

Introduction to Mule Lake Property Owners Association

The Mule Lake Property Owners Association (MLPOA) finalized their Articles of Incorporation on November 6, 1999 and filed with the state of Minnesota shortly thereafter. Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State, approved their application of forming a nonprofit corporation under Chapter 317A of Minnesota Statutes on August 24, 2000. The primary purpose of the MLPOA Corporation is to promote the welfare of the people and to improve the conditions in and around Mule Lake. (The MLPOA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are found in Appendix A and B respectively).

The mission of MLPOA is to:

- A. Advocate for an optimal fishing environment.
- B. Advocate for improved water quality.
- C. Promote safety.
- D. Enhance beauty.
- E. Promote a sense of community.
- F. Disseminate information.

The MLPOA board consists of three officers (President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer) and six Directors-At-Large.

MLPOA's most significant accomplishment was the Mule Lake Project which was completed in 2001. MLPOA worked under the direction of the Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation and partnered with MN Department of Natural Resources, Wabedo Township, Cass County and numerous conservation groups to purchase and preserve 362 acres and 15,400 feet of wild shoreline on Donkey and Mule Lakes in Wabedo Township. This initiative was the largest single investment of the RIM "Reinvest in Minnesota" License Plate Fund, at that time, and was the largest partnership of organizations to ever work with MN DNR to complete a conservation land purchase in their history.

This land purchase is managed as a living model of one way to preserve the classic northern Minnesota lake experience for generations to come. The area will remain open to hunting, fishing, hiking, bird watching and other public uses. Each resident on Mule Lake overlooks a portion of the beautifully preserved, pristine lakeshore of the Mule Lake Wildlife Management Area.

MLPOA has also been active in monitoring the water quality over the years. Residents have been monitoring secchi disk readings for over 20 years. MLPOA has increased its commitment regarding water quality through the use of outside agencies to provide more involved chemistry data dimensions and the creation of historical trends. Also, the Healthy Lakes program opportunity was presented to the MLPOA in 2006 and was approved as a key focus for the lake beginning late 2006.

MLPOA has also been actively engaged with the DNR fisheries regarding the quality of fishing on Mule Lake. In 2006, Mule Lake was identified as a contingent lake for walleye stocking. This categorization was requested by the MLPOA fishing committee, supported by the MLPOA

Board and is critical to the long term fish management in Mule Lake. The fish management plan prepared and approved by the DNR Fisheries was also updated in 2006. .

Mule Lake has approximately 90 individual real estate properties on the lake with about 70% of those properties members of the MLPOA. Recently a PUD has been approved by Cass County for a resort on Mule Lake to market their cabins and mobile home sites as individual properties and common property scattered throughout the resort including the shoreline on Mule Lake. This increases the potential Mule Lake property owner base to approximately 140.