

CLPOA Annual Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2023
Lutsen Town Hall

Board members attending: Fred Morris, Tom Rider, Jeanne Anderson, Karl Karst, Larry Mullen, Sharon Hexum-Platzer, Mike Nicklow, Charlie Austin, Julie Bittinger.

Total attendees: 50

The meeting was called to order by Fred Morris at 10:11 am.

- I. Introductions of all present. Thank you by Fred to the 18+ people who attended the Highway 61 clean-up. This event always happens the Friday before the Annual meeting at 10:00 am at the Lutsen Town Hall.
- II. Approval of 2022 minutes. Motion to approve by Sharon Hexum-Platzer, and seconded by Charlie Austin. Approved.
- III. Nomination of Board members - slate of current Board members who have volunteered to remain on the Board: Fred, Tom, Jeanne, Larry, Sharon, Julie, plus one new volunteer: Lisa Miller-Johnson. Motion to accept the slate by Jeanne Anderson and seconded by Jackie Mlynarczyk. Approved.
- IV. Treasurer report by Tom Rider, Tr. - Expenses for water quality testing, AIS control, wake surfing petition, etc. = \$3404 with water quality testing being the biggest expense. Income from dues and SSD Reimbursement = \$4531. Net income= \$1126. Membership trend is up slightly from Covid years but historically low, and membership still remains a small percentage of property owners in the watershed. Suggestion that members encourage their neighbors to join. And, another suggestion that every 5 years when we can request an amount for the SSD reimbursement rate, we could ask for more. This way all lakeshore property owners are contributing to water quality testing and AIS control. SSD is added to Caribou lake property owners tax assessment, and CLPOA is reimbursed from this. Currently the SSD tax is minimal - \$12/year, so asking for a higher rate would be constructive.
- V. CCCoLA report by Irene Mullen. Get the Lead out Campaign is giving away lead free lures, and collecting lead lures to dispose of properly. Lead is responsible for 20% of Loon deaths. Consider getting your neighbors to get septic systems cleaned at the same time for a better, quicker response from the septic company. CCCOLA is supporting Tait Lake in their efforts to halt the permit for a gravel pit and tar plant near Tait Lake, They have collected over \$100,000 to purchase this land.
- VI. Water Quality and AIS report by Larry Mullen. Our water testing shows levels consistent with our goals. See our website (caribou.mnlakesanddrivers.org) for specifics. Rusty Crayfish population has expanded in population numbers and areas found very quickly since discovered in 2020. Amanda

Weberg from Cook County AIS gave a brief presentation on Rusty Crayfish. A study has been conducted this summer to determine the best traps and bait for catching and removing the Rustys. Pike lake is seeing some success with controlling the population with removal/harvesting. Some other suggestions for control: slot size limit on catch and release Bass, because large bass will eat the Rusty when other species won't. Encourage more trapping, perhaps hiring someone.

- VII. Cook County Report by commissioner Ginny Storlie. Cook County is working on a plan to use Lutsen Town Hall as an emergency site during long power outages. There is a Capital improvement plan to address the 25 County buildings, most of which need long overdue improvements. Question from audience on housing shortage for middle income workers- being addressed with a building which is planned for 50 apartments in GM, and Houses to be built behind Birch Grove Comm. Center.
- VIII. Presentation by Eric Otto on Spruce Bud Worm. See website (caribou.mnlakesandrivers.org) for viewing this zoom presentation.
- IX. Other Business: Wake Surfing Ordinance by Fred Morris. With support from 75% of Caribou Lake lakeshore owners and the Cook County Commissioners, our request to ban wake surfing on Caribou lake was given to the DNR which had 120 days to approve or disapprove. With 2 days remaining on the approval period, the DNR asked for additional information. The Board is working to get this information to the DNR.
- X. Thank you to Fred Morris for serving as President and being on the Board since 2014. In addition, a thank you for his expertise when addressing variance issues and his work on gathering information on the wake surfing ban request. Fred is stepping down as president. Thank you to Bill Dunn who is leaving the Board after his long tenure on the Board. Much appreciation for his valuable contributions on environmental issues. Thank you to Julie Bitting who is stepping down as Secretary and being on the Board since 2014.
- XI. Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Bittinger
Secretary