

CLAA General Meeting 8-30-14

*The General Meeting was called to order at approximately 12:50 p.m., by Eric Pearson – President,
Location: Moore's garage*

Eric introduced himself and asked for the remaining officers and Board Members to stand and introduce themselves to those in attendance.

There were approximately 30 plus individuals in attendance according to the sign-in sheet.

Eric asked if the General Meeting minutes from May should be read and those in attendance voted to omit the reading.

Eric addressed one of the subjects covered at the Board Meeting.

CLAA Tax Status (501 3C status)

The Board Members will be looking further into the specifics of attaining a 501 3C status and would hopefully have an answer by the time we meet again in the spring of 2015.

Treasurer's Report: Ann Bardwell-Ross – treasurer, reported the CLAA revenue is less than \$5,000. Ann gave a review of the balance sheet as of August 30, 2014. She is now able to view and pay bills online.

CLAA, at this time, has not applied for non-profit status. However, our memberships of two organizations, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers and Conservation Minnesota, do hold the status of non-profit. We will be looking further into clarification if we would be considered a non-profit by the “umbrella” principle by falling under these two organizations.

There has been a service fee initiated from the bank totaling \$35.40 per year. Further investigation into the cost and will seek to eliminate that fee by combining the totals from the checking and Money Market account.

Loon Report: There were three baby loons spotted on the lake this summer. One baby loon was located on the north end and two other baby loons were spotted on the south end of the lake. Bruce Bjerke reported there was one abandoned egg and he retrieved it from the nest. Bruce turned in the abandoned egg to the DNR, but at the time of the meeting, he had not heard back from the DNR. One baby loon was also reported on Hagerty Lake but Skip wasn't sure if it was a result of the platform nest loaned out or from a natural nest.

Lady Slippers: Eric did the update of the Lady Slipper project in the absence of Roz Johnson. Spraying was done from the Leonard corner to the public access. It appears the deep mowing performed by the County didn't seem to produce a negative effect on the population of the slippers. There seemed to be a nice abundance this year.

Proposed Canoe Route: Last May, after the General Meeting, a meeting was held in regard to the proposed canoe route. Eric shared a brief recap of that meeting in the absence of Roz Johnson.

The CLAA Board's position (a resolution which came about from the Board Meeting held prior to the General Meeting) is CLAA wants to avoid any sort of liability issue. CLAA is willing to work with an organization like RLWD or Soil Conservation District. The proposed area would be from the Dam to the first bridge making it accessible to canoers. Eric asked the members what level of involvement does CLAA want to have at this time. He reinstated the position the Board held and asked if the members felt equally. At this point it opened for discussion.

It was decided that CLAA's position should be "volunteers only" and CLAA would remain involved/active as the project moves forward.

Water Quality: Bruce Bjerke and John Cucci reported to the members in attendance; there would be one more testing to be completed yet this month. At this time, the clarity is 9.5 feet and is looking good for the year. Eric reminded everyone, the testing of the water and all costs connected to it for this year is being funded by a Grant. The efforts by Bruce Bjerke and John Cucci are done by the volunteering of their time and energy in collecting of the samples.

Fisheries Report: Stable for the year.

Membership Dues: A reminder to everyone the dues for membership to CLAA are due in the fall and will remain at \$20.00. Ann Bardwell-Ross interjected a reminder that the CLAA's membership to other larger organizations helps to give them a larger voice on important topics involving our lakes. She also said that if anyone was interested about more information on the organizations CLAA is a member of, she had literature which helps to show the benefits they provide.

Board Membership: The topic of Board Members/seats was brought up last fall and addressed at that time. This year, Bill Johnson and Jean Chadwick's seats were expiring. Skip Anderson asked for both positions to be reinstated. A motion was seconded. At that time, Ann asked if there was anyone else interested. No one came forward. All members were in favor for Bill Johnson and Jean Chadwick to take another term.

Deb's Parade: In July for the parade at Debs, Bruce Bjerke took his Model A and displayed signage representing CLAA. All present gave Bruce a hardy thank you! Eric asked for ideas of what CLAA might do for next year. Many suggested having a handout/flyer to distribute and have the membership form within this flyer explaining the value of the \$20 membership dues.

Fundraising: Discussion about various ways to fundraise for the Association. At this time it was mentioned to think about having the CLAA Memorial meeting at the Debs Community Building. Eric said someone would do some checking for prices. It was thought to be quite affordable, but will check for current pricing.

Proposal of a yard sale (garage) and calling it a “50/50” sale. Meaning 50% of all sales going to the Association and the seller could also receive 50% of the sale for their items.

Skip Anderson stated the importance of someone to volunteer to be the coordinator of this sale; an individual who would be the main driver. All agreed.

Suggestion was made to have this sale on the 4th of July and coordinate with the Debs Parade. Another one suggested the garage sale on the lake...e.g. each cabin would have their own items for sale. It was thought that having the sale in the Community Building may not work for the 4th of July. The building may be used by the Debs Parade Committee at that time. In 2015 the 4th of July ends up to be on a Saturday. The Association will check with someone on the Debs Parade Committee to get info. It could be a great opportunity for the Association to coordinate a Lake Association Garage Sale and membership drive at the same time as the Deb Parade.

Once again members stressed the need for increasing membership as a means to increase revenue. The face-to-face approach was agreed to appear to be the most effective way to increase membership numbers.

A.I.S.: Volunteers from the Association have been at the access approximately 15 times over the course of the summer.

Currently, there are about 175 lakes that now have A.I.S. problems. \$10 million will be coming from the State’s Legacy Fund in 2015 for various projects to combat the spread of A.I.S. \$4 million from the Legacy Fund for grants of pilot programs; \$6 million in bonding for development of research at the U of M.

The Association has an AIS sign (cost donated by David and JoLynn Chadwick) which is displayed when our AIS volunteers are on duty.

Promoting CLAA: Ann Bardwell-Ross shared with attendees an example of a print piece that BCLARA uses to promote their organization to the public. Ann suggested we follow this approach by pulling information together and creating a brochure/flyer promoting CLAA and what it offers to the members as well as the surrounding community.

BCLARA: Ann Bardwell-Ross talked about the experience she had while attending the BCLARA meeting this past year. She is looking for volunteers for next year to represent the Lake Association. The timing usually occurs somewhere around the Labor Day Weekend and is held in or around the Bemidji area. John Cucci volunteered along with a new member/cabin owner.

Dam Issues: Ann Bardwell-Ross and Chris Ross mentioned about the close calls occurring early in spring with kids and some adults shooting over the dam and landing on the rocks. Emergency personnel had been called out. Since this issue, a guard rail was installed with the hope of deterring future instances and/or fatalities.

Meeting was adjourned.