

CROW WING COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ALLIANCE (LARA)

Board of Directors' Meeting

Tuesday, May 3, 2016, 4:00 p.m.

Extension Office conference room, 322 Laurel Street, Brainerd, MN

Board members present: Ann Beaver, Tom Beaver, Nick Bernier, Jodi Billy (via Google Hangout), Eleanor Burkett (ex-officio), Sandy Holm, Phil Hunsicker, Mike O'Brien

Board members absent: none

Others present: Sharon Herwig, newsletter editor; Kent Montgomery, CLC staff

The meeting was called to order by Phil Hunsicker, co-president. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2016 board meeting. Ann Beaver handed out her treasurer's report noting the receipt of \$450 in dues and a \$75 donation. There had been no expenses since the last report. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the treasurer's report.

June newsletter: Sharon Herwig said the newsletter would go out the first week in June. She would like all articles to her by Wednesday, May 25. She named several possible articles and solicited ideas for others. Various board members volunteered to take responsibilities for the articles decided upon.

Kent Montgomery: Board members asked Montgomery if he knew of any way LARA could use some of its funds to help develop future leaders in the environmental sciences at Central Lakes College (CLC). Montgomery wasn't prepared to give any specifics at the moment, but he shared a two-year program now in place at CLC. It is a two-year water project on two specific lakes that takes place during the summer months. It examines the relationship of the lakes and the land around them, especially dealing with the input of phosphorus into the lakes from their watershed. He said one non-monetary way LARA could help with the project would be to assist in identifying good lake candidates for the project in the future. Ideas he had for monetary assistance were helping to finance the hiring of student monitors (\$10 an hour one day a week) and helping to pay for supplies and water analysis expenses. He volunteered to put together a proposal to bring before the Board either at its June or July meeting.

Crow Wing County's annual lakes open house, May 13. Phil Hunsicker was approached by Jake Fries, Water Protection Specialist, to see if LARA wanted to have a display at the open house. Board members noted that in past years when board members manned such a display, the number of visitors was minimal and most already were LARA members and knew all about the organization. The Board decided not to participate.

Lake Friendly Awards: Hunsicker thanked board members for approving the expenditure of up to \$450 to help pay expected expenses for this year's awards. Once expenses are determined, event planners will provide LARA with receipts for expenses not able to be covered by the event's other regular sponsors.

Other business: Nick Bernier brought up the filling of shoreland wetlands and asked the Board to stay on top of this issue. Mike O'Brien said he would check with Jake Fries on the status of the wetlands in question. He will also talk with Jeff Forester, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR), to see what is happening with shoreland wetlands elsewhere in the state. Bernier also shared a recent Brainerd Dispatch article on the Mississippi River Northwoods ATV Trail proposal. Board members agreed that even though the comment period on this project had expired, LARA should still send a letter of concern to the County objecting to allowing the use of ATVs on land purchased with Outdoor Heritage Funds. Bernier volunteered to draft the letter and email it to board members for their input and reaction.

Next board meeting: The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 7 at 4:00 p.m., same place.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Beaver, secretary