

LARA Board Minutes
June 3, 2014

Board members in attendance:

1. Sandy Holm
2. Sharon Herwig
3. Paula West
4. Mike O'Brien
5. Tom Beaver
6. Ann Beaver
7. Phil Hunsicker

Board members absent:

1. George Vilfordi
2. Harold Stewart
3. Eleanor Burkett
4. Mike Simons
5. Jodi Eberhardt

At 3:00, the meeting was called to order by Co-President Phil Hunsicker. The Board approved the minutes from the May 6th board meeting. Treasurer Ann Beaver presented the LARA financial statement. The financial statement was approved by the board.

The board discussed the AIS money that will be coming to counties. LARA wants to make sure the money is spent in ways that benefit the lake associations of Crow Wing County, some of which have been spending their own private dollars to keep public waters ecologically healthy. It was decided that Phil would draft a letter to County Administrator Tim Houle, as well as Mark Liedl, Chris Pence, Mitch Brinks and all five county commissioners. LARA will request that the county solicit the opinions of lake associations and LARA as to how to spend the AIS money to get the biggest bang for the buck. LARA feels that this is an excellent opportunity for the county to have an open, honest discussion with those most affected by AIS. LARA will offer to help in any way we can if the county chooses to hold an information-gathering session with representatives of lake associations and LARA. Prior to sending the letter, Phil will share his draft with board members for their edit suggestions. Other county COLAs will be contacted to find out what their strategies are.

The LARA annual meeting will be held on August 26, 2014 at the Lake Edward Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. Jeff Forrester of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates has agreed to come and speak and he has requested LARA to reimburse him for travel costs from the Twin Cities. The board approved a motion to cover Jeff's travel costs at the federal mileage rate.

Phil asked board member to begin thinking about nominations for this year's Water Warrior Award, which will be given out at the annual meeting.

The next LARA board meeting will take place at 3:00 on Tuesday July 1, 2014. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:15 p.m.

Minutes by Phil Hunsicker