

CLAA General Meeting 5-25-14

*The General Meeting was called to order at approximately 2:30 p.m., by Eric Pearson – President,
at the Moore's garage*

Absent: Ann Bardwell-Ross, Treasurer

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

There was approximately 40 plus individuals attending according to the sign up sheet.

Eric reviewed the topics discussed at the prior Board Meeting. An announcement was made about the CLAA web site being under construction and in the process of not being functioning to the fullest at the time of this meeting.

Eric stated, with Ann's absent there was not a current treasurer report to be read at this time. He was assuming that most items would be remaining the same as fall treasurer's report of 2013. So he could not share anything concrete with the members at the time.

The CLAA Secretary Report from the fall meeting minutes of 2013 was read by JoLynn Chadwick, secretary.

Minutes approved.

Loon Status: Skip Anderson stated that there are three nesting pairs. West of the public access is one nesting about 30 feet off from the shore in a natural nest. There is one at Bruce Bjerke's place on an artificial raft and one in Mason's Bay. One of the artificial rafts has been loaned out to Hagerty Lake.

Water Quality: Bruce Bjerke and John Cucci are the volunteers doing the testing. Once collected, it is then sent off to the lab. The testing is usually completed five times each year at the same location. John stated the quality of the water is better than previous years. In 2013, July 1st it was at 16 feet, then at 13 feet, then at 11.5 feet, and then at 10 feet. At the time Eric spoke and shared the location of the water quality report online and can be reviewed. It also shows the information from prior years. It can also be found from the DNR website at the Lake Finder location. Included is also information about the fisheries data, stocking info, etc. The report has various and useful information about Clearwater Lake. He said that we all have a stake in preserving the quality of Clearwater Lake and thanked the volunteers for all they do.

Fisheries Report: Skip Anderson shared the survey results and at this time, passed around copies of the report. Skip said he would also send the copy to all of the Board Members via email.

Bill Johnson talked with the DNR when they were pulling the nets this spring. They said the numbers of fish were down. They weren't concerned because of the cold spring weather that had occurred. Most of the numbers were down on other lakes as well. Eric stated some facts from the survey: the largest walleye taken was 27" with the average walleye being 8 to 10 inches; the largest northern pike was 40". John Cucci said the report also listed an average size of 30" in the sets taken. This info can all be found at the Lake Finder location on the DNR website.

AIS (Invasive Species): Eric asked for discussion on the topic from those individuals who attended the AIS training which took place in Walker, MN along with the topic of AIS from the State of Water Conference held in Brainer, MN. JoLynn Chadwick said there are numerous organizations that have partnered with the state of Minnesota to combat this issue.

Four people have volunteered to take the instruction to be an A.I.S. volunteer. JoLynn passed around a printed piece to those in attendance asking that each member of a family take one and keep at their cabin and or home as a reminder of what to be aware of for their own boats as well as visitors at the cabin and or their home. Discussion about the sign created and how and where it may be posted. It would be posted when volunteers are on duty at the public access.

MN Star Lakes Program: This is a program with grant money available to lake associations. JoLynn Chadwick said she would continue investigating the criteria and application form to see if our association might qualify to receive the money that is still available. At this time Eric stressed the recruitment of our neighbors to join the lake association and increase our membership. One of the criteria was for the association to have 50% of the area lake home owners and property owners as members. Presently we have about 20 to 25% for membership.

MN State of Water Conference: JoLynn Chadwick had attended the conference held in Brainerd, Mn in May of 2014. This was one example of how grant money can be used to further educate the CLAA Officers and Board Members to improve our lake association.

Canoe Route: Roz Johnson discussed a bit about the proposed route and the meeting that will be taking place directly after the General Meeting.

At the General Meeting last fall, it was first brought to the attention of the CLAA Officers, Board Members and members. Eric said the Board will not make a recommendation at this time. We are at the stage of idea sharing and receiving feedback from the CLAA members.

Lady Slipper Project: Roz Johnson updated everyone about the adoption of a three mile strip and that the County was asked to not spray this area. It's from the Leonard turnoff to the north shore drive.

A small team does spot spraying in this designated area. Last year the County mowed this area quite deep. So, we'll have to see how things go from this deep mowing.

Three years ago there was a count of the flowers and approximately 1,000 stems were counted. Roz thought a count will be done about every five years. Eric asked for additional volunteers if they would be interested in helping in this project.

Deb's Parade: CLAA has been approached for participation and/or interest in the Fourth of July Parade held in Deb's MN. This year will be the 35th year. A discussion from attendees about prior years and who may be attending this year. Nothing definite was decided.

Fund Raising: The income of CLAA is down. There has been discussion on the topic and how can we increase our funds. The first step has to be an increase in membership. How can we get the accomplished? The benefit of the \$20 membership fee needs to be shared with potential new members. What value do people get for their \$20?

Having a yard sale was another idea. This would be something the members could have in the spring of 2015. Location could be held at the Community Center building at Deb's.

At this time, Les Torgerson introduced himself and said he'd like the opportunity to speak. Les Torgerson is the Manager for the Red Lake Watershed District. He too had attended the conference in Brainerd, MN (State of Water Conference). Les said there is grant money available made possible from the Clean Water Legacy Fund. Les talked a bit about the topic of installing a rain garden by the public access. It could be done independently or as an organization project. At this time a question was asked as to how one would go about writing for such grant money. Les said a good place to start is your local Soil and Water Conservation District.

CLAA could set some long range goals if the organization were to be pro-active in such an endeavor. More questions were addressed about driveways and roadways. Less suggested the possibility of native grasses and rain gardens of offset run off from rains etc. Eric said those individuals asking these questions about their personal driveways etc., need to start with their local SWCD for informational resources. Projects undertaken like those discussed are always looked at highly...because of the major advantage they provide to the lake water.

At this point, a question was asked about the status of weeds on the lake and whether there is an increase in weeds. John Cucci said if there is an increase, it may be contributed from the flood year of 1997 when there was a major over flow from Bagley, MN.

Eric asked for any additional comments or questions.

Skip Anderson asked about the status of the roads and ditch cleaning. It was stated that most of the concerned areas are being maintained by the direct residents of those specific areas.

Meeting was adjourned.

Roz Johnson invited those attending the General Meeting to stay for the canoe meeting if they wanted to do so.