

**CLPOA 2024 Spring Meeting Minutes**  
**May 25, 2024, 10:00 – 11:00, Lutsen Town Hall**

**Date:** Thursday, May 25, 2024

**Time:** 10:00 am

**Location:** Lutsen Town Hall

**Attendance:** Lisa Miller-Johnson, Mike Nicklow, Julie Bittinger, Sharon Hexum-Platzer, Tom Rider, Larry Mullen, Karl Karst, Charlie Austin, Fred Morris and Jeanne Anderson

---

Meeting started with a social period from 10:00 to 10:25. There were about 45 people in attendance.

**Introductions:** Board members introduced themselves.

**Wake Surfing Ordinance update:** Fred updated the board regarding the wake surfing ordinance that the DNR and Cook County Board of Commissioners approved recently. This is the first ordinance in Minnesota that restricts wake surfing. It is anticipated that other lakes in the State will be looking at this ordinance in order to implement their own restrictions. The wake surfing ordinance states that wake surfing on Caribou Lake be contained to a specific area of the lake. There will be a sign indicating the ordinance with a map of the area where wake surfing is allowed. Wake surfing can only be done in over 20 feet of water and 500 feet from the shoreline - this is why there is a very limited area a wake surfing boat could operate on Caribou. The wake surfing watercraft also has to give right of way (or stop surfing) if there are other watercraft in the area that the wake boat would disturb. Enforcement of the ordinance will be carried out by the Cook County sheriff's department. If anyone notices a wake boat on the lake that is operating in a way that is not in accordance with the ordinance you should call the Sheriff's department or get a licence plate number of the vehicle (at the landing) if possible.

It was discussed that residents would like vacation rental owner's to be informed of this ordinance so that they can let renter's know. County Land Services will be contacted to see how CLPOA can get the ordinance notification to Vacation Rental owners.

Thank you to Fred Morris, Tom Rider and all involved in getting this ordinance passed! This is a huge accomplishment that required dedication and follow through.

**Rusty Crayfish (Aquatic Invasive Species AIS) Update:**

The CLPOA board voted to hire Crawdaddies to harvest rusty crayfish (AIS) on Caribou Lake this summer (June - August 2024). This initiative is taking up a large portion of the CLPOA's funds but this invasive species is becoming a significant issue.

Crawdaddies will harvest for 6 weeks and the Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI) will harvest for 2 weeks. On top of these efforts there will still be volunteer efforts for mitigation. Larry Mullen has been harvesting crayfish on Caribou for several years. Last year he harvested over 6000 rusty crayfish and NRRI harvested over 5000. Lake residents harvested about another 1000. With the efforts of Larry and others over 12,000 rusty crayfish were harvested on Caribou in 2023. Even with this effort, the rusty crayfish are growing in population rapidly so a more robust harvesting effort is required to keep their populations at an acceptable level. Cook County Soil and Water is also sponsoring CLPOA's Rusty Crayfish harvesting efforts through a grant to purchase harvesting equipment.

There will still be volunteer harvesting efforts in conjunction with Craweddies and NRRI harvesting. Larry Mullen and Tom Rider will train anyone that would like to volunteer. There will be a sign up on the CLPOA website in mid June. If you volunteer you will be asked to commit to at least 3 days, because of the time it will take for you to be trained. This commitment will include checking, emptying and rebating 10 traplines. For detailed instructions on this process please contact Tom or Larry. If you can not make that commitment Larry is willing to loan traps to anyone that would like to trap from their docks. Larry is working on a system for reporting for individuals who are trapping on their own, so these efforts can be counted in the Rusty Crayfish harvest total.

In order to fund ongoing mitigation of the Rusty Crayfish the CLPOA board asked the members that were at the meeting if they would be willing to have a \$50/year increase on their taxes. The increase would be through the Subordinate Services District (SSD) which would only be charged to waterfront (riparian) properties on Caribou and Bigsby Lakes. In a unanimous vote (All Ayes, no Nays) the proposition was supported. All CLPOA board members voted yes to increase the SSD. With this input in mind, the CLPOA board will make a decision this summer whether and to what extent to increase SSD funding, and the appropriate level of harvesting in future years.

Sharon HP volunteered to talk with Brady Power's, Cook County Auditor, to make sure that the SSD funds can only be used by CLPOA. Sharon confirmed that the SSD funding can only be used by CLPOA and that the board's representative (President, Tom Rider) can implement this increase.

Tom Rider will take care of bringing the SSD increase request to the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

**CLPOA Dues:** Dues can be made on-line or by sending payment to CLPOA, PO Box 11, Lutsen MN 55612.

**Bone Builders:** Meet every Monday and Wednesday from 10am - 11am at the Lutsen Town Hall. All are welcome. Please contact Sharon Hexum-Platzer for information.

**Highway 61 Cleanup:** Will take place on Friday, August 30th. Meet at the Lutsen Town Hall at 10 a.m. Picnic to follow clean up. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**Meeting Adjourned at 11:15 a.m.**