

**CARIBOU LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION  
(CLPOA)**

**Spring Informational Meeting**

Saturday May 26, 2012

9:45 a.m. – 12 noon

**Meeting Notes**

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

**1.0 Call to order** - at 10 a.m. by President Larry Mullen who then introduced the board members present (see above).

**2.0 Treasurer's Report** – Louise Suomi reported that the balance in the treasury at the end of 2011 was \$3812.00

**3.0 Guest Speakers**

**3.1 Cook County Commissioner Bruce Martinson** - reviewed a number of items:

- The Lutsen Water Project was funded by the State Legislature in the 2012 bonding bill and provides up to \$6 million if needed to provide water for the Superior National golf course and Lutsen Mountain and for a treatment plant for businesses that need potable water. By 2016 businesses will not be allowed to take water from the Poplar River. In addition to the \$6 million from the state, there is a local contribution required from business owners.
- Community Center Project – has been downsized. The building will likely be smaller than originally proposed and attached to the school. Consideration is being given to have the YMCA manage the facility. Funding is coming from the 1% state sales tax fund established by Minnesota voters in 2009 for arts and the environment. A deficit is still projected and will need to be made up from the County and City recreation budgets.

Bob Reid commented that the operating cost of the facility seemed to be a major concern. Commissioner Martinson said that he wanted to make sure there would be enough actual users (members) before going ahead with the project.

Lance Johnson said he was very impressed with the new library in Grand Marais.

Bill Dunn spoke favorably about the County's newly adopted Septic Ordinance. County staff are doing a good job. CLPOA is looking forward to strong enforcement of the ordinance.

**3.2 Arrowhead Electric** – a representative of Arrowhead could not be present but a flier was handed out (appendix A) to address questions. Chair Mullen noted that Arrowhead wanted to have service ready this spring but is now hoping to provide service by the end of 2012/early in 2013.

#### 4.0 Environment Committee – Fred Morris is the new chair of the Environment Committee.

- **Septics** - A program on septic maintenance is being considered for the fall CLPOA meeting. The standard for pumping a septic is every three years. The best time to have your septic pumped is in the spring/summer. Those present were encouraged to remind their neighbors of this timeline and encouraged to follow it themselves.
- **School Trust Land** – the 2012 legislature transferred stewardship of school trust lands from the DNR to a committee of the legislature. The committee's mandate is to raise money for the state's schools from the school trust lands. In contrast, the DNR focus had been to manage the lands to both raise funds and to protect the environment.

The environment committee will be reviewing the newly enacted legislation over the summer and report back in the fall regarding the particulars of the law. The law could have a significant impact on the quality of life on Caribou Lake. There is a substantial tract of school trust land at the north end of Caribou that is undeveloped and likely not amenable to logging/mining but could conceivably be sold to raise funds.

**White Pine Blister Rust** – Bill Dunn talked briefly about white pine blister rust and passed around a sample of an infected branch. Branches on a white pine that have turned rust color should be cut off immediately to stop the spread of the disease.

**Lake Water Quality Sampling** – committee members thanked Pat and Barb Vaughan for their continuing work sampling water on Caribou Lake. Bob Reid reported that while Caribou did not achieve the phosphorous goal set in our Lake Management Plan of 15 parts per billion, the amount of phosphorous in the lake was not appreciably different last year than it had been in recent years (appendix B).

It is interesting to note that both phosphorous and chlorophyll-a seem to increase dramatically in August. Bill Dunn and Bob Reid have been talking with the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) and a limnologist about what could account for the heavy algae blooms in late summer. One way to find out is to sample the lake bottom to get an idea about what is occurring and what the remedies might be. CLPOA and the Cook County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) applied to Arrowhead Electric for a grant to purchase equipment to do this type of lake bottom sampling. However, Arrowhead did not have sufficient funds to cover the purchase. Biz Clark of the COLA plans to approach the COLA board to see if they would agree to purchase the equipment instead and share it among member lakes.

Tim Nelson suggested that CLPOA buy the needed equipment itself and then rent it to other interested lakes.

In response to a question from Lance Johnson, Bob Reid said that doing the sampling is important since lake water quality is a primary value on Caribou Lake. The cost of the equipment/sampling etc is about \$900. Johnson suggested this would be money well spent

and volunteered to personally contribute \$100 towards the purchase if the Board would agree to buy the equipment itself. Mullen said the board would discuss the equipment purchase at its next regular board meeting.

**Loon Report** – Pat Vaughan reported on the two loon platforms CLPOA purchased last year. Ducks nested on them last year but not loons. Pat has been in touch with representatives of another lake for advice on what to do to encourage loon nesting.

**5.0 Recognition of Barb Vaughan** – Larry Mullen presented Barb Vaughan with a gift certificate for her tireless work keeping the CLPOA website running.

## **6.0 Issues from the floor/Upcoming Events**

- **Cluster flies** - have been a problem for some cabin owners. There is information about how to handle cluster flies on the Minnesota Extension Service website. Tim Nelson reported that he hired an exterminator who came in August to deal with cluster flies at his cabin.
- **Fish Stocking** – Jon Westby went as the CLPOA representative on an official fish counting expedition last fall. A large number of small walleye were found which suggests that in a few years, we could see better walleye fishing.
- **Caribou Lake Flotilla and Potluck** – will be held on Saturday July 7 at 2 p.m. Residents are encouraged to parade their water craft around the northwest bay of Caribou Lake (between Dunn’s point and the public access) and then proceed to the public access for a potluck picnic and CANOE races. Caribou lake residents their families and visitors are invited. (Appendix C)

**Friends of the Boundary Waters Association** - Paul Reneissen encouraged those interested in water quality and related issues to visit the website of the Friends of the Boundary Waters Association and consider becoming members.

## **7.0 Ilena Berg – Water Plan Coordinator, Cook County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)**

- **Invasive Species** - Ilena reminded those present of the importance of checking boats and cleaning them to prevent the spread of invasive species. There is a meeting scheduled for June 6 at Hungry Jack for those interested in learning more about this issue.
- **Cook County Water Plan** – will be updated this year. Ilena will meet with the CLPOA environment committee after the meeting to discuss potential revisions related to Caribou Lake. There is a county committee currently working on the plan updates/revisions. Public input on the plan changes will be taken this fall.

- **Septic Loans** – there are still septic loans available for people who want to make improvements including the upgrading of outhouses.
- The County has **rain barrels and compost bins** for sale. They need to be pre-ordered. Check the County website for more information.
- **Septic System 101 Workshop** – July 10 at Lutsen Resort – 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

### **8.0 CLPOA Committees**

The Environment Committee is looking for help in its many endeavors. Those with an interest and/or particular talent are encouraged to contact Larry Mullin or Fred Morris.

Membership and Communications – this committee would like additional members. Please consider volunteering.

Board – the Board is looking for new members. If you have served before, consider coming back. If you have not yet served, maybe now is the time. Your participation is needed.

Address changes – if your address – home and/or email - has changed, let Louise Suomi know so we can update the CLPOA records.

**9.0 CLPOA sponsored Brush Disposal Site** – the brush disposal site is located at the gravel pit up the Caribou Trail. It is open May – Nov. The site takes woody debris only (no grass, weeds) and no dumping of appliances, furniture etc.

### **10.0 Adjourn – 12 noon**

**11.0 Annual Meeting – Labor Day weekend Saturday Sept 1 @9:45 a.m. – 12 noon.**  
Location to be announced