

CROW WING COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ALLIANCE (LARA)

Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, October 7, 2014, 4:00 p.m.
SWCD Office, 322 Laurel Street, Suite 22, Brainerd, MN

Board members present: Ann Beaver, Tom Beaver, Scott Brand, Sharon Herwig, Phil Hunsicker, Mike O'Brien

Board members absent: Jodi Billy, Eleanor Burkett (ex-officio), Sandy Holm, Mike Simons, Harold Stewart

Others present: Nick Bernier, Mission Lakes Association

The meeting was called to order by Mike O'Brien, co-president. For benefit of Nick Bernier, all present introduced themselves. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2014 board meeting. Ann Beaver distributed her treasurer's report and noted there had been no additional income and the expenses were from the annual membership meeting and an appreciation gift for ex-longtime board member George Vilfordi. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the treasurer's report. Since Paula West, Mission Lakes Association, did not run for reelection, Nick Bernier stated he would like to serve on the board, representing the association, in her stead. A motion was made, seconded and carried to appoint Bernier to the Board of Directors until the 2015 annual membership meeting, at which time he may stand for election to the Board.

Ideas for use of LARA funds to benefit LARA member associations and the waters of Crow Wing County

Board members discussed the pros, cons and practicalities of AIS decontamination units and whether funds should be used mostly for education or also for something to put into practice. It was decided to make this a main topic of the Board's upcoming strategic planning session in January.

Reward for kids' discovery of zebra mussels? Larry Wannebo had approached the Board about joining him in awarding a small sum to the kids who are said to have discovered zebra mussels in North Long Lake. Board members were reluctant to jump right onto this, so Phil Hunsicker said he would look into the truth of the claim and the reward could be considered at a future time.

LARA's next steps after the County's September 19 meeting on AIS The emphasis at this meeting was on inspections at public accesses and the possible use of more decontamination units. Several board members questioned how effective inspections and the units are, since most lake associations do not have the money to fund either one. They felt LARA would do better to focus its efforts elsewhere in the fight against AIS, as well as on the many other environmental issues that need to be addressed in the lake country.

Newsletter and web site Sharon Herwig said the next newsletter would go out in December, so she would be in contact with people about articles next month. She suggested the newsletter include a survey of member associations on desired future actions regarding AIS and things for the Board to consider at its strategic planning session this winter. Also, she is working to keep the web site up to date and the information it contains complete.

Strategic Planning session Six of the seven board members present said they will be available for this session in January. The place, date, and time will be determined at the November board meeting. However, it will not be January 21-22, due to the AIS conference in St. Cloud at that time.

News worth sharing Phil Hunsicker said seven awards would be given out at the October 9 Lake-Friendly Development Awards, of which LARA is a co-sponsor. The Candidates' Environmental Forum will be held October 22, 7:00 p.m. at the Northland Arboretum. MNCOLA is planning to restructure to allow lake associations to become voting members. Bay Lake Association supports easing development restrictions on the lake.

Other business:

Rentals of private lake homes Lake Hubert Conservation Association is encouraging lake property owners to submit written comments on this issue to the Crow Wing County Commissioners or to voice their concerns at the County Commissioners' meeting Tuesday, October 21 at 9:00 a.m. in the old County Courthouse. The Board authorized Ann Beaver to send the information regarding this issue and meeting to LARA members.

Next board meeting The next board meeting will be held Tuesday, November 4 at 4:00 p.m. in the SWCD office.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Beaver, secretary