

SCSU student to study Melrose Lake

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Melrose—Ruby Irwing will be studying Melrose Lake and the surrounding area, as part of the Melrose Lake Improvement Association's project to clean up and restore this body of water flowing through Melrose.

On Tuesday June 25, the MLIA board was introduced to Irwing, the board's post graduate student appointed by Dr. Charles Rose, from St. Cloud State University. This program is in cooperation with the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs headed by Jeff Corn of the University of Minnesota.

Earlier this year the MLIA received a \$1,500 grant from The Minnesota Initiative Foundation to help with their study.

Irwing told the board about her background and how she would approach this study for them.

"She will look at the past of the Melrose Mill Pond and Melrose Lake. She will do numerous tests to determine what the lake has become and will give us a report about the lake's future as she sees it," said George Traeger, MLIA chair.

Irwing will collect data from other agencies, such as the Sauk River Watershed District, the Department of Natural Resources, hydrologists and aquatic plant specialists.

This will be done under the guidance of Dr. Rose. Irwing hopes to have her report to the board around

Aug. 25.

Irwing also pointed out the completion of this study will not necessarily give the board many answers as to what needs to be done to improve the lake.

"Her current condition's report will be the basis for an additional study of what might be done to improve conditions," said Traeger.

Irwing will report to the board towards the end of July on the progress of her study, which the board is hopeful will help restore the lake and return it to a focal point of Melrose.

Also at the MLIA board meeting, Mike Brethorst, Melrose city administrator, presented them with a proposal for MLIA to be the sponsor of a water feature just west of the dam, which the board determined "would be a wonderful attraction for Melrose." After discussion, the board postponed any expenditures, at this time, as the monies they have collected from members, to this point, were given with the intention of doing studies to determine their needs.

"We wholeheartedly endorsed the water feature idea and hope a sponsor will come forth for this to happen," said Traeger.

On a separate issue, Traeger informed the board he spoke with DNR officer Keith Bertram about the abundance of black mussels in Melrose Lake. Bertram inspected the lake and determined they are not an invasive species.

