

## CARIBOU LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION (CLPOA)

SATURDAY MAY 24, 2014 - Spring Meeting  
10:00 am - 12:00 noon  
Lutsen Town Hall

CLPOA Board members present: Larry Mullen, Bob Reid, Bob Hewitt, Louise Suomi, Julie Bittinger. Board Members excused: Bill Dunn, Fred Morris.

Call to Order - the meeting was called to order at 10 am by president Larry Mullen.

Treasurer's Report presented by Louise Suomi - balance of \$4,631.69 with additional dues still being collected. Reimbursement for water testing has been received.

Cook County Commissioner Bruce Martinson -

1. New county administrator has moved to Lutsen
2. The County Board voted to not renew participation in AUAR but, the County Board did pass a motion to continue monitoring of Caribou, Ward, Agnes and Bigsby. (Applause from those attending Spring Meeting)
3. Spear fishing -due to late ice out, was not done this spring. This is a complicated issue, and Bruce will continue to communicate with representatives from Tribe.
4. 2015 will see money given to counties to combat invasive species in lakes. Bob Reid asked Bruce to lobby for as much as possible to be spent on Caribou Lake.
5. Road maintenance money from Forest Service has decreased. The County Board has taken a stand for the Forest Service to increase the amount. One road affected is the 600 Road at the Temperance River bridge near Sawbill Trail. Due to lack of funds the bridge can't be repaired, so the road will be closed from both sides at the bridge.
6. Highway 61 road overlay begins near the Onion River to Cty Rd 7...including widening shoulders, replacing culverts.
7. Gitchi Gami bike trail is still receiving money to expand.
8. Broadband - more crews due June 1 to speed up process. To find out more attend the Arrowhead Electric Annual Mtg on June 7, 2014. Larry noted that Arrowhead Electric was asked to our meeting, but a representative could not attend.

DNR Wildlife Specialist Dave Ingebrigsten -

1. Dave gave a report on mammals in the immediate area - Wolf in Lutsen found dead by Hwy 61 was a collared wolf 2 years old. Collared in the Isabella area and part of the Isle Royale Study. Dead collared moose in the Deeryard area was reached within 4 hours of death, but wolves had eaten much of moose.
2. Wolf/moose predation mortality is higher than expected compared to previous studies. Moose numbers are down by 1/2 in the last 10 years by aerial counts. The last 2 years the numbers are more stable, but the trend is downward. Due to new collars, the DNR is able to get to a dead moose within 4-5 hours. An on-site autopsy is performed. Deaths are also from brain worm, tick infestation, stress of climate change. Historically the moose hunting season was stopped from 1920-1970 due to

decline in moose population. Resumed until last year when halted again.

3. Deer - There have been two severe winters now in a row, so 'bucks only' permits for hunting will be issued this upcoming season. DNR will ask for input from public on deer population numbers. The population has been very high the last 10 years. Currently deer are at a low compared to that, but not low when compared historically.
4. Forest Restoration project is continuing on North shore. Due to logging and the fires in the 1920s, birch were planted decades ago. Birch are not native. More native conifers will be planted to replace the now dying birch.
5. Grouse are at a low number in Cook County. They tend to run in 10 year cycles.
6. Cougar not seen in the last 10 years. Lynx are now breeding here and staying instead of migrating through. Bobcats are not common but more common in recent years.
7. Moose calf study question from audience - U of M and DNR are getting higher mortality from collaring than in a similar Alaska study. Maybe due to high environmental stressors. This year during collaring helicopters will not be used to reduce stress.
8. Wood and deer tick numbers up- never used to be on North shore. The Winter ticks that affect moose have always been here. Raccoons on the rise. Perhaps ticks and raccoon increases are a climate change indicator.
9. Question from the audience on native plants to use on their property - Sugarloaf Cove Nature center has brochures. White cedar, white pine and white spruce are all good native trees. Note - deer will eat white cedar and white pine.

#### Water Quality Plan Report from Ilena Berg

The Cook County Water Plan is a collaboration from citizens and county teams. The report identifies areas needing restoration and protection, including lakes, rivers, streams, culverts, storm run off areas. Educates public and recommends action. Monitors Lake Superior beaches for bacteria levels. Collects hard data to know water quality, including surface and ground water monitoring. Restoration of impaired waterways have been successful. Rain garden by Grand Marais library successfully handling runoff.

Priorities from a public survey- Septic compliance, land use and development, wetlands. Ilena can apply for grants for Caribou Lake; since grants are so competitive, it is a great idea to get into the Cook County Water Plan to increase chances of getting grant.

Question- can Ilena do site assessments for plantings to help shore/lake/water runoff? Yes, but funding is limited and there are waiting lists.

Question- Has our Caribou Watershed been identified to address the School Trust exchange ecological impact? Yes.

Bob Reid Report on Caribou Lake water quality over the last 4 years. Lake sampling 5 sites, 4 times a year since the 1980's. Need to continue to address our Lake Management Plan as phosphate increase chlorophyl A which causes algae bloom and decreases lake water clarity. Before the septic upgrades on Caribou only 50% of systems were in compliance. Now there is 100%. But, there are other issues such as

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livestock management that need inspection and vigilance. Please report violations. Our lake is fragile. Entire report is available.

Bill Dunn report given by Bob Hewitt - No spear fishing this year due to late ice out.

Loon report. Tom and Karl will try next year with enhanced platforms - adding reeds, etc. to platform. Also, platform needs to be placed immediately after ice out.

Water level of Caribou Lake is up 4 inches from this time last year. This is an historic high since monitored by CPLOA. In addition, the water level is 1 foot higher than last November. Many commented on dock damage this year from ice out.

Meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm

Submitted by Julie Bittinger