

CROW WING COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ALLIANCE (LARA)
Annual Membership Meeting

Monday, August 10, 2015
7:00 p.m., Lake Edward Town Hall

Board members present: Ann Beaver, Tom Beaver, Nick Bernier, Jodi Billy, Sandy Holm, Phil Hunsicker, Mike O'Brien

Board members absent: Eleanor Burkett (ex-officio), Mike Simons

Member lake associations represented (9): Cullen lakes Association, Gull Chain of Lakes Association, Horseshoe Lake Association, Lougee Lake Association, Lower South Long Lake Improvement Association, Mission Lakes Association, Pelican Lakes Association, Red Sand Lake Association, White Sand Lake Association

Others present: Sarah Fogderud, A.W. Research Laboratories

Total attendance: 16 (7 Board members, 9 others)

Call to order, welcome, and introductions The meeting was called to order by co-president Phil Hunsicker. He welcomed everyone and asked Board members and others present to introduce themselves.

Approval of minutes and treasurer's report The minutes of the August 26, 2014 annual membership meeting were approved as printed. Ann Beaver went through her treasurer's report which was approved as printed.

Speaker Sarah Fogderud, A.W. Research Laboratories Project Manager, explained the change in ownership since the death last year of A.W.'s founder, Alan Cibuzar. She, along with Sara Ahlers, Laboratory Director, and Stephanie Kuesel, Laboratory Manager, now own the company. A.W. is a certified lab now dealing only with water testing – surface water, waste water, private well water, and municipal water – and projects connected to water quality. She said the value of using a certified lab is that test results are comparable from certified lab to certified lab. The lab also serves as a resource for area residents and lake association. In the future they hope to offer their services to do point intercept vegetation surveys on area lakes.

Board elections Board member Nick Bernier, appointed to the Board in October of last year, and incumbent Phil Hunsicker agreed to stand for election to a three year term. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to elect Bernier and Hunsicker to the Board of Directors for a three year term.

Web site Phil Hunsicker said webmaster Sharon Herwig opted not to serve another three year term on the Board. However she has agreed to continue her duties as webmaster and newsletter editor as a non board member volunteer.

CWEPA Fund grant In the absence of a report from this year's grant recipient, Ann Beaver reported briefly on the 2015 SWCD grant project to create a vegetated catch basin to prevent storm water from Highway 371 and nearby culverts from running into Round Lake. Grant applications for 2016 projects were available at this meeting and are also available on the LARA web site. Phil Hunsicker gave a little background on the grant.

Water Warrior Award Phil Hunsicker explained the purpose of this award and read the poem he had written about this year's recipient. He then announced the winner was Ron Hedlund, Mission Lakes Association. He presented Hedlund with the framed poem and a framed color photograph taken by Mike Duval, former LARA

board member. Hedlund explained many aspects of the work he has done over many years with the Mission Lakes Association in its treatment of both Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed and with water quality in general.

Lake association sharing Don Larson, White Sand Lake, told of his association's efforts regarding the water chemistry of the lake. Uldis Birznieks, Gull Chain of Lakes, explained his association's testing for total phosphorus at numerous docks around the lake twice a year. In hopes of heading off a major infestation, the association also employs PLM to check for Eurasian watermilfoil at various points around the lake, especially areas of high boat traffic. Mike O'Brien, Lower South Long Lake, and Nick Bernier, Mission Lakes, gave a brief history of wetlands on their respective lakeshores that the County Land Services Department has allowed to be filled under the Wetland Replacement Act. In one case, the neighboring landowner appealed the County's decision to allow the fill and the Court sent the case back to the County to rehear because it had not followed the proper procedures.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Beaver, secretary