

Spring Meeting Notes
5/24/08
Lutsen Lutheran Church

CLPOA President Bill Dunn opened the meeting with introductions of the Board Members (Present: Sally Westby, Marj Ryan, Bob Hewitt, Diana Kamp, Louise Suomi, Pat Vaughan, Larry Mullins, Fred Morris. Absent: Jesse Neihart, Bob Reid)

TREASURER: Louise Suomi gave an update on the financials and reported an account balance of \$4138.66. It has been decided that dues may be paid at any time of the year including the spring or fall meeting.

CRIME WATCH: Sue Frankowski happily reported that there has been no report of crime in the Caribou Lake area. Signs are still available for purchase and she will help anyone set up their crime watch list or answer any questions. Sheriff Falk asked that we all be very careful in the early boating season; wear our life jackets because the water still remains very cold.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING: Bill was happy to report that all Bob Reid's hard work paid off in the award of a STARR GRANT to help pay for expenses to monitor the water quality of our lake. This took a great amount of effort on Bob Reid's part and even had to be resubmitted with changes. **Thank you Bob for your great work!** This will help Pat Vaughan to continue his work-**Thank you Pat for your many hours of service!** Pat Vaughan reported that Dave Stark resigned his position as Cook County Water Plan Coordinator and Carla Sunberg has now stepped into that position. You can access information about the secchi disk reading and other water quality information from our CLPOA website. <http://www.mnwaters.org/index.php?uberKey=1253>. Additionally, a water quality seminar is to be held on June 3rd for volunteer training. Pat described his monitoring work and reported that three sites per month will be tested this summer. Pat has invested a lot of his own money in monitoring and the STARR grant is one way to help eliminate the costs. CLPOA member Ceil Neihart suggested we at least pay for the cost of Pat's boat gas! Tim Nelson, county attorney was also suggested to be contacted to see if some of the costs could be spread out among the watershed owners under AUAR rather than just the CLPOA bearing the costs. The next step will be to begin creating a Lake Management Plan.

SCHOOL TRUST LAND: Diana Kamp gave a quick summary of the land that was sold from the school trust and spoke about what land is still owned by the school trust (many feet of undeveloped shoreline). She reported that money made from such sales goes to a permanent school fund spread amongst all the schools in the state, not just Cook County. It appears that pressure is being put on the legislature to aggressively pursue money from any avenue for the schools. We need to contact our legislatures and talk with them about conservation vs education and how this is not a good solution. One possible solution is to negotiate trading prime land that produces timber with pristine shoreline and then creating wildlife manages areas. (Another example is John Foster and how he created a conservation easement for his land). Diana has put herself on the list of persons notified when public lands come up for auction. The DNR Website does identify which lands are intended for sale.

RECLASSIFICATION OF SHORELAND: Larry Mullins is the representative to Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District. He reported that currently they are reviewing shoreline classification. Caribou Lake is currently zoned as recreational development with few restrictions. We would like to have that changed to more restrictive development in order to protect water quality, lake habitat, aesthetics and property values. Cook County has determined that our lake is in the top 3 lakes to review for classification. The DNR classifications are: Special Natural Environment, Natural Environment, Special Recreational Development, Recreational Development and General Development. Funding for the project comes from STAR Grant, and Board of Water and Soil Resources.

FIREWISE: The brush pit is now up and running. The pit is self-service, dawn to dusk, and open until the end of November. There is a clearly marked area for dropping off your brush. Thanks to Tom Fredeen and Sharon Hexum Platzer for volunteering to monitor the brush pit!

DRY WELL: Installed and ready for use.

FISHERIES UPDATE: Bill reported that he tagged along when the fish were shocked according to treaty rights granted to Native Americans. Just after ice was out the fish were shocked and data was collected. Results were to be available in February.

TREE REPORT: Bob Hewitt reported that trees are replanted every two years. Prior to last year only 15% of the 300 trees survived, especially with our tough conditions. Last year happily 80-90% of the 300 trees survived. The majority not surviving was due to vehicles (snowmobile or ATVS) running over them.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE: Each year an audit of our financials is completed in accordance with rules under 501c3 nonprofit. Last years audit showed that all was in order and in compliance.

ENVIROMENTAL COMMITTEE: Two horses moved into the Caribou Lake area and it was determined that a conditional use permit was necessary in order the board the horses here. The permit process was undertaken and permit granted with a few special condition in order to protect the lake from potential runoff.

FALL MEETING: The focus of our fall membership meeting will be HISTORY. Please, if you have anyone with a wealth of information about our lake and it's history or someone willing to share stories about life on the lake long ago, please contact any board member!