

CROW WING COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ALLIANCE (LARA)

Board of Directors' meeting
Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 4:00 p.m.
SWCD Office, 322 Laurel Street, Suite 22, Brainerd, MN

Board members present: Ann Beaver, Tom Beaver, Jodi Eberhardt, Sharon Herwig, Phil Hunsicker, Mke O'Brien

Board members absent: Eleanor Burkett (ex-officio), Sandy Holm, Harold Stewart, George Vilfordi, Mike Simons, Paula West

The meeting was called to order by Phil Hunsicker, co-president. He stated this was the first time a quorum was present since September, so there have been no meeting minutes since then. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2013 board meeting. Ann Beaver handed out her treasurer's report, noting the receipt of dues and donations thus far in 2014. She also noted the checking account balance and asked if anyone foresaw the need to cash in any of the CDs to cover upcoming expenses. No one did. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the treasurer's report.

Web site Sharon Herwig asked for ideas of things to include on the LARA web site. She would like to refresh the home page every two months or so and she also would like to add pertinent articles to the other pages. Ideas offered included: 1) past CWEPA Fund grant recipients and projects (Ann will provide), 2) Water Warrior Award background and recipients (Phil will provide), 3) LID link to the Crow Wing County web site, 4) an obituary for Alan Cibuzar (Phil will provide), 5) MN watershed resources, 6) AIS -- who is doing what regarding treatments.

Proposed County ordinance amendments Phil asked board members to read the proposed amendments and send their comments to him. If called for, he will submit comments on behalf of LARA.

Off season board meetings Due to the increasing difficulty of mustering a quorum of board members for meetings during the late fall through early spring months, Phil asked about the feasibility of holding meetings via Skype or Google Hangout. Those who knew something about the two possibilities said Google Hangout would be the only one that could accommodate enough people, plus it is free. Jodi Eberhardt said she knows a little about it and would send out instructions for it to board members and maybe try a test call.

MNCOLA membership Phil explained some issues that have arisen with how MNCOLA conducts its business and doesn't seem to truly represent its members. He questioned whether or not LARA should join it this year. After discussing the issue, board members decided it would be a good idea not to join in 2014 and send a letter expressing LARA's concerns to the MNCOLA Board. Phil said he would draft a letter and send it to board members for their comments.

2014 State of Waters Conference at Cragun's Jodi said she attended the conference. There were 350 attendees, 50 more than the conference organizers were hoping for. Eleanor Burkett was instrumental in organizing partners to put together the conference. Jodi said there were many very good sessions and some really good in-depth discussions of some topics.

Brainerd Mississippi River Partnership process Phil said this project is now in phase two and has narrowed the area of possible riverside improvements (such as river walks, bike trails, destination commercial development, river activities, outdoor amphitheater, etc.) to the area between the Washington Avenue bridge and the College Drive bridge. Phil is one of 25 or so people serving on the Partnership's steering committee. He will keep the Board informed of the project's progress.

CWEPA Fund 2014 grant recipient Ann Beaver, chair of the LARA CWEPA Fund Grant Committee, said this year's recommended recipient is the Pelican Lakes Association. Its project involves well water testing around Big and Little Pelican Lakes. The grant would be in the amount of \$2,800. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to recommend to the Initiative Foundation that a \$2,800 grant be awarded to Pelican Lakes Association.

CWC Land Services open house for lake associations The open house is Friday, May 9. Board members decided that the attendance is minimal and LARA would not participate this year.

Other business:

MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates Since LARA is not joining MNCOLA this year, board members thought it would be in LARA's interest to join this alternate organization, since it has a broader focus than MNCOLA and also has a strong lobbying presence at the State Legislature. A motion was made, seconded and all present voted in favor of joining. Due to Jodi Eberhardt having had to leave the board meeting before this agenda item, there was no longer a quorum present and Phil Hunsicker was directed to ask Jodi for her vote via email. If her vote is in favor of the motion, the treasurer was directed to send in the membership form along with a check for the \$100 dues. (*Note, Jodi did later vote "aye" via email.)

Newsletter Sharon Herwig said she would like to send the newsletter out by June 1. She went through articles she was considering for this edition and assigned articles to the appropriate people. Deadline for submission of articles is May 26.

Annual meeting Board members selected Tuesday, August 26, 7:00 p.m. as the date and time for this year's annual meeting. Ann will check to see if the Lake Edward Town Hall is available. The director of MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates was suggested as a possible speaker for the meeting.

Next meeting The next board meeting will be held Tuesday, June 3, same time, same place.

Phil Hunsicker adjourned the meeting at 5:40 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Beaver, secretary