

CLAA General Meeting 5-29-16

The General Meeting began at approximately 5:45 p.m. following the pot luck meal.

Location: Roosevelt Township Community Center

**Attending:** Jean Chadwick, Vice President; Bill Johnson, Board Member; Bruce Bjerke, Board Member; JoLynn Chadwick, Secretary–Webmaster; Roz Johnson, Board Member (Lady Slipper Project); and Skip Anderson, Board Member (Loon Project).

**Absent:** Eric Pearson, President; Ann Bardwell-Ross, Treasurer; and John Cucci, Board Member (Water Quality Testing)

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**Guest Speaker:** Jackie Halberg, NE Minnesota Community Coordinator, Conservation Minnesota.

Jackie first shared a bit about her background and what brought her to finally be working for Conservation Minnesota. She proceeded to tell us how our dues paid to Conservation Minnesota are at work. In other words, what CLAA is receiving for the annual due cost to belong to this organization.

In 2011 there were approximately 5,000 to 6,000 members statewide and the majority of those members resided in the greater metro area. After the merger with Minnesota Waters the member count grew to more than 65,000 members. Along with the members, Conservation Minnesota has 15 staff plus contractors at the state capitol. They also work with more than 80 environmental organizations throughout the state of Minnesota.

Conservation Minnesota has a broad range of issues in their portfolio...clean water protection, habitat protection, renewable energy, parks and trails, toxic chemical reform, recycling...just to name a few. With all issues, each and every one of them, they all come back to the assurance of Minnesota’s water quality.

One issue as it relates to water quality is the topic of agriculture run-off which is a big problem in the southern part of the state. This was partially fixed/accomplished with the Buffer Law. However, agriculture is consistently moving further north with each year. Another issue is Poly-Met Mining and how it relates to the preservation of our water quality.

Conservation Minnesota will never be seen as one of a “picketer” but rather working side by side in the office of the governor and on the capitol grounds for legislation. They come to their members for direction and Lake Associations are one of the most powerful advocates for cleaner water. They have the power because of the numbers of members

The Clean Water Promise is a bill being pushed through the legislature and Jackie urged the members of CLAA to sign. (A copy was available at the meeting and can be found on their web site for those members not in attendance.)

Both parties (democrats and republican) are supporting the bill as it makes its way through state government. Here’s a brief excerpt:

- By 2020, state and local officials will have the information, tools, and authority necessary to conserve and sustainably manage the quantity of water in our lakes, streams, and groundwater reserves.

- By 2025, Minnesotans will enjoy lakes and rivers that have 95% less plastic pollution.
- By 2030, every Minnesotan will be drinking safe, non-polluted water.
- By 2040, Minnesota will protect children from mercury pollution. Individuals, businesses, and industries in our state will have stopped adding mercury to our lakes.
- By the year 2050, Minnesotans will have peace of mind knowing that every one of our lakes is safe for swimming. Currently, polluted lakes will be cleaned up, and our most pristine lakes will be protected for future generations to experience.

Conservation Minnesota has a working partnership with National Audubon because of similar goals. One example is climate change and the noticeable decline of loons and other birds. Jackie said if we are interested in having a speaker do a presentation on this subject, all we need to do is contact her and she will arrange for a speaker from Audubon to present on the topic of climate change and bird population decline.

### Q & A:

- Buffer Law and Conservation Minnesota's involvement
- Hubbard and Crow Wing counties and the possibility of converting the pine forest to potato farms. Argil Foods and their proposal would have 92 irrigation wells tapping into the ground water. This issue is still being addressed...environmental study has been requested.
- Loon population decline and its ties to the BP oil spill in the Gulf a few years back. The state of MN should have received settlement funds from BP. Climate change; by 2050 it's projected the loon will not be in Minnesota but traveling further north. The pelicans are coming into this area already...they are moving further north.
- A.I.S. prevention. It is the number one issue for Conservation MN. Jackie said if CLAA had an interest in a speaker for this subject, she could contact an individual from the branch of the MN Seagrass Society who has an A.I.S. expert on staff and would be willing to come and speak to the CLAA members. In the last session at the State, money was to be cut for A.I.S. spending but Conservation MN worked hard to fight and retain the dollars allocated.

Skip asked about the volunteer hours of the A.I.S. person who sits at the public access and who controls the project. Jackie said it is controlled though the DNR and if we have concerns we need to contact the DNR. Conservation MN will assist us if we have any issues that need to be resolved. Skip and all agreed with him that the hours selected for the A.I.S. inspector are not the best. They should be sitting at the access very early in the a.m. and very late in the p.m. Not important to catch those boaters leaving the lake but most important to check the ones coming into the lake. Clearwater Lake is free and clean and we want to continue to keep it clean.

### **\*\* GENERAL MEETING \*\***

Jean Chadwick, Vice President conducted the General Meeting in absence of Eric Pearson, President

An update of fall 2015 meeting was included with the Dockside Newsletter so Jean made a motion to not review again and motioned to approve with David Chadwick second the motion. The fall minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jean Chadwick motioned for the Treasury Report be waived until further clarification. David Chadwick second the motion.

**Lady Slipper Project:** Jean asked for added volunteers when Roz Johnson and her crew go out this spring and do the spraying.

**Water Quality:** Bruce Bjerke and Skip Anderson will begin the water sampling and will also be doing a sampling closer to the inlet this year.

**A.I.S.:** Mike Bolinski (DNR A.I.S. Regional contact) has offered to come to our area and conduct the A.I.S. volunteer training if we can have 12 to 15 rather than the posted number of 20 for a training session. We could hold this at the Roosevelt Township Community Center for a cost of \$10 and we'd have to furnish a boat that would be used for the training. Skip Anderson suggested posting in the Leader Record (for additional volunteers wanting the training) when a date has been finalized. Jean will also be passing around a sign-up sheet at today's meeting. Fosston Radio station is also free if we would want to announce on the radio station.

**Member Drive:** Spring of 2017 will be our major push with Skip Anderson leading the initiative.

**Fall 2016 Meeting:** Skip Anderson will be arranging for a speaker with the subject to be on water safety. Law enforcement will be invited to speak.

**Spring 2017 Meeting Date:** It has been suggested we think about changing the date of the spring meeting. All in attendance were asked to think about this change (one week earlier or one week later) and it will be addressed at the fall meeting.

**2016 Fall Meeting Location:** It was decided to go back to the north shore for the fall meeting. Skip said he will find a location. It was mentioned that the low attendance for the spring meeting was in part to the location at the Roosevelt Township Community Center. However, all were in favor of having a time change. Most agreed this evening time of 5:00 for the meal was successful.

**501 3 (c):** This will be brought up for approval at the fall meeting.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting.