

CARIBOU LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION (CLPOA)

Saturday September 1, 2012

9:45 a.m. – 12 Noon

Cathedral of the Pines – Youngdahl Lodge

ANNUAL MEETING

CLPOA Board Members Present: Diana Kamp, Fred Morris, Larry Mullen, Bob Reid, Louise Suomi, Sally Westby. Board members excused: Bill Dunn, Pat Vaughan

1. Call to Order – the meeting was called to order by board president Larry Mullen at 10 a.m.

2. 2011 Annual Meeting Notes – It was MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting be approved. Motion CARRIED.

3. Treasurer's Report – Louise Suomi reviewed the treasurer's report (appendix A). The organization started the year with \$3812.20 in the bank and currently has \$3441.64.

4. Cook County Commissioner Bruce Martinson

4.1 Commissioner Martinson provided an update on the status of broadband in the County. Several issues remain to be resolved but once they are broadband could be available as soon as Feb/March 2013 in the west end of the County. The status of the Community Center is the issue that Martinson hears the most about from constituents. He expects the project to move forward. Three of the five county commissioners are strong supporters. In response to a question from Lance Johnson, Martinson said it was too late for a referendum on the issue although he would have personally supported one.

4.2 Questions from the floor - Several association members raised concern about the status of School Trust Lands bordering Caribou Lake. Recently passed legislation increases the likelihood they could be sold and developed. Discussion ensued about options for ensuring their protection including what the County might do in this regard.

5.0 Committee Reports

5. 1 School Trust Land – Board Member Fred Morris is leading the CLPOA effort to ensure continued protection of School Trust Lands bordering Caribou Lake. He has met with others working on the issue in the State to see what amendments might be

made to the new law to protect parcels like those on Caribou that are ecologically important and lack exploitable resources (e.g. minerals) that could benefit the trust. Bruce Martinson suggested that association members Karen Evens and Tim Nelson consider how the AUAR done for Caribou Lake might be used to ensure continued protection of the School Trust lands.

5.2 Lake Management Report Card & Expanded Lake Sampling – Bob Reid reviewed CLPOA's Lake Management report card (appendix B). The two main issues are water quality and public lands protection.

In general, water quality starts out relatively good in the spring and then gets a bit worse as the summer progresses. The association is doing deep water sampling beginning this year and working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to learn more about the chemistry of Caribou Lake to better understand what can be done to enhance water quality. Larry Mullen showed members equipment that is being used for the deep water sampling.

5.3 Cook County Coalition of Lake Associations (CCCOLA) – Diana Kamp reported that the Cook County COLA is working with other COLA's to form a statewide collaborative to work on issues such as shoreline standards, protection of public lands and invasive species. The Cook County COLA has been instrumental in sponsoring Septic Workshops that have been well attended by property owners, developers and real estate agents in the County.

Bob Reid noted that representatives of other lakes in the County have the same concerns and problems as does CLPOA. It is helpful to know how much we have in common. Pike Lake representatives have expressed interest in working with CLPOA on a number of issues.

6.0 DNR Fisheries – Steve Persons of DNR Fisheries said that Caribou Lake is one of the most important lakes in the County for fisheries management. The last fish population assessment on Caribou was done in the summer of 2011 and showed a good walleye count although not as high as had been hoped. The next sampling will be done in 2014. The goal of the assessment is to determine whether or not stocking needs to be done again.

Persons said the lake still contains small mouth bass and it is hoped that anglers will take more of them. The number of bass is not particularly high in the assessments. The number of northern pike appears stable. The assessments are continuing to find a small number of crappies which do better as lakes in the area warm up. It is not clear yet how

the assessment information relates to water quality. As more information is gathered and better assessment tools become available, there will be a better understanding.

In response to questions, Persons said that bass were stocked in the 1930's and 1950's but have not been stocked in Cook County since the 1960's. Walleye were stocked in 2009 although it is not clear how effective the stocking was. People should take more bass if they can. It would not be a bad idea at this point to leave pan fish. There are still some suckers in the lake but the last netting showed a low number so they are not having much effect on the fish population. Northern pike will take suckers but prefer bass.

The Fond du Lac band does its own fish assessment in the fall and shares information with the DNR. Jon Westby reported on his ride along with the tribe in 2011.

The number of fish in the lake has been dropping slowly since the early 1970's with the size of fish relatively stable. The highest count ever in Caribou Lake was in 1951 at 70/net.

More information is available on the DNR website and in the DNR's Grand Marais office.

7.0 CLPOA Stewardship Awards – were presented by Larry Mullen to Karen Evens, former Cook County Water Planner and current PCA staff member, and to Sally Westby, retiring CLPOA board member.

8.0 Issues from the floor

8.1 Variance requests – In response to a concern raised by Lance Johnson, Kamp said that notices about variances are sent to CLPOA. The board will discuss how it might enhance communication about variances with CLPOA members.

8.2 Criminal activity – The Sillmans reported on a break in at their property where tools were stolen.

9.0 Board Election for 2012 – 2014

It was MOVED and SECONDED that Bob Reid and Bob Hewitt be elected to additional terms on the board. Motion CARRIED

Chair Mullen encouraged CLPOA members to consider service on both the board and on committees. In addition, help is needed with mailings and with water sampling.

10.0 Adjournment – 11:55 a.m.