



Ripples

CROW WING COUNTY
LAKES AND RIVERS ALLIANCE
P.O. BOX 53, PEQUOT LAKES, MN 56472

In This Issue

A Wetland Tale
President's Message
CWEPA Fund
Deadline Extended
DEET and
Permethrin Usage
Ode to a
Water Warrior
LARA Membership
Update
Save The Date!
2016 State of Water
Conference

A Wetland Tale

By: *Mike O'Brien*

I live on Lower South Long Lake in Crow Wing County. As president of the lake association I try to keep up with what is going on around the lake. While out of town last February I received an email with pictures showing rocks and boulders leading into a wetland. I contacted Land Services and was told the owner of the land had "temporary" permission to construct a road into his wooded area in order to do logging. When the person bought this land initially I was told (again by Land Services) that the land was forty percent wetland and not suitable for buildings. The person that owns this wetland received a "logging exception" that allowed him to fill in portions of the wetland (even though the area was alongside a stream leading into the lake) and he used taconite tailings to fill in the wetland area.

This is all legal but what concerns me and most of the people on the lake was that none of us were notified-not even the township until after the fact. There was no public hearing and the decision to approve this exemption and move ahead with the project was made prior to receiving public input.

Then in April I received a phone call from a member of our LID board stating that the county was allowing a developer to fill in the wetland next to his property to construct a home. Curiously, a year ago this neighbor that called me had been told that the wetland was tax forfeited and not suitable for building (again by Land Services.) Despite several letters and emails against this

project the TEP (Technical Evaluation Panel) approved the project. The developer was allowed to purchase wetland credits in Morrison county to replace the filled in wetlands. (Another practice that makes no sense!)

The decision was appealed and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources sent it back to the TEP to have a public hearing allowing for citizen



Continued on page 3

CrowWingLARA.org

President's Message

By: *Phil Hunsicker*

"I'd rather be enjoying my lake instead of talking about it." That was told to me a few years ago when I asked someone to consider coming to the LARA annual meeting. I couldn't disagree with his reasoning, but sometimes talking about your lake is the best way to keep enjoying it.

The folks who attended the LARA annual meeting on August 10th came knowing that there would be plenty of other beautiful summer evenings to stay at home and enjoy their lakes. Those who came to the meeting got to hear about the great work continuing at A.W. Research Laboratories, which still misses its founder, Alan Cibuzar, but has found new inspiration from an energetic group of women who were once former employees and are now co-owners of the company. They are an excellent resource for lake associations and homeowners, and they are doing reasonably priced testing on drinking water. If you have fears that arsenic might be in your drinking water, stop by and see them. They are located out at the airport even though they no longer have Alan's planes.

Those who came to the LARA annual meeting also got to meet in person a real live Water Warrior. Ron Hedlund from Mission Lake received this year's award, and part of the reason why we acknowledged him was ironically, because of all the meetings he's attended over the years to keep his lake healthy. Ron received the traditional "Ode to a Warrior" poem along with a beautiful framed photograph by Mike Duval. See what can happen when you attend a meeting? You learn things, you meet interesting people, and you might win an award. Keep that in mind when the LARA annual meeting rolls around again in August 2016. I, for one, will be hoping it rains that night. 🐦

CWEPA Grant Applications Deadline Extended

By Ann Beaver

The Crow Wing Environment Protection Advised Fund (CWEPA



Fund) opened its 2016 grant application period at the August 10 annual meeting of the LARA membership. Grant applications for projects that will take place in 2016 were available at the meeting. They are also available on the LARA web site – CrowWingLARA.org. The deadline for submitting an application is December 15, 2015. The amount available in matching funds for 2016 projects is \$3,000.

Past recipients and their projects are:

2012 – Cullen Lakes Association (\$600), to assist in establishing an aquatic plant identification and management program; Lake Hubert Conservation Association (\$742), to involve, educate, and encourage lakeshore property owners to become more active in monitoring and preventing AIS.

2013 – The City of Nisswa (\$2,500) to replace the trees along the Highway 371 corridor near downtown Nisswa that were lost when the highway was expanded through the city.

2014 – Pelican Lakes Association (\$2,800), to help fund its well testing for water quality project.

2015 – Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District (\$2,500), to help fund the creation of a vegetated catch basin for stormwater control at the west end of Round Lake between Highway 371 and the lake.

CWEPA Fund grants are available to all non-profit or local government organizations wishing to complete an environmental project in Crow Wing County. Proposals must align with the mission of protecting or restoring the natural resources of Crow Wing County. Grant funds received must be matched by the recipient. If your organization is interested in applying for the grant but is not a registered non-profit organization, LARA does provide fiscal services, at a nominal charge, for its member organizations.

Anyone interested in learning more about the CWEPA Fund or making a tax-deductible donation to the fund should contact Phil Hunsicker at 218-824-5095 or by email at phunsicker@q.com. 🐦

DEET and Permethrin For Insect and Tick Control

By Nick Bernier

At the most recent Crow Wing LARA annual meeting on August 10, 2015 we had a fine presentation from Sarah Fogderud of A-W Research about water quality testing, and the issue of DEET levels in Red Sand and White Sand lake (as found by the MPCA in a study earlier this summer) was discussed. A question arose as to how long DEET and permethrin (a very effective insect repellent, often what is sprayed in yards for mosquito control) persist in lake and ground water. Subsequent internet research shows that both can persist for weeks to months depending on temperature, sunshine, and the availability of bacteria and fungi to break down both chemicals. Fortunately both are relatively benign to humans and fish in the expected low concentrations usually encountered. Permethrin is still an apparent suspect that may be contributing to the decline in honeybee populations, although it is a naturally occurring substance in the chrysanthemum flower.

That said, permethrin is highly recommended as a preventative for tick-borne diseases, and in the Brainerd area we are in the very high incidence region for such ailments as Lyme, anaplasmosis, and babesiosis, all three of which can be transmitted by the deer tick or black-legged tick. Unfortunately, these ticks do not seem to have much respect for DEET, and so permethrin spray on clothing and footwear and socks is quite effective in deterring them. If properly applied the chemical will stay on treated items for weeks, often through the washing machine more than once. It doesn't work, and is not recommended to be sprayed on the skin. Permethrin is also as good as DEET at repelling mosquitos, and probably better than DEET at repelling black flies, you know, the pesky ones that bite through your socks! There are several brands of spray permethrin out there. I am most familiar with REPEL permethrin clothing and gear spray and Coleman gear and clothing spray, both available locally and on-line. Remember, although a deer tick needs to be attached for about 24 hours to transmit Lyme disease, there is good evidence to indicate that anaplasmosis can be transmitted in a few hours. Babesiosis is much rarer and usually not likely to affect folks with intact spleens and normally functioning immune systems. Also be aware that the deer tick nymphs, often about the size of a piece of ground up pepper, can also transmit these diseases and are probably the cause in a lot of infected people who don't remember a tick bite. PREVENTION of these diseases is much easier than diagnosis and treatment!

So, judicious use of any chemical is prudent for maintenance of water quality as most of them end up in our water in some form. However, protecting yourself and your family from preventable tick-borne disease is also important. 🐦



Ode to a Water Warrior 2015

By: *Phil Hunsicker*

Sit down my children,
And you shall hear,
Of a respected Water Warrior,
Whose exploits are known far and near.

To many he's a hero.
To many he's a friend.
To those of us who care about lakes,
He's been nothing less than a Godsend.

He's been playing on his lake since he was a boy.
That's a lot of summers in the water and on a boat.
He's grown into a man not leading a life of quiet
desperation,
Like the masses about which Thoreau wrote.

He writes lake management plans.
He dives underwater to map AIS vegetation, too.
He understands hard subjects like chemistry and
Ecology.
Is there anything this guy can't do?

In meetings he's respectful and
soft spoken.
That's tough because you know
how some people are,
But he can have an intelligent
civil conversation,
With a developer, an applicator,
and even the DNR.

Much of his work you can't see.
And for a person like him that's
just fine.
Few human eyes can truly
appreciate anyway,
The beauty of a subsurface
septic system design.

And on County Road 19 he was
"the driving force."
On that, the facts are incontrovertible.
He got it designated as a natural preservation route,
So he could enjoy long drives in his vintage Chrysler
convertible.

"He cares," said one of his admirers,
"And it shows in all aspects of his life."
The lake has embraced him for over 65 years,
So he treats it like one would a daughter or a wife.

Our Water Warrior is a shining example,
That we should give more than we take.
He is literally a man on a mission.
He is, of course, Ron Hedlund of Mission Lake.



Wetlands

Continued from page 1

input and time for email and letters to be sent. A public hearing was held on August 10, 2015. A timely article in the Sunday, August 9 Minneapolis Star Tribune, "From Runoff to Ruin" appeared the day before the hearing. The article addressed unchecked development as the main problem to the ruination of Minnesota lakes, pointing to the resulting runoff and loss of natural barriers as the cause. On August 21, 2015 the appeal was upheld and the TEP reversed itself and the application for filling in the wetland was denied.

LARA sent a letter to Land Services asking if the county's position on wetlands had changed as this has also occurred on Upper Mission Lake as well. The county's response was that no policy change had been enacted and in fact there have been fewer wetlands filled in the last five years.

We at LARA are concerned over the lack of public input when these decisions are made. We are concerned that the Wetland Conservation Act is being misused. We see the intent of the act to allow the filling in of wetlands for agricultural purposes and to allow roads to be built—not to allow filling in of wetlands adjacent to lake shore. Is there a push by Crow Wing County to return tax forfeited wetlands to the tax roles at the expense of water quality?

Stay tuned. 🐦



From left, Ron Hedlund, Phil Hunsicker

LARA Membership Update

By: *Ann Beaver*

As of December 2, thirty-two Crow Wing County lake associations have renewed their membership in LARA and four have even included donations along with their dues. Go to <http://crowwinglara.org/members/member-listlinks/>. If your association is not on the list of 2015 paid members, it's not too late. Download a copy of the membership form (<http://crowwinglara.org/members/>) or send your membership letter (with updates) and dues check to: LARA Membership, P.O. Box 53, Pequot Lakes, MN 56472. 🐦

Save The Date!



2016 State of Water Conference

April 14-15

Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria

Register now by clicking [here!](#)

Hosted by:



Are You Concerned?

Are you concerned about shoreline wetlands being filled in on your lake? LARA would like to hear from you. Take action now and contact Ann Beaver at beaver@uslink.net.

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