

CROW WING COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ALLIANCE (LARA)

Board of Directors' Meeting
Tuesday, July 7, 2015, 4:00 p.m.
SWCD Office, 322 Laurel Street, Suite 22, Brainerd, MN

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

Board members absent: Tom Beaver, Eleanor Burkett (ex-officio), Mike Simons, Harold Stewart

The meeting was called to order by Phil Hunsicker, co-president. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2015 board meeting. Ann Beaver distributed her treasurer's report and noted the receipt of dues and LARA's current total assets. She said the 2015 membership of 28 associations is behind that of last year at this time. Two lake associations have rejoined after a year's hiatus, but ten past members have not yet joined this year. She will send them a gentle email reminder in case it was an oversight on their part.

Phil Hunsicker reviewed LARA's past relationship with MN COLA and read its response to LARA's concerns with its organization as contained in a letter LARA sent earlier in the year. After some discussion, a motion was made, seconded and carried to rejoin MN COLA this year. Phil said the next MN COLA meeting would be held at Ideal Township Hall on July 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. He will attend, but since he will also be representing the DNR it would be good if another Board member could also attend. Jodi Billy said she would.

Plans for the LARA Annual Meeting on August 10, 7-9 p.m. at the Lake Edward Town Hall were firmed up. Board members should plan to arrive by 6:15 to help set up and mingle with attendees before the meeting. Ann Beaver will supply coffee, bottled water, and whatever soda pop is still in the LARA supplies she has. Other refreshments should just be cookies and donuts, as that seems to be what people have eaten in the past. Board members whose terms expire as of the Annual Meeting are: Nick Bernier, Sharon Herwig, Phil Hunsicker, and Harold Stewart. Nick and Phil will stand for reelection to a three year term; Sharon will not, but she will continue to serve as newsletter editor and webmaster, attending board meetings as needed. Ann was directed to check with Harold Stewart to see if he planned to stand for reelection to the Board. A.W. Research Laboratories personnel are confirmed as speakers. The recipient of the 2015 Water Warrior Award was selected.

Mike O'Brien and Nick Bernier told the Board of wetland fill on shoreline properties on the Mission Lakes and Lower South Long Lake that has been allowed by Crow Wing County. Board members discussed what LARA's role could/should be regarding this matter. Mike O'Brien will draft a letter to Mitch Brinks, County Water Protection Specialist, expressing LARA's concerns. He will send a draft to Board members for their input and approval. He will send the letter, signed "The LARA Board of Directors", to Brinks.

Board members decided a meeting before the Annual Meeting is not necessary, so the next board meeting will be the Annual Membership Meeting, August 10. The next regularly scheduled board meeting after that will be Tuesday, September 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Beaver, secretary