

Dear Members and Other Friends of Minnesotans for Healthy Lakes:

This is to give you an update on activities at MHL.

- 1.) We now have nearly 1000 members, contributors, and other supporters of MHL. Thank you for coming alongside our efforts to represent lakeshore property owners! If you have sent in membership dues and/or contributions in 2005, a receipt is enclosed with this newsletter.
- 2.) We applied to the Internal Revenue Service for tax-exempt status in October, 2005. They have received our application but will *not* have a determination made until later in 2006. As a result, we are not able to advise you to claim your dues or contributions as a tax deduction for 2005. We hope to be able to do so for 2006 dues and contributions.
- 3.) The DNR has officially launched the Rule-Making Process. The exact wording of their proposed rules has not been determined at this point. However we have been informed that they will contain further limitations on the amount of shoreline frontage that may be treated; roll-back of the “grandfather clause”; and insistence on the permit variance process to treat invasive species any more aggressively than native species. We had previously identified these changes and had our position already prepared.

We have sent a collective MHL response to their Request for Comments. Later, in the Rule-Making process, we will be contacting you, our stakeholders, to express your position individually, to the DNR. At that time, your comments will be made available to the Administrative Law Judge and may influence his decisions. With your help, we intend to block these rule changes.

Please visit our website (www.mnhealthylakes.org) and check under the “Correspondence” section to see the DNR notices on this subject, as well as our response to them.

- 4.) **On the legislative front, in conjunction with our lobbyist, Ewald Consulting, we have held personal meetings with six (6) state Senators and Representatives. We have introduced them to MHL and our concerns. We have identified co-authors in both houses of the state government, who will sponsor bills that will strengthen our rights as lakeshore property owners to maintain the health of our shorelines, and hold the DNR more accountable to the legislature for rule changes in the future. The writing of a bill to be introduced in both houses this legislative session, is underway.**
- 5.) **We are still in need of one or two more Board Members, as well as committee members. We need folks with some knowledge of marine ecosystems and who have a passion to see them maintained in a healthy state.**

If you are interested in volunteering a few hours each month, please contact us as soon as possible.

We will continue to keep you posted on new developments. As the need for your further involvement becomes clearer, we will alert you to take the appropriate action.

In the meantime, we ask you to renew your MHL membership now, for 2006, if you have not already done so. Please complete the enclosed application form and return it to us as soon as possible, along with your check for \$35. Urge your neighbors to join us as well. We can't protect lakeshore property owner's rights without your support!!

Best Regards,

**Bill Iacoe,
Executive Director**