

Caribou Lake Property Owners Association

Date: Monday, March 24th, 2025

Time: 5:30 pm

Location: Zoom Meeting

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

Not Present: Julie Bittinger

Tom Rider welcomed everyone and made sure that everyone had received the meeting materials that he had emailed board members. Everyone had received and reviewed the meeting materials. We started with the first question:

- I. Partnership with Cathedral of the Pines (COP).
 - A. Tom met with Kristy Youngdahl to discuss the possibility of having COP camp counselors help with Rusty Crayfish trapping. Kristy was in favor of the partnership. She agreed to have COP counselor's help trap Rusty Crayfish during the camp season, which is approximately mid-June to mid-August. This effort would be in addition to other trapping efforts that CLPOA has going on.
 1. COP would use their own boat and provide meals and housing to the camp counselors that are willing to volunteer with the Rusty Crayfish mitigation.
 2. Tom and Larry have agreed to train the counselors.
 3. Karl raised the question of liability and pay for the counselors.
 - a) Since they are volunteers and using the COP boats it shouldn't be an issue.
 - b) Possibly have a waiver for the counselor's to sign.
 - B. Tom asked for a show of hands for all members wanting to pursue the collaboration with COP. All members raised their hands. Passed unanimously. Tom will follow up with Kristy Youngdahl and implement this program.
- II. Should CLPOA hire Crawdaddies again this season (2025)?
 - A. Member discussion of time line and what the benefits were of having Crawdaddies trap last year.
 1. Crawdaddies were able to harvest an exponentially larger quantity of Rusty Crayfish than CLPOA volunteer efforts had been able to produce. The consensus was that hiring Crawdaddies was a good idea and we have enough funds to hire them for 6 weeks again.
 2. Discussed that having Crawdaddies start right after ice out and before the Rustie's lay eggs would be a good time. Tom Rider will discuss this with Crawdaddies.
 3. Charlie Austin (Treasurer) let everyone know that CLPOA has received many donations toward Rusty mitigation and that because of the new SSD funding CLPOA has enough funds to hire Crawdaddies.
 - B. Motion by Tom Rider to hire Crawdaddies for 6 weeks if their price hasn't gone up by more than \$50 per week from last season. If the price has gone up by more than \$50 Tom will bring this motion back to the CLPOA board for discussion. Sharon HP seconded the motion. Show of hands by board members - everyone raised their hands. Motion passed.

- C. Tom will follow up with the Crowdaddies and get pricing and discuss scheduling.
- III. Purchase of a Jon Boat by CLPOA.
- A. Discussion tabled because Sharon HP has been discussing the potential of using a Lake Resident's Jon Boat. Sharon will send the resident's contact information to Tom Rider so Tom can contact the resident and discuss options. Tom will get back to the board once he contacts the resident.
- IV. Internship
- A. COP has agreed to make housing available for an intern before and after camp, namely before mid-June, and after mid-August.
 - B. Fred made a motion to table the Internship discussion for now, and that Tom Rider will keep investigating options and discuss further with COP options for room and board. The board will revisit the issue once we have more information.
 - C. Motion passed unanimously with a show of hands.
- V. Discussion of what is happening at Pike Lake - where our Rusty Crayfish come from.
- A. Rusty crayfish come down Murmur Creek into Bigsby and then into Caribou. It would be good to know what is happening in Pike Lake otherwise the Rusty Crayfish will just keep coming. There have been anecdotes about rusty populations declining and fish populations increasing; Tom will follow up with Cook County AIS to see if there is any hard data on what is happening in Pike Lake.
 - B. How do we stop the Rusty Crayfish from getting to Caribou?
 - C. Would the Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe be interested in harvesting wild rice in Bigsby? Could this help with slowing the Rusty Crayfish down?
- VI. **Meeting Adjourned at 6:20 p.m.**