

Outdoor Insights

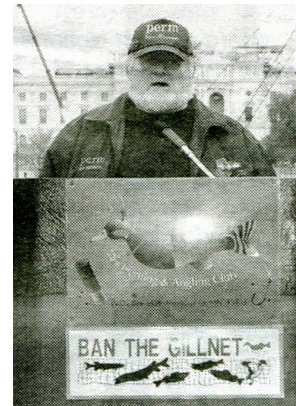
By Rob Drieslein, Managing Editor Outdoor News May 6, 2016

Between college visits with my 17-year-old son last Saturday, I visited a rally in front of the state Capitol. The Hunting and Angling Club held an event to denounce the catch-and-release fishing requirement for Lake Mille Lacs this open-water season as well as concerns about commercial gill netting in the 1855 Ceded Territory. (By the way, if you haven't visited the Capitol recently, know that it's closed to the public for major repairs through mid 2017.)

I listened to the comments of several speakers, including Howard B. Hanson, Mille Lacs County Commissioner Dave Oslin, and Douglas Meyenburg current president of Proper Economic Resource Management. Longtime readers know that PERM has raised money for the landowner litigants in the 1837 Treaty case and remained active in monitoring and publicizing tribal natural resources treaty rights claims.

Via phone on Monday, Meyenburg said he would've liked to have seen more people attend the rally. A cool, overcast, windy day didn't help, but Meyenburg admitted that "some people are so used to mediocrity and mismanagement of Mille Lacs that they throw their hands up because they feel like there's nothing they can do." He noted, however, that PERM hosted 500 people at a fund-raiser in Foley last Friday evening. Meyenburg's comments on where he'll open for fishing May 14 put an upbeat spin on circumstances for the area.

I'm opening on Mille Lacs because I just enjoy the lake-the structure, the resorts, the restaurants," he said. "Part of it is supporting the people up there, but Mille Lacs always has been the perfect 'up north' lake for me. It's still the place to be."



Doug Meyenburg Jr.

A retired heavy equipment operator for the city of Coon Rapids, 67-year-old Meyenburg served in the Navy as a young man, but otherwise has resided in East Bethel most of his life. Mille Lacs is 75 minutes from his home and he's fished there for decades. About 10 years ago he became PERM president because "the lake has been managed for political reasons for too long, and that's why I want to stay in this fight."

He'll fish the walleye on opener, but he also loves Mille Lacs for its fine bass, pike, and muskie fishing. I suspect the people in Meyenburg's fishing party will have a good time on May 14.