

CARIBOU LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

29th Annual Meeting
Saturday, September 4, 2004
Cathedral of the Pines Camp

Minutes:

Meeting called to order. Tim Nelson, President, called the meeting to order at 3:50 pm.

Minutes from Annual Meeting 2003. Motion was made to read minutes of last meeting. Minutes read, motion moved and passed to approve minutes.

Welcome Guests. Bruce Martinson, Cook County Commissioner and Bill Hansen candidate for Minnesota Representative District 6A. (Current Representative Dill declined invitation to attend this meeting.)

Treasurer's Report. Sandy Butler, Treasurer made available copies of 2 reports. Dues of \$20 are due for this year send to Caribou Lake Property Owners Association, PO Box 11, Lutsen, MN 55612 payable to CLPOA.

Caribou Lake Loon Count. The official count for summer of 2004 reported by Pat Vaughan, Official Loon Ranger of Caribou Lake: Six adults and no chicks were reported to the State DNR Loon Monitoring Program.

Secchi Disk Readings. These readings were reported by 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. Approximately 30 readings are taken in 5 different locations. The readings ranged from 8.5' to 6' in May and the water clarity degraded throughout the summer to a range in August of 6' to 5.5'. August also had a significant algae bloom more than past years which does indicate a serious problem.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Water Study of Lake Caribou. Jesse Anderson of the MPCA in Duluth is heading a study of the water quality of Lake Caribou. The last time this study was done on Lake Caribou was 10 years ago. Pat Vaughan has taken Jesse, along with another MPCA employee, out on the lake once a month for five months, May, June, July, August and September. This is an extensive study which takes about 3 hours each time for the collection of samples. They take 30 water samples from 4 locations to conduct tests including oxygen levels, algae, zooplankton, and water temperature. Jesse will do a report on his findings and it will be available by next spring. Included in his findings will be information on the fish study compiled by Jesse Neihart, member of CLPOA. Jesse A. reiterated the main causes for poor lake quality: out of compliance septic systems, shoreline mismanagement, use of fertilizer, detergent and other cleaning products containing phosphates, and the wake from large boats/motors.

Surface Use Committee Report. Shelby Anderson and Sally Westby would like the NW bay to be a no-wake zone. They are collecting data on concerns and issues that cause problems - such as boats going in circles, large boats/motors - to present to the Cook County Board when requesting the no-wake zone.

Public Boat Landing. No usage problems have been noted. AUAR mitigation plan has a requirement that requests non-expansion of the boat landing. Letter was sent to Cook County Board from DNR requesting this boat landing not be enlarged. The Cook County Board voted to not enlarge.

Caribou Lake Trail Road Update.

Bob Hewitt stated that the company that worked on the road was Hoover Construction. The size of the right-of-way and road is 120' feet wide including surface draining shoulder (this is normal r.o.w.). There are still a few outstanding problems concerning road:

- Drainage still a problem primarily by the public boat landing. Three property owners are working with the County Engineer to correct this problem. One of these property owners, Bob Unze, stated road washed out into his property. Rock dams on shoulder are not holding any water from running down hill. Four foot deep ditches on his and his neighbors property were constructed by the county and Hoover Construction. Mr. Unze suggested they put a ditch on east side which would drain down to DNR property or holding pond. Hopefully in a few weeks this will be corrected. Persons within 300 feet of the problem are being notified by county as to what will be done to correct this problem. Bruce Martinson, County Commissioner, will look at these problems after meeting.
- Replanting trees/bushes in some areas that were cleared. Determine which areas can be replanted. Property owners affected will receive information. County will allow new trees and vegetation to be planted but parameters are very specific; power and telephone lines are to be buried. Hopefully 2000 feet along lower side of Caribou Trail will be planted with 2 rows of trees. These trees/bushes need to be purchased and planted. County has access to tree sales, Bob Hewitt has list they cost around \$.75 to 1.00 each, and total should be under \$300.

- **Motion made, seconded and passed:** That the Caribou Lake Property Association spend \$300.00 to plant trees near newly paved roadway on Caribou Trail; Bob Hewitt, CLPOA Board Member and persons to help make decision on type of trees, where to purchase trees, and recruit and organize volunteers to plant trees.
- Where is the bike path? The bike path is 3 feet on both sides of road but only on ½ of the road. When questioned why only on ½ of road the state's reply was: That is how it is.

AUAR Update. Mitigation plan passed in July by Cook County. This plan controls watershed in regards to development, septic systems, fertilizer and shoreline. A Subordinate Service District has now been established and Cook County Board can levy assessment on Caribou Lake property owners (presently 264 properties). New development will not use road near to Caribou but road from Ward Lake and that road will need to be updated. 38 lots were approved of a potential 80 lots and developer must justify if they don't use cluster style for the septic systems. AUAR ideas for Subordinate Service District: Do we want to suggest septic inspections be done more often and on a more regular ongoing basis and pay for the inspections? Cook County resources are limited with monitoring construction and development. The AUAR gives us stronger action. We need to continue to follow-up on items in AUAR plan when new development begins. Advisory Boards have been formed in other counties to suggest how to use the Subordinate Service District.

Motion made, seconded and passed: That the Caribou Lake Property Association recommends that the Cook County Board of Commissioners establish an advisory board re: septic inspections, data and compliance, and include members of the CLPOA.

Foster and Dunn Land. After much encouragement by Marjory Ryan, the Foster Family has decided to put a significant amount of acreage, approximately 2500-3000 feet on lake, into a Conservation Easement. They will own land but it will not be developed and if they sell the land it still will not be able to be developed. The Dunn Family also has put a significant amount of lakeshore land into a Conservation Easement.

Motion made, seconded and passed: That the Caribou Lake Property Association send letters thanking the Foster and Dunn Families for obtaining Conservation Easements for significant portions of their properties on Lake Caribou.

Caribou Lake Septic Inspection. Of the septic systems inspected so far 38% have failed, 5 of 14 have been upgraded. This is not an unusual percentage of failure. Leroy Hallberg, Cook County Inspector, has 45 more systems to inspect. Discussion followed as to what the CLPOA role should be re: the failed septic systems. Should this association send a letter to property owner? Ten years ago CLPOA X-rayed lake and visited property owners where there was an identified problem. Does the county need to hire more inspectors? In Washington and Anoka counties the person who pumps the septic is also the inspector.

Motion made, seconded and passed: That the Caribou Lake Property Association encourages Cook County to accelerate Caribou Lake septic inspections, improve compiled data and enforce compliance; if necessary use Caribou AUAR Subordinate Service District to fund these tasks.

Bill Hansen candidate for Minnesota Representative District 6A. Owner of Sawbill Canoe Outfitters. North Shore concerns very near to him. Main concerns: jobs, wages, health care and fair taxation system. Question re: School Trust Land. In 1858 each county in state was given 2 parcels of land to schools in trust. DNR can manage the land and some areas want to sell others want to keep for future uses such as minerals and timbers. He would like to see balance between economic development and conservation. Question re: IRRRB, now called IRRR, or Iron Range, Resources and Rehab. Because of closure of iron mines funds set up for development and business now focused on job creation. Bill does not take "No New Taxes" plan. District 6A covers area from Duluth to International Falls, including all of Lake and Cook Counties and 1/3 of St. Louis County.

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: Susan Frankowski, Bob Hewitt, Bob Reid, Marjory Ryan and Sally Westby. They join Sandy Butler, Jerry Johansen, Fred Morris and Tim Nelson.

CLPOA Website. MLA (Minnesota Lakes Association) has 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. Check out our site Address: www.mnlakes.org/caribou and the valuable information on the MLA website: www.mnlakes.org

Meeting Adjourned. A motion made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Vaughan, Secretary