weed along the shore lines so it seems reasonable that our Grass Carp population is near its desirable level. Continuing with the program maintains the population by replacing the fish that should start to die this year. I would like to see us stay in the 30 to 40 fish per year stocking rate.

Dave: Yes to either #30 or 35

Pat: I am in favor

Summary: Comments seemed to favor stocking 30 grass carp. They were ordered and stocked into the lake in late October.

Item 3 – Catch and Release Fishing

Introduction: Pat is reporting that fishing has been very poor this year and would like to see the HOA impose a Catch and Release rule again.

Motion: _____

Second : Keith

Keith: [...] I think there are plenty of fish in the lake, but they may be getting smarter. However, I do not have a problem with the catch and release program. So I would second that as well.

There may be people that have a problem with this one, so we may need to have an open debate, or maybe have the DNR out to evaluate the fish count. Maybe we do a temporary Catch and Release until this can be accomplished.

Cindi: I agree with Keith. I believe there are quite a few in there. My son was catching quite a few fish at one time earlier this summer. Most of them he releases back to the water. We found quite a few babies hiding in the seaweed that we were raking out of the water. We put those fish back in the water also.

Margo: I vote no to both items.

Jim: Catch & release I'm open to, but I can see others may not be willing to.

Mike: Not being one to drop a hook in the lake, I can not say much about the current fish size and number other than what I see along the shoreline. I do not see many small fish (minnows) along the shore like is typically seen on other lakes. Maybe that is because the boat wakes are disrupting the breeding nest along the shore line. That being said, this lake may not ever be a GREAT fishing lake. There just may not be enough quiet areas for fish breeding. Seems to me that the lake may just be reaching maturity and forming its own natural balance. Catch and release is always a good practice and it seems like everyone I talk to is releasing most of the fish back to the lake. Does not seem like there are that many people fishing this lake. With out any real data that indicates we have a problem, I would have to vote no on this one at this time. I would encourage the people who fish to start logging what they are catching (number, size and type) and get together and compare notes. We could find some educational material about "catch and release" to include with our minutes. People might enjoy reading something other than our minutes. Someone could see if the DNR will come out again and give some recommendations. Has anyone seen the write up from the DNR from last time? On the other hand I would be in favor of a motion to "ENCOURAGE catch and release" and form a committee to report to the board with some findings.

Cindi: I am not for catch and release. As has been mentioned here, not many people fish but for those of us who do it is nice to have a fish dinner once in a while. We do not keep fish that really need to grow yet. Therefore, my vote is NO on catch and release.

Dave: I agree 100% with Keith

Pat: I've enjoyed fishing all my life and have never seen changes in a pattern of success in catches as I now experience. I have strong reason to believe we are short breeders (bass populations) and without doubt the lake is lacking enough minnows or feeders to sustain what we do have. I have never fished for catfish with a fast retrieve surface lure still, I could feed the neighborhood with the amount I've pulled in. This tells me there having a hard time finding food, as does Mike's comments about the lack of minnows at the shoreline. All I'm saying is, we need to think responsibly. What we decide today will impact tomorrow. Let's get on the list for a D.N.R. check-up! I am in favor [of a catch and release requirement]

Summary: Votes seemed rather split. No Action taken at this time. Left open for future discussion.