

## CROW WING COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ALLIANCE (LARA)

Board of Directors' Meeting

Wednesday, June 8, 2016, 4:00 p.m.

Extension Office conference room, 322 Laurel Street, Brainerd, MN

Board members present: Ann Beaver, Tom Beaver, Nick Bernier, Jodi Billy, Eleanor Burkett, Sandy Holm, Phil Hunsicker, Mike O'Brien

Board members absent: none

The meeting was called to order by Phil Hunsicker, co-president. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2016 board meeting. Ann Beaver handed out her treasurer's report noting the receipt of \$250 in dues and the expenses of \$48 for the P.O. box 12 month rental and the payment of \$150 for MN COLA dues. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the treasurer's report.

**June newsletter** Board members appreciated the good job done by editor Sharon Herwig. Phil Hunsicker said he had heard from one person wondering why the more technical Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (Oct. 17-19) was featured on page one instead of the Aquatic Invaders Summit II (Oct. 5-6) which is geared more toward the layperson. Board members realized they need to give Herwig more guidance in the future as to the importance of various workshops and conferences. The Aquatic Invaders Summit II will be featured in the September newsletter, which will still allow enough time for people to register for it if they haven't already.

**LARA Annual Meeting** Board members brainstormed ideas for a possible speaker or program to generate better attendance. The most popular ideas were holding the meeting at a local brewery or at the new winery/event center going in south of Brainerd. Phil Hunsicker volunteered to follow up on having the meeting at the Round House Brewery and to investigate the various possibilities there. Everyone agreed the speaker/program did not have to tie in with lake and river issues. The date and time will be determined at the July meeting.

**Water Warrior Award** Hunsicker asked for ideas on possible candidates for the 2016 award. One candidate was discussed and board members were asked to keep thinking of other possible recipients. The decision will likely be made at the July meeting.

**Lake Friendly Development Awards** Hunsicker reminded board members of the July 16 awards program at the Land Services Building and asked them to spread the word. The meeting will start at 3:15 with Kevin Woizeschke, DNR, speaking on loons. The awards presentations will follow the speaker.

**Other business** Ann Beaver said she had received the Conservation Minnesota 2016 membership mailing and asked for direction as to what to do with it. Board members agreed not to join it, as MLR is a more effective statewide organization to belong to. She then brought to the Board's attention an article in the WAPOA spring newsletter, written by its president, Tom Watson, which lists LARA as one of the organizations in WAPOA's newly formed "Northern Crow Wing Lakes Association Coalition". Nick Bernier and Mike O'Brien had attended a meeting on the County AIS Plan hosted by WAPOA, but that did not constitute membership in this coalition. The matter will be looked into.

**Next meeting** Since the first Tuesday in July is the day after the Fourth, it was decided to meet the second Tuesday, July 12 instead, with the location (possibly a brewery) still to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Beaver, secretary

