

CARIBOU LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

28th Annual Meeting
Saturday, August 30, 2003
Cathedral of the Pines Camp

Minutes:

- **Meeting called to order.** Tim Nelson, President, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm after a 30-minute social period.
- **Minutes from Annual Meeting 2002.** Motion was made to read minutes of last meeting. Minutes read, motion moved and passed to approve minutes.
- **Caribou Lake Loon Count.** The official count for summer of 2003 reported by Pat Vaughan, Official Loon Ranger of Caribou Lake: Six adults and two chicks were reported to the State DNR Loon Monitoring Program.
- **Secchi Disk Readings.** These readings were reported by Ellen Kelleher and Pat Vaughan. This is a reading of water clarity by lowering a metal disk into the water until you can no longer see it and at that point you determine how deep it has been lowered. In May the reading was 9 ft and in August 5½ feet. John Neihart and Don Sivertson started this process of determining water clarity at Caribou Lake many years ago and Ethel has been taking these readings for 10 years, Don for many years and Pat took over for Don 2 years ago.
- **Water Quality Management Board.** Report given by Jerry Johansen and Guest Karen Evens, Cook County Water Quality Coordinator. Background work done, however, decrease in grant money this year so no water samples done. (This board was instrumental in convincing Cook County Board to approve AUAR –EIS.)
- **Environmentally Safe Practices.** Bill Dunn presented this information to property owners. While speaking he illustrated the information with a power point presentation. Bill also made available a handout available informing members of items to use and not use to protect clarity and delay destruction of lake. If lake clarity is reduced by just 3 feet property values decrease by \$594/foot. Sources of phosphorus include human waste (83%), Dish washing detergent (14%) and other cleaners (2%). Helpful hints included: Dish Washing - use phosphorus free detergent, Fishing – use lead free tackle, Septic Systems – keep compliant, pump when needed, do not use a garbage disposal, Household Cleaners - use lake friendly household cleaners and eliminate anti-bacterial soaps, Lawn and Yard Care – if fertilizer necessary use only phosphorus free fertilizer. Over development and clearing of lake shore vegetation also contribute to destruction of lake. Watch for this report to be posted on our web site.
- **Speed Limit Report.** Jerry Johansen reported speed limit of 25 mph approved by County Commissioners due to width of roads, foliage, blocked entrances, etc. Signs have been posted on County Road 38, still need signs for White Sky Road, Forest Service and County Road 39.
- **Fish Report.** DNR Netting fell below 20 fish per net level prompting the DNR to approve restocking in 2004.
- **Caribou Trail Construction.** This construction plan has provided wide shoulders to accommodate bike/hike path. Road Construction Schedule: grading/clearing 2003, paving in 2004.

Letter presented from Diana Kamp: ‘The bulldozing of the Trees on Caribou trail has created a huge opening in the woods between Caribou Trail and the White Sky Trail, so large that cars and trucks are easily visible to cabin owners nearby and even to residents who are on the opposite side of the bay. Not only is this opening unsightly and noisy, but I fear it is damaging to water quality and property values.’

Motion made, seconded and passed that the Lake Association question Cook County Board, Soil and Water Conservation Board and the DNR re: why road width is 100 feet vs. 66 feet; replanting vegetation to return the wide right of way to its natural state: what can be done concerning: reforestation of the area outside of the right of way (the hole mentioned in the above letter): assurances that Caribou Lake levels are not being impacted by the new culvert under the Caribou Trail.

- **Sawmill Bay Hillside Development.** EIS/AUAR to be performed. This environmental study is a pioneer effort in a rural area. Thanks go to our Commissioner Bruce Martinson and our Environmental Committee. Likely timeline: AUAR will be completed this fall, followed by a public comment period. Final draft for review by the subordinate service district advisory board, then to County Board for final adoption. The developer can re-submit its plan and then there will be the standard platting process and public hearings, followed by county board review. The AUAR should guide the subsequent development design and approval process. Environmental Committee consisting of CLPOA members Bob Dunn, Bill Dunn, Bob Reid and Tim Nelson have been observing and working on every step in this process. The CLPOA objectives for this development are: shifting access to the east side of the development via the Ward Lake Road, preserving western slope (Caribou side) open space; reducing the scale of the development; and using a cluster design that will minimize the number septic systems, wells and roads. Watch for this report to be posted on our web site.
- **COLA (Coalition of Lakes Association) Water Quality Seminar.** This seminar was held in Grand Marais on August 16, 2003 and was well attended. COLA is working to pass a new zoning and subdivision ordinances for Cook County that will provide stronger regulation of lakeshore and second tier development. They are also pushing for a lake shore owner voter registration drive. Cook County's mail ballots make it easy to register and to vote here. All that is needed is a Cook County address.
- **Treasurer's Report.** Sandy Butler, Treasurer made available copies of 3 reports. More funds will be needed for the Defense Fund. For those who have not donated please send donations to Caribou Lake Property Owners Association, PO Box 11, Lutsen, MN 55612 payable to CLPOA.
- **Cook County Septic Inspection Program Update.** Guest Leroy Hallberg. This is a 2 year process, and all systems will be inspected unless the system is 5 years or less old or if it has been inspected within 3 years. Looking for water infiltration, leaking through cracks, leaving sewage in ground before being treated (need 3 feet of soil under drainfield). In 2003 30 inspections were completed revealing 9 failures. Persons owning property with failed systems have up to 2 years to repair depending on type of failure; average time of repair is 10 months. General inspections are performed when applying for land-use permit. Approximately 30% fail in county when inspected with permit applications. Metal tanks still legal but not advisable, 10% of cement tanks fail and block and concrete type could fail due to possible cracks. Owner does not need to be present when inspection is performed, pumper is called to coordinate. Outhouses – tanks must be 50 feet from lake, pit 100 feet from lake with 3 feet of unsaturated soil.
- **Cook County Update.** Presented by guest Bruce Martinson, County Commissioner. Budget will decrease by 20% this year. State contribution will be \$918,000 this year and by 2008 will drop to \$97,000. Bruce also commented on new speed limits, Caribou Trail construction, AUAR, and his efforts to get the Forest Service to road swap the Ward Lake Road for other county roads to provide the potential of east access to Sawmill Hillside development.
- **CLPOA Website.** MLA (Minnesota Lakes Association) had made website space available for member lake associations. MLA does not charge for this site, however, it is limited to use of their templates. Barb Vaughan has entered items and will continue to maintain. MLA is pursuing adding capability of posting pdf documents on this site in the near future. Check out our site Address: www.mnlakes.org/caribou and the valuable information on the MLA website: www.mnlakes.org
- **Directors and elections.** Five director positions on the CLPOA Board are open. Board nominations were made and seconded and the following people were elected unanimously to serve on the CLPOA Board of Directors: Sandy Butler, Jerry Johansen, Fred Morris, Tim Nelson and Don Sivertson. They join Bob Hewitt, Bob Reid, Barb Vaughan and Leanne Williams. Board now consists of 9 members,
- **Watercraft on Caribou.** Shelby Anderson, Linda Slocum and Sally Westby have formed a sub committee to work on a surface water component to lobby the DNR and Cook County Commissioners with emphasis on "no wake."
- **Meeting Adjourned.** A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Vaughan, Secretary