

Caribou Lake Property Owners Association

Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Zoom Meeting

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

Not in attendance: Charlie Austin

The Zoom meeting started at 5:25 pm.

Fall Meeting Agenda Discussion

Meeting to discuss the Fall meeting agenda and Rusty Crawfish Harvesting Efforts.

- I. Guest Speaker: Bob Thompson, Cook County Assessor. Karl and Mike were able to get Bob Thompson to speak to the CLPOA group. He will go over property tax and value increases and allow time for questions.
- II. Reports and official business.
 - A. Approve minutes from 2023 Annual Meeting.
 - B. Nomination and Election of Board Members. Terms are for 2 Years. Nominees for Fall 2024 are: Tom Rider, Karl Karst, Lisa Miller-Johnson and potential new member Tom Flink.
*Tom Rider chose these names by selecting the board members that were not on the Fall (2023) meeting list.
Next Year's Nominees (Fall 2025) will be: Mike Nicklow, Julie Bittinger, Sharon Hexum-Plater, Larry Mullen, Fred Morris, Charlie Austin and Jeanne Anderson.
 - C. Treasurer's report - given by Charlie Austin.]
- III. CCCoLA report - Irene Mullen
- IV. Water Quality and AIS reports.
 - A. Water Quality Report - Larry Mullen
 - B. Rusty Crawfish update
 1. Introduction - Tom Rider
 2. What was done this summer - Larry Mullen
 - a) Crawdaddies harvested over 40,000 crawfish this summer, all board members felt that this was well worth the money. These numbers are 5 to 7 times higher than the previous year (which was harvested by volunteer efforts).
 - (1) The crawfish are spreading further into the lake too, according to the data collected this summer (2024)

- (2) Volunteer efforts provided some crawfish but nothing close to the numbers that Crawdaddies were able to harvest.
 - (3) Crawdaddies are still harvesting and plan to harvest into October - on their own even though they are not being paid.
 - b) The board had received information from Woman Lake that showed their rusty crawfish numbers have dramatically declined from 7 or 8 years of commercial harvesting.
 - (1) Fred Morris volunteered to research and contact someone to see what the Woman Lake efforts have accomplished. How long do they harvest - 6 weeks, 8 weeks, 12 weeks per season? How many traps? How often do they harvest, ect..
 - (a) Fred will report back to the board once he gets information.
- 3. Plan for future Years - Tom Rider
 - a) The board had a lengthy discussion regarding Rusty crawfish harvest and what we want to do moving forward.
 - (1) Do we continue with Crawdaddies at the same level of harvest as we did this year?
 - (2) Do we expand our footprint - more traps? Longer timeframe?
 - (3) What is the optimum period of time for harvesting?
 - (a) After ice out? Have to wait until the fishing opener (legally).
 - (b) How long to continue harvesting into the Fall?
 - b) **By board consensus, through a show of hands, it was agreed that we will need at least 2 more years of commercial harvesting and data to determine what these efforts are actually accomplishing.** This information will be presented at the Fall meeting on Saturday, August 31st.
 - c) The board also discussed other “options” in case Crawdaddies is no longer interested in harvesting or if we add “additional options” to the harvesting efforts. Here are some suggestions.
 - (1) Julie Bittinger suggested contacting Cathedral of the Pines to see if they would be willing to host someone or have some of their summer employees help with harvesting. Was agreed that Tom Rider will reach out to Kristi Youngdahl to see if Cathedral of the Pines would be open to this.
 - (2) Possibly have an “intern” help with harvesting. Would have to figure out cost and housing details if we decide to do this.
 - d) Raise the SSD amount in order to have enough funding to continue commercial rusty crawfish harvesting. The board discussed this at length.
 - (1) **By board consensus, through a show of hands, it was agreed that the board would suggest raising the SSD amount to \$250 for the next 5 years.**

It was agreed that this amount would be needed to continue with the harvesting efforts and that the cost should be shared with all riparian property owners. The CLPOA will present findings at the 2026 Fall meeting (this will be 3 years of harvesting information).

- V. Update and Comments from Commissioner Storlie - Tom Rider has confirmed that he spoke with Ginnie and she will talk for about 5 minutes.
- VI. Wake Surfing Ordinance update - Fred Morris
- VII. Issues from the floor
- VIII. Adjourn - try to adjourn by noon because we want to be respectful of our members' time.

The board also discussed updating the board by laws and possibly changing the group name to reflect our mission statement more. Rather than changing the official name we could update the by-laws and add a DBA (doing business as) and move forward from there. This would alleviate having to change our 501c3 name. Easier to add a DBA. The board agreed that we will put this on the agenda for next Spring.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:27 pm