

**CROW WING COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ALLIANCE (LARA)
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Wednesday, August 14, 2013
7:00 p.m., Lake Edward Town Hall

Board members present: Ann Beaver, Tom Beaver, Sharon Herwig, Sandy Holm, Phil Hunsicker, Mike O'Brien, Harold Stewart, George Vilfordi

Board members absent: Eleanor Burkett (ex-officio), Jodi Eberhardt, Jackie Froemming (ex-officio), Paula West

Member lake associations presented (11): Bass Lake Association, Cullen Lakes Association, Gilbert Lake Association, Horseshoe Lake Association, Lake Hubert Conservation Association, Lower South Long Lake Improvement Association, North Long Lake Association, Red Sand Lake Association, Serpent Lake Association, Upper South Long Lake Improvement Association, Whitefish Area Property Owners Association

Others present: Jan Pierce, Nisswa City Council; Dan Steward, BWSR

Total attendance: 19 (8 board members, 11 others)

Call to order, welcome, and introductions The meeting was called to order by 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 15, 2012 annual membership meeting were approved as printed. Ann Beaver presented her treasurer's report, which was approved as presented.

Board elections Phil Hunsicker presented the slate of candidates standing for reelection to the board of directors for a three year term: Ann Beaver and Tom Beaver, Cullen Lakes Association; Sandy Holm, Horseshoe Lake Association; and Mike O'Brien, Lower South Long Lake Improvement Association. Mike Simons, Upper South Long Lake Association, agreed to stand for election to the board of directors for a three year term. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to cast a unanimous ballot for the candidates as presented.

New LARA web site Sharon Herwig announced the web site is up and running. She explained briefly what types of things are on it and said additional ideas are welcome. The web site address is CrowWingLARA.org.

CWEPA Fund Ann Beaver said there would again be \$2,500 available in grant funds for 2014. A few grant application forms were available on the table with the CWEPA Fund display. Applications are also available on the LARA web site and she can send them out via email upon request. Completed applications are due November 30, 2013. Any Crow Wing County non profit organization or local unit of government may apply for grant funds; the funds must be used for projects within Crow Wing County.

Jan Pierce, Nisswa City Council member, explained how the city will be using the \$1,500 grant it received in 2013 to plant trees on the west side of Highway 371, opposite downtown, to replace the numerous trees lost to MnDOT's highway expansion project.

2013 Water Warrior Award Phil Hunsicker gave the background of this annual award given by LARA. This year's award consists of a photograph by Mike Duval, framed by Hunsicker, and a framed poem Hunsicker wrote about the recipient. After reading the poem, he presented the award to Dan Steward, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

Lake association sharing session

Topics covered during the sharing session included: AIS in general, curlyleaf pondweed treatments and vendors, the phosphorus problem in Serpent Lake, zebra mussels, WAPOA's presentation to the County Board regarding the formation of a lake improvement district (LID), and the Land and Waters Endowment Fund set up by WAPOA and the Pine River Watershed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Beaver, secretary