

CROW WING COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ALLIANCE (LARA)

Board of Directors' meeting
Tuesday, July 1, 2014, 3:00 p.m.
SWCD Office, 322 Laurel Street, Suite 22, Brainerd, MN

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

Board members absent: Tom Beaver, Eleanor Burkett (ex-officio)

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Phil Hunsicker, co-president. Ann Beaver distributed her treasurer's report for the last month and noted the only activity was the receipt of dues from one lake association and the payment of one year's rental of the LARA P.O. box. She asked if anyone foresaw the need for more available cash than what is currently in the checking account, as one of LARA's CDs matures on July 10. Board members agreed the checking account balance was adequate to cover any foreseen expenses at this time. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the treasurer's report. Ann then gave an update on LARA's 2014 membership, noting five past member associations that had not yet paid dues in 2014. She will send them a reminder via email. As of this date, LARA has 32 members. She also told the Board she had received a request from Gilbert Lake for guidance from other lake associations on how to become a 501(c)(3) organization. The Board directed her to pass this request on to LARA's member association contacts.

Newsletter/Web site Phil Hunsicker commended newsletter editor Sharon Herwig for a job well done on the June newsletter. Mike O'Brien said he had received very few responses to the AIS survey included in the newsletter, most of which came from associations represented by members of the LARA Board. Ann Beaver said she would send an email reminder to the lake association contact list she maintains as secretary. Board members discussed items to be added to the still in progress LARA web site. Items included were: board meeting agendas and approved minutes; dates, time, and location of meetings; board member lake association affiliation; and scanned in copies of member association newsletters that are received in print form. Sharon thanked the Board for the input and reminded everyone that the web site is still in the development stage and all ideas are welcome.

County AIS money Phil Hunsicker said the letter he sent to County Administrator Tim Houle, the County Board, Chris Pence, Mitch Brinks, and several others emphasized the need of the County to involve lake associations and LARA in the decision-making process on how the money should be allocated and used. He said Houle met with him for an hour to discuss this matter, noting the 2014 decisions had to be made quickly, thus they were made "in house". Mike O'Brien, co-president, reported he attended the June 24 County Board meeting and spoke on behalf of LARA, encouraging lake association input into the long term plans for spending the ongoing AIS money. Board members appointed a committee of three – Phil Hunsicker, Mike O'Brien, and Paula West – to meet with Chris Pence and Mitch Brinks regarding the use of future AIS funding and how decisions should be made.

WAPOA, MNCOLA, and LARA Board members again discussed why they voted not to join MNCOLA in 2014. After monitoring MNCOLA's activities and how they represent their members this year, the Board will revisit whether or not to join the organization in 2015. At present, LARA belongs to the statewide organization MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates. Board members also discussed their desire to have one or two representatives from WAPOA on the LARA Board of Directors. Since WAPOA represents so many lakes, it would be logical to have them represented on the County COLA's board of directors, but they have chosen not to have someone on the LARA Board in the past number of years. Phil Hunsicker was authorized to contact the WAPOA president and again ask them to consider having one or two of their members stand for election to the LARA Board at the August 26 LARA annual meeting.

Annual Meeting The annual meeting of the LARA membership will be held Tuesday, August 26, 7-9 p.m at the Lake Edward Town Hall. Jeff Forrester, MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates, will be the featured speaker. Phil will also contact Mitch Brinks and ask him to speak about the AIS money the County is receiving from the State and how it will be allocated and spent in Crow Wing County. More meeting details will be decided at the August board meeting. In an effort to increase attendance at the meeting, board members agreed to call member lake association contacts to encourage them to attend and/or ask others in their association to attend. Ann Beaver said she would send each board member a list of people from several associations to contact.

Water Warrior Award nominations No suggestions were made to the existing list of possibilities.

Other business:

CWEPA Fund Advisory Committee Ann Beaver said the terms of committee members Phil Hunsicker and Mike Duval had expired. Both have expressed an interest and willingness in continuing on the Advisory Committee. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to appoint them to another three year term. Ann reported that the Pelican Lakes Association, this year's grant recipient, had received a grant check in the amount of \$2,800 from the Initiative Foundation.

Nominations for Board candidacy Board members whose terms expire as of the 2014 annual meeting are Jodi Eberhardt, George Vilfordi, and Paula West. George declined to stand for reelection, citing his many years on the Board and his age. Jodi and Paula did not commit one way or the other. Ann Beaver urged all board members to think of possible candidates for board membership. LARA's Articles of Incorporation state the Board shall be made up of between five and twenty members. At present, there are 11 voting members and one ex-officio member.

Next meeting The next board meeting will be held Tuesday, August 5 at 4:00 p.m. in the SWCD Office.

Phil Hunsicker adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.