

CROW WING COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ALLIANCE (LARA)

Board of Directors' Meeting

Tuesday, March 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 (via Google Hangout), Eleanor Burkett (ex-officio), Phil Hunsicker, Mike O'Brien (via Google Hangout)

Board members absent: Sandy Holm

The meeting was called to order by Phil Hunsicker, co-president. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2016 board meeting. Ann Beaver handed out her treasurer's report and noted the receipt of a total of \$775 in dues from 11 lake associations. Expenses included membership mailing costs, web site hosting and domain name (for 3 years), MLR dues, and stamps for use by the secretary, for a total of \$435.55. LARA's current assets total \$13,148.45. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the treasurer's report. Beaver also reported she has filed the 2016 registration with the MN Secretary of State and the 2016 IRS e-Card.

Spring newsletter feedback: Board members agreed that Chris Pence's article on wetland replacement in Crow Wing County wasn't really what LARA had hoped for. They decided to invite Jake Frie, the County's new Water Protection Specialist, to an upcoming board meeting to discuss a number of things with him in hopes of building a good working relationship with him.

LARA's top three priorities Phil Hunsicker thanked Eleanor Burkett for her formatting of the document and reminded board members that it is still a working document. If anyone has comments, edits, or suggestions regarding it, they should send them to him. Concerning the second priority bullet, board members asked Hunsicker to invite Kent Montgomery and Jake Frie to the May board meeting.

MNCOLA's legislative priorities Board members discussed the priorities listed in MNCOLA'S article in the LARA spring newsletter, especially the idea of moving AIS from the DNR to the MPCA. Mike O'Brien said the priorities were simply presented to the membership at the last MNCOLA meeting, there was no discussion of them nor a vote on them that he could recall. Jodi Billy volunteered to contact Joe Schneider, MNCOLA president, and ask some questions about how this legislative agenda was determined, especially the reasoning behind the AIS move to the MPCA.

Other business Jodi Billy showed board members the spreadsheet with the results of MNCOLA's survey on how much private money has been spent on AIS prevention and treatment. She asked if LARA had any contact information for the lake associations who had not yet been heard from. Ann Beaver said she would send her the info for the LARA member associations on the sheet. Billy could perhaps get some of the other information from Jake Frie.

Board members agreed there is no need for an April board meeting and set the next meeting for Tuesday, May 3 at 4:00. Eleanor Burkett said she would reserve the Extension conference room if it is available and Phil Hunsicker said he would check into the availability of the small meeting room at the Brainerd Library if it isn't.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Beaver, secretary