

**Meeting of the Morningstar Lake Association**  
**MAY 27, 2022 (Saturday)**  
**Darcy and Dan Pleasant, Lot 27**  
**10:00 A.M.**

Minutes

- 1) Call to Order / Introductions /Attendance – 21 of the 37 lots were represented.
- 2) Approval of minutes of May 30, 2022, meeting – Motion to approve Russ Bayer, second Jim Luethje, approved unanimously.
- 3) Treasurer's Report - \$36,744.6 on hand as of May 27, 2023. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes (Attachment 1). Included with the attachment is the history of Morningstar expenses over the last five years.
- 4) Summerwood Lake Association Meetings – Minutes of the fall 2022 and spring 2023 Summerwood Board meetings were sent to all residents by Summerwood. The following topics were discussed by Jim Crawford, Jim Luethje and Russ Bayer, Morningstar Representatives to the Summerwood Lake Association:
  - a. Review of Summerwood Sept 2022 and March 2023 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.
      - High capacity well:
        - With some negotiations, the high capacity well including electric work is estimated to be under \$30,000.
        - Money to help fund the project is being requested from both Polk and Merrick Counties since both are recipients of real estate tax dollars. Grants are also being requested from SPD and NNTC.
        - It is believed this project can take place without any additional assessment.
        - The well location is on Morningstar Property common area. The Morningstar residents are in support of this.
      - Cracks in the asphalt will be patched in 2023
      - Front gate and mailbox support painting will be taking place in 2023
    - ii. Invasive Species:

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](http://www.neinvasives.com) has good information

iii. Directory:

The directory was delivered in a mobile format this year.

b. Summerwood Annual Assessment - \$250.00

c. The CVA has completed the transition from the previous vender. Thank you to all those involved in making the smooth transition.

d. Fireworks

The Summerwood fireworks show will be Saturday, July 1, 2021, the rain date is Sunday, July 2, 2023.

e. Collection area update

- Thank you again to Scott Watts and family for burning and cleaning up the collection area. The same process is planned for 2022, 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 dimension of items that can be disposed.

f. Boater Safety. 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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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/>

g. Morningstar representative on the board.

Jim Crawford's term expires on August 31, 2023. Jim would like to be replaced this year. A motion was made by Kim Hoffman and seconded by Mark Niewohner that Dan Pleasant be elected to replace Jim. This motion passed unanimously.

Jim Crawford is thanked for his many years of service to Summerwood and Morningstar!

h. 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. The fish population continues to improve. Tom dropped a few more trees to increase the habitat.

Tom continues to work with the state to test the water quality of the lake. Our phosphorus level was again decreased. It remains significantly less, .06/liter, compared to 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.

Tom and Jane Steinbach place some riprap on the south side of the big island to shore up a section of the edge from eroding away. Thank you!

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

Thanks to Jim L for moving the gravel to the center and continuing to smooth the road.

The county did come in and plow once this year after the only significant snow.

- c. The Independence Day Celebration is on July 1, 2023. Thank you to Jennifer Wood and Darcy Pleasant for coordinating this year's event. Please see information below:

# CHRISTMAS IN JULY

## MORNINGSTAR LAKE

### SATURDAY, JULY 1, 2023

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 Jolly! Mimosa/Bloody Mary Bar -- (Niewohner/Lot 28)

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

12:00 -- Decorate your "sleigh" (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 -- Jingle Bell 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 -- Caddyshack Golf -- (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 -- Reindeer Games -- (Rutz/Lot 4) -- Games for young and old -- lots of prizes!

2:00 - 3:00 -- Holiday Scavenger Hunt -- (Luethje/Lot 32) -- Sign up at 2:00 and get all the clues!

3:00 - 4:30 -- Slushies -- (Wacker/Young/Lot 5) Adult and kid slushies available!



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

Shari Hoffman moved and Darcy Pleasant seconded that \$150.00 be allocated from the lake cash reserves to provide for awards for the golf cart contest. This motion passed unanimously.

d. Lake Rules:

- 1) No changes to the lake rules for 2023.
- 2) Golf carts are to be marked with the lake initial and lot number
- 3) Good conversation regarding the guideline below was discussed. It was slightly modified to loosen the guideline Monday through Friday if / when there is less traffic on the lake as is usually the case.

All boats pulling skiers, wake boards, tubes etc. must drive in a straight line (no boat swerving) from lot 16 through lot 28. All lot owners are being asked to take the personal responsibility to ensure they and their guests follow this guideline to assist in protecting the shoreline of our neighbors along the south channel and help reduce erosion along the big island shoreline.

- 4) 2023 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 if you have a new boat. (Attachment 3)
- f. Annual Morningstar Dinner: The Niewohner's, Pleasant's and Woods will host this year. More information 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 are all doing well. No additional work is needed. Thank you again to all who have helped with the project from the beginning and now through ongoing maintenance.
- i. There was conversation regarding the trees along the shoreline of the island. Since they maybe helping control the erosion of the shore, there was not support for removing them, but some may be trimmed if you would like to do so.
- j. Annual Morningstar Dues Assessment – Summerwood set the dues per lot at \$250.00 for 2022. The Morningstar Board of Directors met on May 27, 2023, after the lake annual meeting, and set the Morningstar dues at \$250.00 per lot. The total assessment per lot for 2023 is **\$500.00**. 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. In a motion made by Linda Rutz and seconded by Denny Walker, Brandon Handrup and Jim Lovegrove were reelected to the Morningstar Board with a term expiring on May 31, 2026. This motion passed unanimously.

The directors are:

Bob Herbig	-	2024	Chad Carlson	-	2024
Joni Ewalt	-	2025	Dan Pleasant	-	2025
Brandon Handrup	-	2026	Jim Lovegrove	-	2026

Based on a motion by Denny Walker and seconded by Chuck Beckwith the member meeting was adjourned at 10:55 AM.

After the meeting the Morningstar Board met (Bob H, Joni E, Dan P, Chad C and officers Jane Steinbach and Russ Bayer)

The following actions were taken:

- a. A motion was made by Bob Herbig and seconded by Chad Carlson to set the Morningstar assessment at \$250.00 per lot. This motion passed unanimously. Based on this action each lot owes \$500.00 per lot for the 2022 assessment. See section "5j" above for details.
- b. Previously Southern Power District asked whether Morningstar or Joni Ewalt were interested in a light pole light. Joni indicated she was not interested in keeping the light, and the Morningstar board is not interested in having the light rotated toward the road. Chad Carlson will let SPD they can remove the light.
- c. A motion was made by Chad Carlson and seconded by Bob Herbig to elect the following slate of officers for the 2022/2023 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 31, 2022 to May 27, 2023**

**Combined Checking & Savings Accounts:**

Beginning Balance	31,222.23
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**Receipts:**

2021 Dues	18,500.00
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Interest on savings account	49.97
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<b>Total Receipts:</b>	<b>18,549.97</b>
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**Expenses:**

Southern Power District	869.56
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Summerwood Dues (\$250.00 X 37 lots)	9,250.00
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General liability insurance	1,590.97
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Directors & Officers liability insurance	1,002.00
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Merrick County Treasurer (real estate taxes)	101.54
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UNL Water Science Lab (2 tests)	92.40
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Biennial Fee	28.00
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Jim Luethje (fuel to smooth road and round-up)	93.37
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<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>13,027.84</b>
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Grand total of checking and savings	<b>36,744.36</b>
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	May, 2022 to May, 2023	May, 2021 to May, 2022	May, 2020 to May, 2021	May, 2019 to May, 2020	May, 2018 to May, 2019
<b>Expenses:</b>					
Southern Power	869.56	893.43	832.85	843.83	854.69
General Liability Insurance	1,590.97	1,590.97	1,590.97	1,590.97	1,569.72
Directors & Officers Insurance	1,002.00	926.00	990.00	990.00	990.00
Merrick Co Treasurer-real estate taxes	101.54	102.98	104.76	103.00	98.78
UNL Water Sciences Lab-water testing	92.40	90.20	44.00	88.00	77.00
Biennial Fee	28.00		23.00		23.00
Sprinkler repair			591.50		
Lights & plants for new sign			241.50		
Nebraska Lakes Association dues				125.00	125.00
Valve for drainage pipe					318.00
Well & trees expenses		1,249.24			
Expenses for roads-gravel, trucking, grading, fuel	93.37	1,831.64		1,103.96	2,023.96
Fish				585.00	
Nebraska Lakes Management weeds			475.00		450.00
Lake survey				1,310.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,777.84</b>	<b>6,684.46</b>	<b>4,893.58</b>	<b>6,739.76</b>	<b>6,530.15</b>

## Attachment 2

### Morningstar Lake Association Rules 2023

**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 of 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 an 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 Sleepyeye 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**

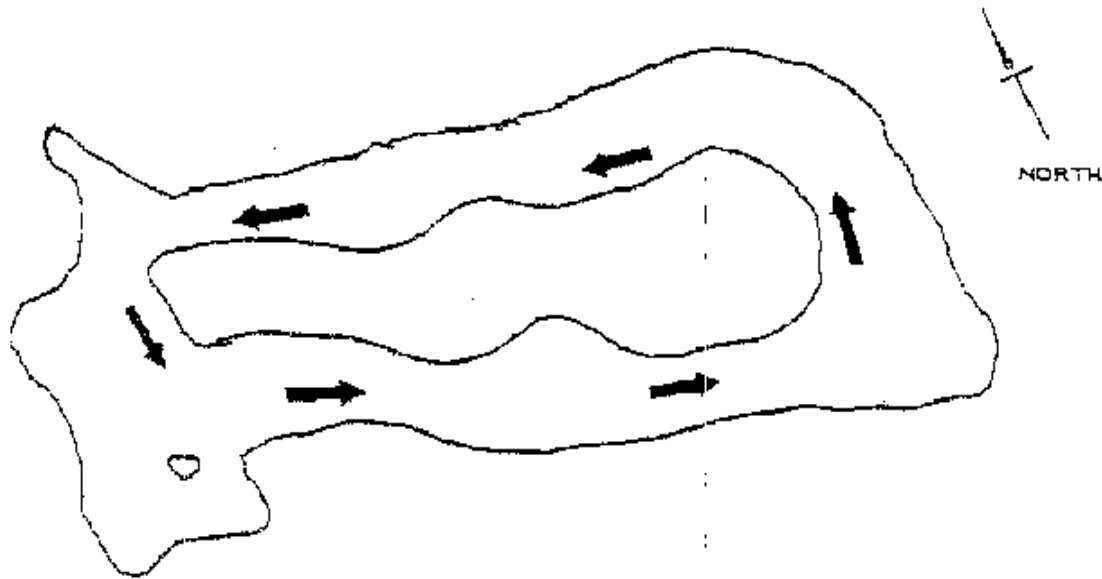
1. Use the pattern on the map for all skiing and boating.
2. Obey all the State Boating Rules. If there is a conflict between Association Rules and State Boating regulations the state boating regulations will govern except for rule 5 listed below.
3. Only lot owners are permitted to have boats on the 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**  
2023

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

