

# CLPOA Spring Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

May 23, 2009. Started 9:45 AM with mingle time

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

President Bill Dunn called the meeting to order. Attendees and the board introduced themselves.

Bill introduced Bob R. to present an overview the Lake Management Plan, giving him appreciation for his work on the plan. Bob R. reported an error on page 5 of the plan that said "State owned lands held in trust for the Cook County school district" should have said "State owned lands held in trust for all public schools". The cost of the Plan was covered for the most part by a \$3,000 STAR grant. The association incurred less than \$200 in costs. The cost of testing water samples at seven sites, collected by Pat, amounted to \$1,000 of the cost. The cost of Plan prep, printing, and mailing amounted to \$2,000. The plan was mailed to 165 addresses in the watershed, with additional copies going to County board members, realtors, local contractors, planning and highway departments, the "Cook County Herald", Lutsen supervisors, and the Cook County Lake Association. Bob thanked the board for their contributions to the Plan.

Bill introduced Cindy Gentz, Cook County Water Plan Coordinator. Cindy gave a PowerPoint presentation on historical and current water quality testing results on Caribou Lake. Caribou Lake has one of the longest histories of water testing. Our phosphorus and chlorophyll levels as compared to other lakes being measured were higher to middle of the road, but the comparison is in favor of the deeper lakes. Phosphorus levels at one time were close to 30 PPM. Early indicators are showing that the septic ordinance is having a positive impact on phosphorus levels. The Lake Classification Study, being conducted by the County Soil and Water department, will continue this summer, with Tristan Beaster being available to give us an update at the fall meeting. Examples of "Exotics and Invasives" were presented including the spring water flea, milfoil, and the crusty crayfish. The county can provide assistance in questions or help in the areas of erosion or native plantings.

Bill presented distinguished service awards, a framed satellite photo of Caribou lake, to Tim Nelson, citing his work historically on the board and his involvement in the AUAR, to Don Sivertson, citing his volunteerism and work as soil and water commissioner, to Pat and Barb Vaughan citing Pat's work in the water sampling and loon monitoring and Barbs work in maintaining our web site and to Bruce Martinson, citing his faithful participation, as county commissioner, at our meetings over the years and his concern and actions over our associations' issues.

Louise gave the treasury report. We currently have \$3, 523.07 in the bank. \$3,000 in STAR grant monies were deposited in 2009, offsetting cost incurred in 2008.

Bill explained to the members that they will be given a chance to help the board establish Lake Plan priorities. The 17 Lake Management Focus Areas were displayed on the wall in the rear of the room. Each member was given 3 "post-it" dots that they could place on areas of their greatest concern, at the

end of the meeting. An Action Team list was also displayed and members were given a fourth dot and were asked to put their name on it and place it on any Action Team they were interested in participating on. Bob R. gave an overview of the 17 Focus Areas. Questions from the members came up on lake friendly soap and how do we get people involved, i.e. year round residents (3 year round residents were in attendance out of Don Sivertson's estimate of 35).

Bill reported on a variance that the Lake Association gave a position on, concerning a roof variance on the Jessie Neihart cabin. The variance was not opposed due to the due diligence of the owner.

Fred reported on the position the Environmental committee is taking on the proposed Cook County ATV ordinance currently under consideration by the Board of Commissioners. The greatest issue is noise and speed in populated areas, which is not taken into consideration in the current proposal draft. The proposed language to be added is 1) Speed does not exceed 10 MPH when within 150 feet of a dwelling, 2) Speed does not exceed 10 MPH when within 100 feet of a pedestrian or someone not on a motorized vehicle (horseback, bicycle, etc.), and 3) Travel on gravel-surfaced roads within 150 feet of multiple dwellings is limited to ingress and egress from a residence or seasonal cabin. Driving back and forth on such roads in close proximity to multiple dwellings where the travel is not limited to ingress or egress from a residence or seasonal cabin is prohibited.

Pat reported on two used loon nests that were purchased by the association for \$300 each. One was placed by Bigsby bay and the second off of the peninsula by the island. Loons have been nesting on the island. The platforms will be removed after nesting is complete. A sheriff permit was obtained to place the nests on the lake.

Bill reported that the slash pit is open. Member Pat O'Neill reported that firewise "Chipper Days" was being planned for July 25 & 26 where property owner's in the White Sky vicinity could bring their brush to the county roadside and it would be chipped for free.

Bill reported he was unsuccessful in getting septic system inspection numbers (inspected, failed, fixed) from the county. Bruce Martinson, county commissioner, promised to have the information by the fall meeting

AUAR advisory committee member Tim Nelson commented that the hillside of Sawbill bay development was now complete with 18 lots instead of the 80 originally planned on 160 acres. The next AUAR meeting will be on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 2PM.

Bruce Martinson gave the background on the ATV ordinance. The main emphasis is preventing the damage currently being caused by ATV ditch usage. He couldn't fully respond to our proposed language addition since he had just gotten it. A public hearing on the ordinance is going to be held on May 26, at 7 PM at the Arrowhead center. He also spoke of initial discussion of proposed ordinance for Kennels.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15

# Attachment

## Lake Management Plan Focus Area Recommendations

Results from the May 23, 2009 meeting. Dots totals in parenthesis

### 1. Water Quality Plan (11)

Goal: Improved and consistent Caribou Lake water quality in the near term and the long term future measured as follows:

Total phosphorus	--	15 ppb summer average
Chlorophyll-a	--	8ppb summer average
Secchi disk	--	6 ft summer average

### 2. Land Use and Zoning Plan (21)

Goal: Land use and zoning policies and decisions are made at the county level. The goal of this focus area is to urge Cook County policy and decision-makers to recognize the linkage of land use and water quality and reflect a greater emphasis and priority for protection of lake water quality and all facets of the natural lake experience in all land use and zoning decisions; and further to provide resources for monitoring and enforcement of these decisions by County staff.

### 3. Conservation Easements and Trusts (7)

Goal: Create more shoreline conservation easements and/or trusts for set-aside of shoreline by land owners to maintain the high quality of the natural environment and water quality of Caribou Lake.

### 4. Lake Classification Study (4)

Goal: Complete the Lake Classification Study by the end of the summer of 2009 for consideration by the Cook County Board and the DNR. Both the Board and the DNR to then consider and decide on reclassifying segments of Caribou Lake shoreline to more restrictive development standards.

### 5. Life Style and Waste Management (3)

Goal: Caribou Lake land owners will adopt or continue to use environmentally friendly and lake protective practices and decisions in living in the Caribou Lake watershed and assure the effective operation of septics and other waste management facilities.

## **6. Shore Land and Shoreline Protection (5)**

Goal: Provide education and support to the land owners of Caribou Lake about the best management practices for protecting Caribou shore land and shoreline. Encourage best management practices when a land owner is making modifications to his/her property.

## **7. Aquatic Vegetation (1)**

Goal: Maintain aquatic vegetation throughout Caribou Lake wherever it flourishes.

## **8. Exotic and Invasive Species (5)**

Goal: Prevent the entry or introduction of these species into Caribou Lake or the watershed.

## **9. Fishery Management (1)**

Goal: Maintain and improve, where possible, the quality of the Caribou Lake fishery.

## **10. Wildlife (1)**

Goal: Provide conditions throughout the Caribou Lake watershed, along the shoreline and on the lake that protect habitat and foster a vital wildlife population.

## **11. Public Access (11)**

Goal: Prevent and/or minimize the negative impacts of the design, amenities and use of the public access on Caribou Lake water quality or the lake experience.

## **12. Water Surface Use Conflicts (4)**

Goal: A safe and pleasurable experience as well as enjoyment of the natural assets of Caribou Lake is assured for all users of the lake.

## **13. Public Lands Protection (10)**

Goal: Preserve the public shoreline and shore lands of Caribou Lake.

## **14. Wetlands Protection (4)**

Goal: Provide lake water quality protection by maintaining wetlands as runoff and stormwater holding and natural treatment eco-systems and as habitat for resident wildlife.

## **15. Stormwater Management (1)**

Goal: Stormwater management addresses the measures and techniques that can be employed to prevent or minimize contamination of runoff or means to remove contaminants before entry into water bodies. Stormwater quite frequently contains contaminants from contact with surfaces and has the capacity to erode soils and other water soluble materials all of which may enter receiving water bodies. Many of the substances contained in the runoff are deleterious to water quality. Thus, stormwater management can minimize the entry of contaminants into Caribou Lake.

## **16. Governance (0)**

Goal: The realization of maximum effectiveness and cooperation among the numerous government organizations involved in water quality and natural environment protection as well as within these same organizations.

## **17. Local Area Amenities (0)**

Goal: Recognize and acknowledge the existence of the many quality amenities available throughout the extended Caribou Lake neighborhood.

## **Action Team Opportunities**

Action Team Possibilities

### **WQ Sampling Team (0)**

Lake water quality sampling to augment the current volunteer effort.

### **Information/Education Team (3) Irene Mullen, Y. Mullen, Sue Frankowski**

Prepare one or two page information sheets.

### **Distribution Team (3) Sally Westby, Lucy Walsh, Louise Suomi**

Disseminate the information materials to targeted audiences, e.g. shore land owners, watershed owners, local businesses, etc.

**Lake Access Team (0)**

Conduct activities at the public access or related to the public access to alert, educate, train, etc. lake users.

**Shore Land Preservation Team (3) Ceal Neihart, Barb V.**

Develop a plan to preserve shoreline and shore land.

**Local Business Contact Team (0)**

Establish and maintain contact with specific businesses/operators/owners including contractors, realtors, craftsmen, etc

**DNR Contact Team (1) Bill Dunn**

Establish and maintain contact with responsible DNR office(s) on our concerns and their actions, plans, regulations, etc. that may affect Caribou Lake.

**U.S. Forest Service Contact Team (1) Bob Hewitt**

Establish and maintain contact with responsible USFS office(s) on our concerns and their actions, plans etc. regarding Caribou Lake.

**Cook County Contact Team (1) Larry Mullen**

Establish and maintain contact with County offices and staff regarding our concerns and County actions, plans, decisions etc.

**Legislative Contact Team (1) Connie Noterman**

Establish and maintain contact with local legislators to address legislation of interest to Caribou Lake landowners.

**Septic Systems Data Management Team (1)**

Work with County staff to develop and maintain a database on the status of septic systems in the watershed.