

CARIBOU LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Saturday September 3, 2011

9:45 a.m. – 12 noon

Cathedral of the Pines: Youngdahl Lodge

Meeting Notes

CLPOA Board Members Present: Bill Dunn, Bob Hewitt, Diana Kamp, Larry Mullen, Jesse Neihart, Bob Reid, Louise Suomi, Pat Vaughan, Sally Westby . Absent: Fred Morris

1.0 Call to order – the meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Board Chair Larry Mullen. Board Members present introduced themselves.

2.0 2010 Annual meeting notes – It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** that the minutes of the 2010 Annual meeting be approved. Motion **CARRIED**.

3.0 Treasurer's Report - Louise Suomi presented the treasurer's report (appendix A). As of the end of August 2011 there is \$3, 696.05 in the checking account. The report includes dues collected from 55 members prior to 9/3/11. Those who paid at today's meeting will be included in a subsequent report.

At the request of Chair Mullen, new CLPOA members and those who typically cannot attend the annual meeting were introduced.

4.0 Broadband Update – Joe Buttweiler, Arrowhead Electric

Currently Arrowhead Electric is installing orange fiber optic conduit in the Caribou Lake area so that broadband internet access can be provided. Joe showed examples of the cable as well as examples of the box that will need to be mounted outside dwellings and businesses. If a property owner signs up for broadband a second box will need to be installed inside the property. The goal is to have all homes in Cook County able to be connected to the internet by 2012.

The pricing for services has not yet been decided. Basic phone service will likely be \$16-20/mos. The cost of basic internet will be approximately \$45-50/mos. Arrowhead is still looking at what will be provided for television.

In response to questions Joe said that

- Residents who sign up for cable can keep their current phone service if they wish.
- There will probably **not** be a seasonal cable rate at first.
- The signed form that many residents returned gives Arrowhead permission to install cable between the electric meter and the residence. Typically installation will follow the power lines. If lines are overhead, the cable will be overhead. If lines are underground, the cable will be underground. In some cases, it might be easier or better to run the cable down the edge of a driveway. Residents who don't want cable installed on/near a driveway should let Arrowhead know.
- To connect to broadband, wiring will need to be installed inside a house. Arrowhead will have a list of recommended contractors who can do the interior wiring. Residents can also use a wireless router instead.
- The exterior box will be installed first. Then if a resident wants broadband service, work will be done inside.

- Wireless routers – Arrowhead will provide information about which router(s) to purchase and will likely get them in bulk and sell them at cost.
- There will be separate boxes for electrical and broadband.
- Protection of vegetation – there are no guidelines per se. Arrowhead has an electrical easement but if the contractors see vegetation in the way and could go down the driveway to avoid it, they will go down the driveway. The contractor is responsible for locating existing utility lines and replacing any that are damaged.
- All cable on White Sky Trail will be underground.
- There is not sufficient staff to notify property owners when digging is going to occur. The underground work should be completed this fall before the ground freezes. Overhead work will begin in November – December. Some overhead work could also be done during the winter of 2012.
- Wherever possible cable will be placed at least 18 inches underground. In areas where that is not possible, the contractor will go as deep as possible. Fiber optic cables do not interfere with electrical lines.
- The exterior box for broadband will typically be placed within 6ft of where the electrical box is located. If it is not clear where the main power is located, the contractor will look for the main entrance to the residence.
- The contractor chosen for this work had the best record of those interviewed in working with residents.

Chair Mullen thanked Joe for his clear and thorough presentation. He also thanked him for contacting CLPOA prior to the installation of cable along the Caribou Trail so the trees planted by CLPOA could be protected. Anyone with questions can contact Joe at the Arrowhead office 218-663-7239.

5.0 Country Commissioner Bruce Martinson

Commissioner Martinson provided an overview of Cook County budget challenges. There are many requests for funding and increasing needs. There is no way the County can fund them all. Part of the funding challenge is due to the reduction in local government aid from the State. Taxes are likely to go up for property owners because of a reduction in what the State is giving as a homestead tax credit.

In response to questions, Commissioner Martinson acknowledged that some city/county projects have not been moving forward as quickly or as smoothly as some had hoped. There are lots of entities involved and many differences of opinion.

Residents expressed concerned about the community center project, the Lutsen golf course and about long term debt and operating expenses. Residents thanked the Commissioner for listening to their concerns and for his service to the community.

6.0 Lake Water Quality

6.1 Water Quality Sampling - Pat Vaughan reported that took water quality improved slightly based on the samples taken this year. However, the overall water quality in Caribou is still in the lowest 20% for lakes in Cook County.

CLPOA has been recognized for its efforts in organization, water quality testing and for the fact that we now have 100 % septic compliance. In response to a question from Lance Johnson, Bob Reid said that ultimately our efforts should pay off in better water quality. The lake is not deep and little changes can result in big visible changes.

6.2 Loon report – Pat Vaughan

Six adults were observed in July. While a nest started on the island, it appears to have failed. Ducks have been using the loon platform purchased by CLPOA. Pat plans to remove the canopy from the platform in hopes that this will encourage loons and discourage ducks. Kathy Hewitt reported seeing a loon with two chicks near Dunn's point this summer.

6.3 Caribou Lake Management Plan Report Card (appendix B) – Bob Reid

The report card shows that CLPOA has done major work on water quality and on gathering information about public lands. Work needs to be done on issues regarding the public access and on invasive species. In response to a question, Bob said the County is not interested in pursuing establishment of a no wake zone near the public access as County officials do not believe it is enforceable. The County Water Plan does call for a no wake near the access, however, as well as in two other parts of the lake.

6.4 Water Levels (appendix C) - Sally Westby

Readings of the lake level are being taken at the Westby dock throughout the spring, summer and fall and then reported to the DNR. As appendix C shows, the lake level started out relatively high this spring, but is currently at a record low level since we began taking readings four years ago. This is likely due to the very warm and dry summer in 2011. So far, the readings for this year follow the pattern observed in previous years. The lake starts out relatively high in the spring, drops off during the summer and then rises again in the fall.

7.0 Audit Committee report – Bob Hewitt

An audit was done of activity for 2008-2011. The organization's major expenses have been for water quality testing. Last year \$1000 was spent on this effort utilizing two major funding sources – a 5 year special assessment levied on all property owners in the watershed and grant funding. CLPOA will be using the 1120H (Federal income tax return for home associations) tax return form in the future (since our income derives just from dues) unless there is additional grant funding forthcoming. Bob reported that the treasurer's duties are being done very well and professionally by Treasurer Louise Suomi.

8.0 Cook County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) – Diana Kamp

The COLA has done a very good job of educating county residents and property owners about lake related issues. The emphasis has been on shoreland management and on dealing with aquatic invasive species. There are lakes on the Gunflint Trail (including Sag, Seagull and Gunflint) that are infested with the spiny water flea. Infestation could easily occur in Caribou as well. Diana thanked former Board president, Bill Dunn, for being proactive in getting CLPOA members to focus on the problem of invasives.

The Cook County COLA is joining with 15 other COLAs to encourage and monitor legislative efforts to improve lake water quality. A letter was sent to the Department of

Natural Resources (DNR) urging them to improve inspection of boats involved in fishing tournaments.

Diana spoke at the spring CLPOA meeting about potential legislative changes to school trust lands. None of the proposed changes were ultimately enacted by the State, but CLPOA will need to remain vigilant as there will likely be further attempts to diminish protection of public lands.

The COLA has been working to get the County to pass an ordinance requiring septic systems to be compliance with state/county regulations before a property can be sold. Chair Mullen noted the importance to CLPOA of working in consort with the other lake associations and thanked Diana for her efforts.

9.0 Board of Director's Nominations – Larry Mullen encouraged those present to consider running for a board position either this year or in the coming years. The following people have been recommended for two-year terms on the CLPOA Board 2010-2011.

Nominations for to the CLPOA Board – 2011-2013

Bill Dunn, Incumbent
Diana Kamp, Incumbent
Larry Mullen, Incumbent
Fred Morris, Incumbent
Louise Suomi, Incumbent
Pat Vaughan, Incumbent

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the nominations for 2 year terms for Board of Directors for 2011 – 2013 be approved. Motion CARRIED unanimously.

11.0 Issues from the floor

There was discussion about ways to get more Caribou Lake property owners to attend the annual meeting. There has been a drop off in attendance the last two years. Larry Mullen suggested that CLPOA consider ways to get more of sons/daughters of property owners involved. In addition, we should consider once again placing the meeting notice in the Grand Marais paper and personally door knocking property owners to remind them of the meeting.

A question was raised about an abandoned orange pontoon that has been on the lake shore at the north end of the lake for years. The CLPOA board will follow up to determine what can be done.

12. Next Meeting – Spring Meeting, - Saturday May 26, 2012 (time/location to be determined)

13.0 Adjourn – 12:00 p.m.