

# Caribou Lake Property Owners Association

Spring Meeting May 27, 2017

Lutsen Town Hall

Board Members Present: Fred Morris, Bob Reid, Louise Suomi, Larry Mullen, Karl Karst, Tom Rider, Julie Bittinger

Meeting called to order 10:05 am

Introductions made by all attending the meeting (42 people)

Announcement by Fred Morris: suggestion that in the future all CLPOA Spring and Fall meetings begin at 9:30 and end at 11:30. All present agreed.

## I. Committee Reports

- A. Treasurer Report by Louise Suomi- Year end balance for 2016 was \$5119.47 which has held steady for several years. So, Louise recommends no change in the \$20 yearly dues. Our largest bill is \$800 for water quality testing of which 75% is reimbursed by Cook County.
- B. Water Quality Report by Larry Mullen - Larry and Irene measured for water quality at 5 sites around the lake in 2016 as in previous years. 2016 Phosphorous levels were the best of the last 5 years, and the levels of the last 5 years are the best of the last 25 years. Good news! Clarity levels were meeting goals, as were chlorophyll levels. Calcium levels were also measured in 2016 for the first time. CLPOA was highlighted in a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) report for the good job we have done to improve and monitor our water quality.
- C. CCCoLA (Cook Co. Coalition of Lakes Assoc.) Report by Irene Mullen - the first meeting of the year will be June 2. All are welcome to attend held in the Commissioners' room at the Cook County courthouse,. Caribou Lake will be a priority lake again this year for boat inspection at the public landing to educate and inform the public about aquatic invasive species (AIS). After Irene spoke, a brief Report was given by Karen Evens from MPCA on Caribou Lake's place in the Poplar River watershed, part of the Lake Superior Watershed. The MPCA website (click on Lake Superior North) has lots of information on the rivers and lakes in our watershed. The agency is asking for comments and ideas on sustaining our water quality. We are all in this together. Local issues need to be shared with policy makers.
- D. Fall Meeting - our fall meeting program will be on the Legacy of Bob Dunn who was a founder of the CLPOA and pioneer in environmental issues in Minnesota.
- E. Adopt a Highway - "CLPOA" now appears on the Hwy 61 Adopt a Highway sign. Members voted to have litter pick up be the Friday of Labor Day weekend at 1:00 pm. All participating should meet at Lutsen Town Hall. Time commitment of 1 to 2 hours to remove trash from the Town hall west 2 miles. Fred and Connie will supply burgers and drinks at the Town Hall parking lot following litter pick-up. Information will appear in the Fall Meeting notice.

## II. Guest Speakers

- A. Ginny Storlie - Cook County Commissioner - Commissioner Storlie now has a seat on the AIS committee. AIS concerns are a prominent issue in Cook County. Commissioner Storlie gave a report on updates in Cook County including affordable housing units in

Lutsen, Deeryard Lake request to join Lutsen Township, approval for a study on the county jail, Briton Peak/Sugarbush Trail School Trust Land logging by the DNR which will begin 100 feet (rather than 50 feet) from trails with oak replanting. Commissioner Storlie also discussed the on-going work on levy requests for 2017. All attending were encouraged to go to the Cook County website for information on county meetings and synopsis of meetings.

- B. Jeff Forester - Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates. Jeff spoke of the mission of this organization to be a link between citizens and policy makers to preserve the water quality in our lakes and rivers for future generations, and to be a guide to families. He stated that good communication is essential between those who live on and use our lakes/rivers and policy makers. Impacts of pollution, shoreline deterioration and invasive species are seen at local levels but policy makers have the power to enact protective measures. There are 500 lake associations in Minnesota which can be linked to make a difference through MLR. The MLR website has a lot of information, and he encouraged us all to use the website to be active links. Jeff commented on a report on the website about a particularly troublesome aquatic invasive species starry spine wort.

### III. Open Forum

- A. CLPOA Board will discuss providing a scholarship for CLPOA members who want to take the AIS inspector course.
- B. Fred requests that all CLPOA members send in their photos and addresses to post in an online directory. More info to follow.
- C. Rep. Linda Slocum (a CLPOA member who has served 11 terms in the MN House and is endorsed by environmental groups) spoke about a meeting she had with the director of School Trust Lands. This concerns Caribou Lake as there is School Trust land bordering our lake. She learned that currently this land on Caribou Lake will not be sold for development nor has it been designated for logging. She also spoke about the logging scheduled on the Sugar Bush trail area in Tofte. With changes to the set back to begin at 100 feet instead of 50 feet, Linda feels the area will not be devastated as feared.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 am

Respectfully submitted by Julie Bittinger who noticed common themes from all of today's speakers: use respective websites to not only find out what is going on, but also to respond and comment because everyone needs to be part of the 'local link' to inform policy makers of important needs and vital concerns at local levels including aquatic invasive species, water quality, environmental issues, county issues. If we don't voice our concerns, no one else will.