

**Meeting of the Morningstar Lake Association and
the Morningstar Board of Directors
MAY 25, 2024 (Saturday)
Darcy and Dan Pleasant, Lot 27
10:00 A.M.**

Minutes

- 1) Call to Order / Introductions /Attendance – 20 of the 37 lots were represented. (4,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,16,17,18,25,26,27,28,30,32,34,36,37). This is our lowest number present in many years. If you cannot make a meeting, you can also appoint a proxy, so we can continue to carry on business if a physical quorum is not present.
- 2) Approval of minutes of May 27, 2023, meeting – Motion to approve Lynn Marchese, second Mark Niewohner, approved unanimously.
- 3) Treasurer’s Report - \$42,042.08 on hand as of May 25, 2024. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes (Attachment 1).
- 4) Summerwood Lake Association Meetings – Minutes of the fall 2023 and spring 2024 Summerwood Board meetings were sent to all residents by Summerwood. The following topics were discussed by Jim Luethje and Dan Pleasant, Morningstar Representatives to the Summerwood Lake Association:
 - a. Review of Summerwood Sept 2023 and March 2024 Meetings
 - i. Common area updates:
 - Underage golf cart drivers, with no adults on board, remains a concern. Please follow all Summerwood rules for the safety of all. The board is considering hiring a Summerwood Security Officer to help enforce our resort rules and issue warnings and citations, as necessary.
 - High capacity well:
 - The high capacity well including electric work is completed and functioning. Final cost was \$26,103.54, \$4,000 less than budgeted, thanks to volunteer work provided by Jim Luethje and Ned Wemhoff.
 - Cracks in the asphalt were sealed in late 2023
 - ii. Invasive Species [Ongoing Reminder]:

The Summerwood Board has no authority over individual lakes, each lake must take its own action to ensure the lake is not infested. The following suggestions are applicable:

 - Each Lake should create its own policy regarding access to the lake with any watercraft.
 - Lakes should be proactive in preventing any foreign water coming into their lake. Canoes, kayaks, life vests, water toys are all carriers.
 - Ongoing education and awareness are always important
 - Any contractor coming into a lake should be completely inspected and forced to obey the rules of the lake.
 - www.neinvasives.com has useful information
 - iii. Directory:

The directory was delivered in a mobile format this year.
 - b. Summerwood Annual Assessment - \$300.00

c. Fireworks

The Summerwood fireworks show will be Saturday, July 6, 2024, the rain date is Sunday, July 7, 2024.

d. Collection area update [Ongoing Reminder]:

- Thank you again to Scott Watts and family for burning and cleaning up the collection area. The same process is planned for 2024, HOWEVER, please only grass and leaves in the grass and leaf area, NO STICKS.
- Please put your collection items all the way to the back of the area.
- Please follow the posted rules for the dimensions of items that can be disposed.

e. Boater Safety. [Ongoing Reminder]: The State of Nebraska requires anyone born after December 31, 1985, to successfully complete a Boating Safety Course and possess a course certificate while operating a boat or personal watercraft.

There are now three options for the class:

- I. **Option A** is a 6-hour in-person classroom session taught by certified volunteers and agency staff. Students will take a proctored exam and the end of the class.
- II. **Option B** is a self-taught home study course. Students can download and review the [course study materials](#). After studying, students will need to register for an Option B test-out session to take a proctored exam.
- III. **Option C** is an [online course](#). Students can take the class at their own pace from wherever is convenient for them.

All students, regardless of which course option they choose, are required to pass the boating safety exam with a 75% or higher. A certificate of completion will be issued to those who pass the exam

More information is available at: <http://outdoornebraska.gov/boatereducation>

Boater guides are at: <http://outdoornebraska.gov/guides/>

f. Reminders:

All golf carts and utility vehicles need to be marked with Lake and Lot Number.

All boats need to be marked with Lot Number

The speed limit on Summerwood Road is 25 MPH and the lake roads is 15 MPH

5) Morningstar Business / Old Business / New Business:

a. Water Quality / Fish Habitat: Tom Steinbach reported on our lake water quality and fish habitat.

Tom continues to work with the state to evaluate the water quality of the lake. Our phosphorus level remains significantly less than the upper limit of 0.15. Our lake is doing very well.

Thank you to Tom S for his diligence in keeping us all aware of how to improve our lake water quality and clarity.

Please remember we are a catch and release lake. Our new lake acronym for fish: CPR = Catch Photo Release

Based on conversations with Aquatic Biologists, and other water quality experts here are some steps that are critical to stabilizing clarity and water quality:

- 1) Keep grass clippings and leaves out of the lake. There are enough trees around that the lakes get their own share of leaves, but we should not dump or blow leaves or clippings into the lake
- 2) Use no phosphorus fertilizers on our lawns
- 3) Use mulching mowers to reduce fertilizer requirements
- 4) Be aware of what drains from your lawns, driveways, and homes.
- 5) Keep high concentration of waterfowl (geese) out of the lake.

Not doing these things will cause more nutrients to be added to the lake. More nutrients equal decreased water quality and increased blue-green algae blooms. Tom previously reported that the excrement from one goose for one season is the equivalent of the phosphorus from three acres of fertilized lawn.

b. Road Maintenance and Snow Plowing

County did a good job this winter clearing all of our lake roads for minimal fee.

Remember we need to keep the overhanging trees in front of our property at least 10 feet off the road and road width for fire apparatus.

c. The Independence Day Celebration is on July 6, 2024. Thank you to Jennifer Wood and Darcy Pleasant for coordinating this year's event again. Please see information below:

Ken & Barbie's Fabulous 4th of July

Morningstar Lake, Saturday, July 6, 2024

8:00 Summerwood Sprint -- Walk/run around Summerwood. Meet at the Sundance sign.

9:00 Volleyball Tournament-- (Bayer/Lot 13). Single elimination. Email or text Russ russ@bayerfamilypartnership.com or 402-730-0638 to enter your team.

10:00 - 11:00 -- Get Happy! Mimosa/Bloody Mary Bar -- (Niewohner/Lot 28)

10:00 - 11:30 -- Pony Rides -- (Marchese/Lot 16)

12:00 -- Decorate your Barbie Dream Car (golf cart) -- Judging by the Hoffmans followed by a parade around Morningstar. Meet at the tennis court.

12:00 - 1:00 -- Hot Dog/Brat Feed-- (Nathan/Lot 7 and Pirnie/Lot 8)-- Free will donation, bring your lawn chairs.

12:30 - 3:00 -- Skipper's Poker Run (McCabe/Lot 17)

- Must sign up between 12:30 and 1:00 at McCabe's cabin
- \$20/team, any number of people on a team, must travel by water and return the poker hand by 3:00. 80% of the pot goes to the best hand, 20% goes to the worst hand

1:00 - 3:00 -- Ken's Golf Contest -- (Beckwith/Lot 2)

- Register and shoot anytime between 1:00 and 3:00. \$1.00/shot, clubs and balls provided. 30-yard chip shot and 100-yard shot across the water to the island.

1:00 - 2:00 -- Barbie's Kids Games -- (Rutz/Lot 4) -- Games for young and old -- lots of prizes

3:00 - 4:30 -- Slushies -- (Wacker/Young/Lot 5)

Adult and kid slushies available!



SUMMERWOOD FIREWORKS AT DUSK

NO WAKE FROM 1:00 - 3:00

Please note there will be no wake allowed from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.

After the meeting, the board approved \$150.00 be allocated from the lake cash reserves to provide for awards for the golf cart contest.

d. Lake Rules:

- 1) No changes to the lake rules for 2024.
- 2) Golf carts are to be marked with the lake initial and lot number
- 3) Summerwood's main road speed limit is 25 mph, lake roads are all 15 mph. Please make sure your guests know this and all of our rules.
- 4) 2024 Lake Rules are attached (Attachment 2).

e. Please complete the registration form for your boat (if you have not already done so) and send in with your dues. Only one form is needed per boat, and you only need to redo it if you have a new boat. (Attachment 3)

f. Annual Morningstar Dinner: Hoffman's and Beckwith's hosting lake dinner this year. More info to follow.

g. Thanks to the Woods for continuing to update and maintain the golf cart path which has new additions this year. Thank you!

h. The trees along the north side have had major beaver damage. If you are yearning to help out, the fencing around the trees need four poles to hold the fence up, and each tree needs to be weeded and mulched. There is plenty of mulch by the tree / grass collection area.

i. Disposal of Speed bumps: A motion was made by Jim Luethje and seconded by Linda Rutz to allow Russ and Gwen Bayer to dispose of the temporary speed bumps. This motion passed unanimously.

j. Trailer parking on Morningstar property: Only Morningstar boat trailers are allowed to be parked on the Morningstar property across from the collection area. A suggestion was made to mark your trailer with MS and your lot number.

k. If you would like to add members of your immediate family to the Morningstar / Summerwood email distribution lists, please let Russ Bayer know.

l. Annual Morningstar Dues Assessment – Summerwood set the dues per lot at \$300.00 for 2024. The Morningstar Board of Directors met on May 25, 2024, after the lake annual meeting, and set the Morningstar dues at \$250.00 per lot. The total assessment per lot for 2024 is **\$550.00**. Please make payable to Morningstar Lake Association and mail to:

Jane Steinbach
310 Laramie Trail
Lincoln, NE 68521

or deliver to Cabin 25.

8) Election of Directors to Summerwood and Morningstar Board.

- a. Bob Herbig is stepping down as a member of our Board of Directors. Thank you to Bob for his many years of support for our lake!
- b. In a motion made by Russ Bayer and seconded by Linda Rutz, Mark Niewohner and Chad Carlson were elected to the Morningstar Board with a term expiring on May 31, 2027. This motion passed unanimously.

The directors are:

Joni Ewalt	-	2025	Dan Pleasant	-	2025
Brandon Handrup	-	2026	Jim Lovegrove	-	2026
Mark Niewohner	-	2027	Chad Carlson	-	2027

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.

After the meeting, the Morningstar Board met (Mark N, Joni E, Dan P, Jim L and officers Jane Steinbach and Russ Bayer)

The following actions were taken:

- a. A motion was made by Jane Steinbach and seconded by Russ Bayer to set the Morningstar assessment at \$250.00 per lot. This motion passed unanimously. Based on this action each lot owes \$550.00 per lot for the 2025 assessment. See section "5I" above for details.
- b. A motion was made by Joni E and seconded by Mark N to allocate \$150.00 to the Independence Day festivities for awards for the golf cart decorations. This motion passed unanimously.
- c. A motion was made by Jim L and seconded by Dan P to elect the following slate of officers for the 2024/2025 term:
 - President - Dan Pleasant
 - Vice President – Brandon Handrup
 - Treasurer – Jane Steinbach
 - Secretary - Russ Bayer

This motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Bayer

Russ Bayer
Secretary

Attachment 1

Morningstar Lake Association Treasurer Report May 28, 2023 - May 25, 2024

Combined Checking & Savings Accounts:

Beginning Balance 36,744.36

Receipts:

2023 Dues 18,500.00

Interest on savings account 55.26

Total Receipts: 18,555.26

Expenses:

Southern Power District 860.94

Summerwood Dues (\$250.00 X 37 lots) 9,250.00

General liability insurance 1,590.97

Directors & Officers liability insurance 1,058.00

Merrick County Treasurer (real estate taxes) 96.00

UNL Water Science Lab (2 tests) 92.40

Darcy Pleasant (plants around sign) 72.00

Shari Hoffman (golf cart contest) 150.00

Ralph Schmadeke (signs) 87.23

Total Expenses: 13,257.54

Grand total of checking and savings and CD 42,042.08

* \$20,000 is currently in a CD that matures 6/7/2024

Attachment 2

Morningstar Lake Association Rules 2024

PERSONAL Under the terms of the “Declaration and Establishment of Covenants, Conditions, Reservations, Restrictions and Easements for Morningstar Lake Subdivision,” these rules are binding upon all owners, lessees, and their guests. Violations by owners, lessees or guests can lead to the suspension of the right to use the Common Area, including the lake, as addressed in Paragraph 7 of the Declaration listed above. Owners, lessees, and guests are required to obey the laws of the State of Nebraska

SUMMERWOOD RULES The Morningstar Association membership adopted the Summerwood Lake Association Rules as applying to all Morningstar property on May 26, 2008, and are located in the front of the Summerwood Directory for 2023.

GENERAL AREA Do not trespass on the land which is outside of the recreational area. No shooting is allowed in recreational areas. Littering in any areas is prohibited.

GENERAL TRAFFIC Always keep a minimum of one traffic lane on the access roads open to cabins and free of parked cars, boat trailers, or construction materials. Maximum speed for all roads is 15 MPH, except for Summerwood Drive which is 25 MPH. All vehicles must stay on the right side of the road in accordance with State law. All drivers are strongly cautioned to look out for blind corners, pedestrians, and other vehicles. In order to allow the passage of emergency vehicles it is the responsibility of lot owners to keep shrubs and trees trimmed to the width of the road and up 14 feet if they hang over the road.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES ON MORNINGSTAR COMMON AREAS AND ROADS. Golf carts are allowed. The minimum age for the operation of all motorized vehicles is 16 years of age. Golf carts must be equipped with headlights and taillights for use after dark. It is suggested that rear view mirrors be installed. Golf carts are to be marked with the lake initial and lot number. No ATV's, 3-wheelers, or unlicensed motorcycles are allowed at any time. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

FISHING Only lot owners, their families and their guests may fish on Morningstar Lake, and only on the lot owner's property or lot owner's watercraft. Fishing is not allowed in Sundance, Heron Point, Bucktail, or Sleepy Eye without permission from their lot owners. Do not fish near or on other lots without their permission. State fishing rules apply in all recreational areas and game wardens have access. Size limits: walleye 18" and bass 14".

INVASIVE SPECIES No watercraft of any type, including trailers carrying the watercraft, will be allowed into or on Morningstar Lake unless the craft and trailer are kept out of water to dry for at least fourteen (14) days. This includes the watercraft of any contractor a lot owner may hire for work on or near the lake.

BOATING RULES

1. Use the pattern on the map for all skiing and boating.
2. Obey all the State Boating Rules. If there is a conflict between Association Rules and State Boating regulations the state boating regulations will govern except for rule 5 listed below.

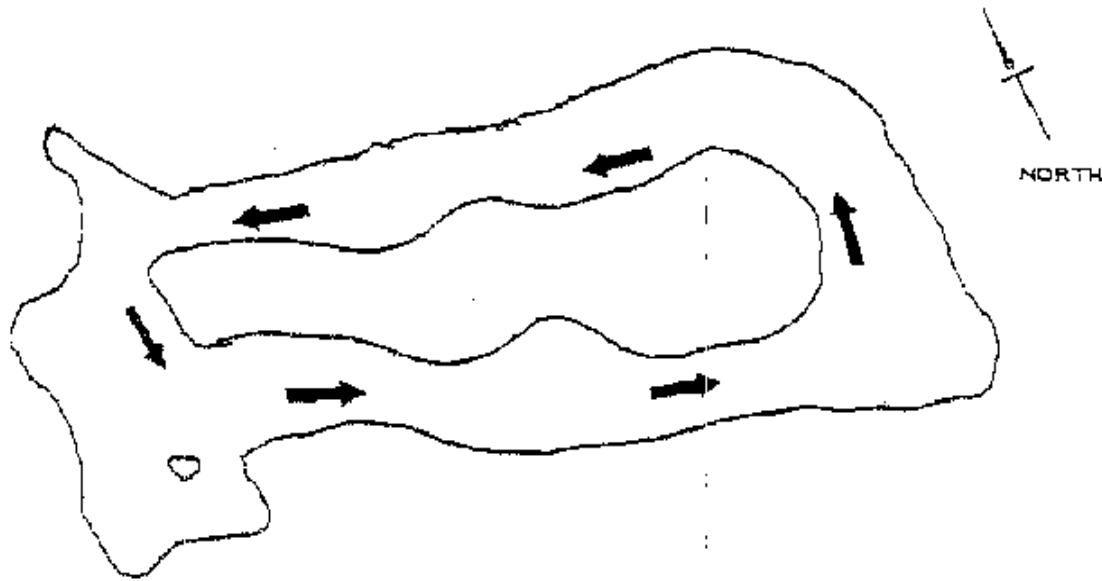
3. Only lot owners are permitted to have boats on the lake.
4. Only one powerboat per lot is allowed on the lake. All watercraft (i.e., ski boats, boats, jet boats, pontoon boats, jet skis, personal watercraft, etc.) must be owned by the lot owner of record; the lot owner of record is responsible for the safe operation of the boat.
5. Minimum age for motorboat operators is 16 years.
6. Any boat operator who repeatedly breaks rules or drives recklessly will lose his/her boating privileges for a period of 1 year following action by the Board of Directors.
7. Lot numbers must be displayed on the right side of all watercraft.
8. Maximum boat length for ski boats and jet boats is 19'. Maximum motor horsepower is 115 outboard or 225 inboard. Maximum length for sailboats or pontoon boats is 24'. Jet Skis power rating must be equal to or less than those for a ski boat.
9. Absolutely no speed boating (including jet skis), or skiing in excess of 30 MPH. The racing of powered craft is prohibited.
10. Skiing, speed boating and personal watercraft (e.g., jet skis) hours are 9:30 a.m. to sunset. "No Wake" boating is required when the water is above the mark near the water exit tube located between lots 30 and 31.
11. All PWC are subject to all rules applying to other boats.
12. A maximum of 3 ski boats or other speeding boats, over 5-mph, are allowed on the lake at one time. Ski boats have priority over personal watercraft, i.e., if a 3rd boat goes out the PWC must come off. Boats and personal watercraft shall not follow closer than 200'.
13. Any boating accident resulting in more than \$100 in property damage or in an injury must be reported to the Game and Parks Commission by the boat owner.
14. Boat operators and skiers must keep a reasonable distance from lake edges to avoid hitting skiers, boat docks, diving boards, etc. For safety, boat operators and skiers should be familiar with the lake area they plan to travel. Use caution in narrow areas or where view is obstructed.
15. Maximum length of tow ropes is 60'.
16. Towed devices such as water skis and kneeboards, etc., which may be controlled by the rider are permitted. The towing of flotation devices specifically manufactured for pulling behind boats is permitted when operated within the manufacturer's guidelines. No more than two such devices may be towed behind a boat at one time. Devices attached directly to the boat such as inner tubes, etc., which cannot be controlled by the rider are not permitted.
17. Warning-shallow water is extremely dangerous to land in. Make sure you do not land in shallow water when skiing or diving.
18. Operating a motorboat with the blood alcohol content of .08% or above is prohibited and can result in serious penalties and fines.
19. As a general rule, when boating, pass to the left, and when picking up fallen skiers, tube riders, etc. turn to the right. Be in control of your watercraft and use common sense to protect the safety of all involved.

**SEE ATTACHED MAP FOR BOATING PATTERN
ALWAYS PUT SAFETY FIRST!!!**

**Morningstar Lake Association Rules
2024**

MORNINGSTAR LAKE BOATING PATTERN

Morningstar Lake is located about 3 miles SE of Clarks, NE.
It is on the east side of Nebraska Highway 92, and between the
Main channel and the south channel of the Platte River.



*****USE OF THE LAKE IS AT YOUR OWN RISK*****

The regulations of the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission
Boating Guide are Law Officer enforced.
The current version can be found at:
<http://outdoornebraska.gov/guides/>

All powered watercraft shall operate in a counterclockwise
direction in a traffic pattern as delineated on the map on this page

Morningstar Boat Registration:

Please fill in & return to a board of director.

Name of cabin/boat owner: _____

Cabin (lot) number: _____

Make: _____ Model: _____ Color: _____

NE registration number: _____

Boat VIN number: _____

Length of boat: _____

Inboard _____ Outboard _____ Jet _____

Horsepower Rating: _____

Owner signature(s): _____

Date: _____

