

# CLPOA Spring Meeting Minutes

Saturday May 29, 2010

Held at The Cathedral of the Pines – Education Building

Started at 9:45 with 15 minutes “mingle” time

Board Members Present: Bill Dunn, Diana Kamp, Larry Mullen, Bob Hewitt, Sally Westby, Pat Vaughan, Fred Morris, Kristi Youngdahl and Jessie Neihart. (Louise Suomi and Bob Reid absent)

President Bill Dunn called the annual spring informational meeting to order. He introduced the first guest speaker, County Commissioner Bruce Martinson.

Commissioner Bruce Martinson reported that the county septic ordinance has been put on hold. They are waiting for the new MPCA rules which are due out by 4/2011. The county plans on implementing it's new policies by 2/2012.

The new ATV ordinance passed with a 3 year trial period. Concerns came mostly from seasonal residents. Commissioner Martinson said he supported the ordinance mainly because nine out of the twelve county supervisors supported it. The ordinance allows ATV's on the right of paved roads. Helmets are required for riders under 15 years of age and they must have an adult following them. Left view mirrors are required. When questioned if noise pollution and joy riding was considered, the commissioner responded “not at this time”. Barb Vaughan said she could put the link to the county's web site containing the ordinance verbiage onto the CLPOA's web site.

The Commissioner reported that the AUAR request for a tax assessment increase, to cover the cost of lake monitoring lab costs, passed.

Martinson also reported that NE Service CO-OP has applied for grants and loans to cover 50% of the cost to bring broadband services to the county. Arrowhead electric also has made an application.

Commissioner Martinson is up for re-election this year, after 8 years of prior service.

Bob Hewitt introduced the next guest speaker, Greg Wright, Director, of the North Shore Folk House School in Grand Marais. Wright reported that the school started in 1997, holding 23 courses and having 200 participants. In 2008 they had 327 courses with 1300 participants. They teach traditional northern crafts, “high touch/low tech”, which are otherwise being lost. He talked about their expansion plans and the positive economic impact they are having on the community. An Alumni survey also gave them good marks.

The business portion of the meeting commenced. Vice President Sally Westby gave the treasurer's report in the absence of treasurer Louise Suomi. We started 2009 with approximately \$1,400 in the bank. We've had expenditures of approximately \$2,700 and have taken in approximately \$5,000 since then leaving a bank balance of approximately \$3,700.

Sally also reported that our organization had received the Cook County Conservationist of the Year Award, given by the County Soil and Water Conservation District. We were cited for our lake monitoring efforts and the establishment of a lake management plan.

Pat Vaughan reported that he had put out our two loon nesting platforms, one north of the peninsula and one in the bay adjacent to Bigsby lake. He reported that no loons had used the platforms this season, but there is an active nest on the island. He may adapt the canopies on the platforms somewhat next year in an attempt to attract the loons. He reported also that we will be collecting water quality samples at five sites this year, twice a month. Members volunteer to collect the samples, and for the first time the county will pay for the lab work and delivery costs.

A discussion on clean boating practices was held. Concern over milfoil and the Spindling Water Flea were expressed. One idea expressed was to provide an informational sign at the boat launch, big enough to be noticed.

Regarding Firewise, Bill Dunn reported that the slash pit continues at the gravel pit. The Forest Service handles the collected tree and brush debris. Members were reminded of the sprinkler system program. If property passes inspection, a FEMA grant up to 70% could be available. The systems are run on propane and must be started up before the fire reaches a property. They had a dramatic effect in the Ham lake fire.

Bill Dunn reported that the Environment Committee had responded to a variance request on the Hewitt property, offering alternative design suggestions. The variance was given. The Environment Committee responds to all requests the county receives for variances on the lake, rendering its opinion and suggestions.

Jessie Neihart reported on how he had utilized a program through the County Soil and Water Conservation District for plantings on his property. The program will aid in the plan/design for the property and could cover up to 75% of the plant costs. Members should contact the county if interested.

Bill Dunn reported that a meeting is planned with the DNR this summer to discuss public lands, exotics and invasives, lake level, and lake surface/no wake zones. Also 13 septic systems remain out of compliance.

Diana Kamp reported that CCCoLA will be conducting a Septic Management and Water Quality Workshop on July 26 at Birch Grove. All are invited.

The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, September 4, 2010 from 10AM to noon at the Cathedral Of the Pines, Youngdahl lodge.

The meeting was adjourned.