

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

Tuesday, August 26, 2014
7:00 p.m., Lake Edward Town Hall

Board members present: Ann Beaver, Tom Beaver, Jodi Eberhardt, Sharon Herwig, Sandy Holm, Phil Hunsicker, Mike O'Brien, Harold Stewart, Paula West

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

Member lake associations represented (16): Bass Lake Association, Bay Lake Improvement Association, Cullen Lakes Association, Gilbert Lake Association, Gull Chain of Lakes Association, Horseshoe Lake Association, Lake Hubert Conservation Association, Lougee Lake Property Owners Association, Lower South Long Lake Improvement Association, Mission Lakes Association, North Long Lake Association, Pelican Lakes Association, Red Sand Lake Association, Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lake Association, Sorenson Lake Association, Whitefish Area Property Owners Association

Others present: Arla Johnson; Mitch Brinks, Crow Wing County Water Protection Specialist; Sara Fogderud, A.W. Research Laboratories; Jeff Forester, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) Executive Director; Paul Thiede, Crow Wing County Commissioner;

Total attendance: 34 (9 board members, 25 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 14, 2013 annual membership meeting were approved as printed. Ann Beaver presented her treasurer's report, noting an error in the placement of the decimal point in the CD period interest column – the total should read 1.89. The report was approved as corrected.

Speakers Hunsicker introduced Jeff Forester, MLR Executive Director, who gave the background of his organization and spoke of its work in the past few years. MLR started working specifically on AIS issues in 2009 and frequently addresses these issues with the State Legislature. Hunsicker then introduced Mitch Brinks, Crow Wing County Water Protection Specialist, who explained the work the County is doing and will do with the AIS funding it receives from the State Legislature.

Board elections Phil Hunsicker reported that three board members had decided not to stand for reelection: Jodi Eberhardt, Pelican Lakes Association; George Vilfordi, Lake Hubert Conservation Association; and Paula West, Mission Lakes Association. Jodi Eberhardt nominated Jodi Billy, Pelican Lakes Association, and Harold Stewart nominated Scott Brand, Lake Hubert Conservation Association. Both nominations were seconded. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made, seconded and passed to elect Billy and Brand to the board of directors.

LARA web site Sharon Herwig gave an update on LARA's fairly new web site and encouraged people to visit it and send her any suggestions they have as to items to be included on it.

CWEPA Fund grant Ann Beaver announced applications for the 2015 grant were available at this meeting as well as on the LARA web site. Completed applications are due November 30. She then asked Jodi Eberhardt, Pelican Lakes Association, and Sara Fogderud, A.W. Labs, to give a brief report on how the Pelican Lakes Association is using the \$2,800 CWEPA Fund grant it received this year.

Water Warrior Award Phil Hunsicker explained the purpose of this award and read the poem he had written about this year's winner. He then announced the winner was Mike Duval, Minnesota DNR and former LARA board member. Duval came forward and expressed his appreciation of the award, which consisted of the framed poem and a framed color photograph taken by Sandy Holm, LARA board member.

Lake association sharing Darril Wegscheid, Roosevelt and Lawrence Area Lakes Association, spoke of the association's work with the Leech Lake Watershed Foundation in protecting areas of lakeshore on its members' lakes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Beaver, secretary