

**Caribou Lake Property Owner's Association
Annual Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2009
Cathedral of the Pines – Youngdahl Lodge**

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Dunn at 9:45 AM

The following board members were present: Bill Dunn President, Sally Westby Vice President, Louise Suomi Treasurer, Larry Mullen Secretary, Jesse Neihart, Bob Reid, Pat Vaughan, Bob Hewitt and Diana Kamp. Absent : Fred Morris

Guests: Paul Nelson (Firewise) ,Tristan Beaster (Cook County Soil and Water), and Karen Evans (Cook County Soil and Water).

Sally Westby made a motion to approve the August 30, 2008 Annual Meeting Minutes. Tim Nelson seconded the motion. There was no discussion from the floor and were approved by an unanimous vote

Treasury Report: Louise Suomi reported we have a \$3,103 bank balance. 41 members had paid their annual dues as of the start of the meeting. The biggest expenses for the year were for the purchase of two loons nests and the water monitoring testing.

Caribou Lake Stewardship Awards were given to Cathedral of the Pines Camp (Kristi Youngdahl , camp director accepting) citing their hosting of the annual membership meetings over the years and their ongoing good stewardship of Caribou Lake, to Paul Nelson citing his work on Firewise and Bob Reid citing his work on the AARU and Lake Management Plan Grant and Report.

Guest speaker, Paul Nelson, reported on the Firewise activities. The Whitesky area had an experimental "chipper days", where residents could haul their slash to the end of their driveways and have it chipped and hauled away for free. It was a success with 75% of the area residents participating. He reported that discussions are being held on the possibility of building a district heating plant in Grand Marais that would be fueled from slash from local homeowners and logging operations, reducing the need for heating oil now being hauled from Duluth. Grant monies are available for this, with the possibility of applying jointly with Ely. A 1% hotel sales tax is also being discussed as a means for funding the plant. Paul reported that the slash collection area at the gravel pit is being used and may be burned this fall, depending on conditions. New sprinkler grant monies are being applied for. Residents can sign up and get on the list for the monies if they come through. He reported that the Firewise evaluations of area properties are kept at the city and DNR, and are used mainly by the fire departments.

Guest speaker, Tristen Beaster, Cook County Soil and Water Department Conservation Technician, gave an update the the Lake Classification Study being conducted on Caribou Lake. Field studies have been conducted the last two summers on Caribou Lake in an effort to identify ecological sensitive shorelines. Surveys included aquatic habitat identification, near-shore vegetation identification, citizen shoreline description, frog calling , near-shore fish and aquatic animals identification and bird habitat identification. Existing wetland surveys are also being used. The survey information is being put into a database of the recordings of each or the hundreds of lake sections studied, with a sensitivity score being determined for each. Once the database is complete (this winter) , it can be used as a scientific ecological model to influence more restrictive zoning on ecological sensitive areas of our shorelines.

Elections: Five board members were up for re-election, Bill Dunn , Louise Suomi , Pat Vaughan, Diana Kamp and Fred Fred Morris. Nominations were opened up to the floor. Kristi Youngdahl was nominated by Bob Reid. Motion was made, seconded and passed to re-elect the five existing board members and Kristi Youngdahl.

Fisheries Update: Bill Dunn reported that electro shocking would be conducted again this fall by the local Chippewa Native Americans to collect data on our fish population. Any interested parties can tag along.

Environmental Committee update: Getting information on the septic inspections from the county still remains a problem. The Cook county ATV ordinance passed. Members are requested to report any ATV disturbances to the Sheriff as this ordinance will periodically come up for review.

Water Quality, Lake Level Monitoring and Loon Report.: Pat Vaughn reported that water quality samples were taken this year from five sites, on two dates in June, one date in July, one date in August and one date in September. The sites were Cathedral of the Pines (#203), Fosters (#205), Public Landing (#103), Island (#200) and at Neiharts #201. Detailed results can be found by going to our web site <http://www.minnesotawaters.org/index.php?uberKey=1253>, clicking on Caribou Lake Water Monitoring, click on the RMB lab link, click on the Lakes Database under Lakes Program section. Secchi disk readings ranged from 8 feet in June to 6 feet in late August, with water temperature of 48 degrees in early June to 63 degrees in late August. Pat also reported that we had 6 adult loons residing on the lake this year, producing one chick. The loons nested on the island, and did not use either of the two new loon platforms that were put out. Next year, the two platforms will be adjusted a bit, in an attempt to attract the loons. Sally Westby reported that the lake level at the reporting site varies from 2 feet to 3 feet and was down slightly from last year.

AUAR Advisory Committee update: Bob Reid reported that the CLPOA suggestion to have the AUAR district fund water sampling via a property tax assessment for the next five years has passed the various committees and now a public hearing will be held. The cost is estimated at \$1000 a year for 5 sites, 5 times a summer amounting to \$6 per watershed owner per year or \$30 total for the five years. Discussion was held regarding CLPOA funding the water monitoring in the mean time or in the event the tax assessment did not go through. Bob Reid moved and Tim Nelson seconded a motion that the CLPOA fund water monitoring next year in the amount of \$600. The motion passed unanimously.

Cook County Coalition of Lakes (CCoLA) update: Diana Kamp handed out a summary of 2009 activities. Highlights included 1) A draft of the Cook County septic system ordinance has been completed with significant input from the CCoLA particularly in the point of sale inspection requirement. 2) A trade between the DNR and a private landowner is being considered again for property on the Caribou trail between Caribou and Tait lakes. 3) Efforts are being made by the CCoLA members to make sure proper signage about invasive species and clean boat practices exist at public accesses. 4) State rules and regulations pertaining to the rental of Cook county lakeshore properties were reviewed. All rentals must access a lodging tax from 1 to 4 % and 5) The Cook County ATV club is working to open the North Shore Snowmobile Trail for ATV use. It crosses the Superior Hiking trail above Caribou Lake. According to a DNR study "No significant portion of the trail corridor aside from the 6.4 miles already designated open to ATV use could sustain ATV use in its current condition."

Lake Management Plan: Breakout sessions were held for the following focus areas of the plan to obtain member goals and actions. 1)Water based, 2)Land based, esp. controls, 3)Shoreland protection 4) Water use, 5)Life style/Waste mgmt esp. septic systems, 6)Fisheries and wildlife, 7) Stormwater mgmt & Wetlands, 8)Others.

The spring meeting is scheduled for Saturday May 29, 2010 with location to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

