

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

Board of Directors' Meeting  
Tuesday, October 6, 2015  
SWCD Office, 322 Laurel Street, Suite 22, Brainerd, MN

Board members present: Ann Beaver, Tom Beaver, Nick Bernier, Jodi Billy, Phil Hunsicker, Mike O'Brien  
Board members absent: Eleanor Burkett (ex-officio), Sandy Holm, Mike Simons

The meeting was called to order by Phil Hunsicker, co-president. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2015 board meeting. Ann Beaver distributed her treasurer's report and noted the receipt of dues from one lake association, the total expenses from the annual meeting, and the payment of the annual insurance bond. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the treasurer's report.

Phil Hunsicker reported he had met with former board member George Vilfordi and presented him with the gift of two wine glasses the Board had approved as an appreciation gift but was unable to give to him last year before he returned to his Texas home. Hunsicker said he had two additional wine glasses and asked if he should send them to former board member Harold Stewart in appreciation of his long service on the LARA Board of Directors. All agreed he should do that.

Hunsicker and several other board members reported on the October 2 County AIS Forum. He also said the County has a new draft AIS plan for 2016 and is seeking public input on it until the end of November.

Board members discussed the need for and lack of a September newsletter. They said they sent articles to newsletter editor Sharon Herwig, although not by her deadline. Some discussion needs to take place between the Board and Herwig to ensure timely publication of future newsletters. Phil Hunsicker and Mike O'Brien said they would talk with Sharon about this matter.

Hunsicker informed board members of the next MN COLA meeting, November 19, in Paynesville. He said since he now works for the DNR he must represent the DNR at the meetings, not LARA. He asked other board members if they could attend on behalf of LARA. Jodi Billy is interested in attending and will do so when she is available, but she can't make the November meeting. Mike O'Brien said he will try to attend the November meeting, as did Nick Bernier. These meetings generally take place every other month in different cities throughout the state.

Mike O'Brien gave an update on the wetland fill issue on Lower South Long Lake. The property owner in question is now appealing the result of the appeal which denied him the right to fill the wetland. In the meantime, the County is allowing him 400 s.f. of fill in the wetland for the placement of a trailer.

Board members agreed some strategic planning is needed to guide LARA in the coming years. Because it is difficult to get the entire Board of Directors together during the off season, each board member was assigned to bring to the November board meeting three ideas of what they believe LARA should be doing to serve its members. Members who will not be at the November meeting should email their ideas to Phil Hunsicker or Mike O'Brien, co-presidents.

The next LARA board meeting will be Tuesday, November 3, same time, same place.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Beaver, secretary