

Caribou Lake Property Owners Association

Date: Thursday, August 20th, 2026

Time: 5:00 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

Tom R welcomed everyone and made sure that everyone had received the meeting materials that he had emailed the board.

- I. Reviewed Agenda items for upcoming Annual Fall Meeting on September 5th, 2026.
 - A. Introduction of Board Members
 - B. Comments from Ginny Storlie, County Commissioner. Tom R will double check to make sure Ginny plans to attend the meeting.
 - C. Guest Speaker: Steve VanKekerix, Cook County Firewise Coordinator.
 - D. Guest Speaker: Mona Hansen to discuss Loons on the Lake.
 - E. Approve minutes of Spring 2026 Annual Meeting.
 - F. Nomination and Election of Board members. This year we have Tom R, Tom F, Lisa and Karl up for re-election. We will officially approve this at the Fall meeting. Everyone agreed to serving another term.
 1. Each Board term is for two years.
 2. The Board By-Laws say we can have up to 11 people on the board, we currently have 10. Larry will be talking to a potential candidate. If that person is willing to serve we may have a nomination at the Fall meeting.
 - G. Treasurer's Report, Charlie Austin
 - H. CCCoLA Report, Irene Mullen
 - I. Water Quality Report, Larry Mullen
 - J. Rusty Crayfish Update, Tom Rider
 - K. Name Change Vote: We will present a name change at the Fall meeting.

II. Zoom Meeting Agenda

- A. Reviewed and approved the agenda for the Annual Meeting
- B. Assistant Secretary, create position. This person would fill in for the Secretary if needed.
 1. Lisa Miller-Johnson volunteered to fill this position *(Thank you Lisa).
- C. Welcome Packets to new home owners
 1. Jeanne reviews the Cook County Website to see when homes sell and sends out a welcome letter with information about our Organization. There haven't been many home sales in the past year.
- D. Officers and Nominations:
 1. Current officers:
 - a) Tom Rider, President
 - b) Larry Mullen, VP
 - c) Jeanne Anderson, Secretary
 - d) Charlie Austin, Treasurer
 2. *Karl motioned to accept all officers as they are currently and Sharon seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Officers will remain the same as last year.*
- E. Review Committees - we have four listed on the website but suggest moving the Water Quality into the Environmental Committee. The board agreed.
 1. Environmental Committee: Larry, Jeanne, Tom F and Sharon
 2. Communications Committee: Larry (website administrator), Jeanne, Mike and Karl *(Mike and Karl find speakers for our meetings).

3. Governance: Tom F and Fred
- F. Finances
 1. Charlie informed everyone that CLPOA has paid Crawdaddies about \$9,000 for the 2026 Harvest.
 2. Charlie will have updated financial reports at the Fall meeting.
- G. Rusty Crayfish Review
 1. Primary harvesters: CLPOA boat (Crayfish Terminator), 40 traps; Crawdaddies 100 traps; COP 24 traps; Larry 24 traps; Pecore's 8 traps = 198 traps (per Tom R).
 2. Dock Traps = 20+.
 3. Harvest YTD is 4,000 pounds x 48 crayfish per pound = 192,000 + 14,000 = 206,000
 - a) **The total estimate for the 2026 season is 240,000.**
 - b) Last three years: 130,000; 60,000, 12,000
 4. Observations regarding Rusties this year:
 - a) Crayfish increasing in footprint and density
 - b) Reduced vegetation in Bigsby (anecdotal).
 - c) Harvested for the first time in the first week of June and found many crayfish with eggs.
 - (1) At least 72 with eggs. They can have up to 500 eggs so this was a bonus to harvest before the eggs could be left in the lake.
 5. Issues:
 - a) How do we measure our success?
 - (1) Tom and Larry have been talking with different resources about this (DNR, Cook County AIS, etc.).
 - b) Is harvesting the most effective approach?
 - (1) Introduce more Small-mouth bass and/or Sunfish?
 - c) Is harvesting sustainable year after year?
 - (1) Even though we have a good volunteer pool it is going to take a lot of effort to sustain this level of trapping along with the associated financial costs.
 - d) Scope of problem vastly reduced if we can stop in-flow from Bigsby.
 - (1) Larry's sound barrier
 - (2) Physical barrier
 - (3) Mistletoe Creek is a trout stream
 - (4) The Tribe is a potential partner (Treaty of 1854) and the fact that Bigsby has wild rice.
 6. Name Change: The board discussed this and decided "Friends of Caribou Lake" would be the best name. This will be presented at the Fall meeting.
 - a) By renaming CLPOA to Friends of Caribou Lake we move away from the word "Association", which makes many people think that we are an actual HOA, which we are not.
 - (1) A name change will not change our By-Laws. We will complete the appropriate paperwork for a DbA (doing business as). Which will keep our operations the same.
 7. Tom R presented a Document Retention Policy
 - a) The Board agreed that this would be a good policy to have. Tom R will present a policy at the Fall meeting for the Board review and vote.
 8. Charlie and Larry offered to be in charge of the burgers and brats for the Highway 61 Clean up lunch!

III. Meeting Adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes by Jeanne Anderson