

Caribou Lake Property Owners Association

Date: Saturday, September 5, 2026

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Lutsen Town Hall

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

Tom Rider called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and introduced the guest speaker.

1. Guest Speaker: Steve VanKekerix, Wildfire Prevention Coordinator for Cook & Lake Counties
 - a. Steve shared information about what the program is and what property owners can do to protect their properties.

Cook County Firewise Contact Information
Steve VanKekerix: 218-387-4133
firewise@cookcountymn.gov
<https://cookcountyfirewise.org>
 - b. Firewise communities. CLPOA was a member until 201
 - i. Guidelines for being a firewise community: At least 8 residences need to participate. Work together toward a goal of reducing fire danger in your community. One meeting every year and discuss fire wise. Track hours put in for fire mitigation. The CLPOA Board will discuss this at a later time.
 - c. Brush disposal – 7 sites in Cook County. Firewise maintains and coordinates the burning of piles. Funded by Grants so this is a challenge at times.
 - d. Cook County Soil and Water has potential funding to help with tree removal costs.
Contact Info: SWCD: 218-387-3647 website: www.cookswcd.org
2. Mona Hansen – Chik-Wauk Loon Monitoring Center
 - a. <https://chikwaukloonprogram.com>
 - b. 3 Loon Monitors on Caribou – Irene Mullen/Susane Pecore/Ann Rider
3. Ginny Storelli – County Commissioner. Gave a brief update on the County
4. Approve meeting minutes from Spring meeting in May 2026
Motion to approve Spring 2026 meeting minutes made by Tim Nelson Seconded by Eric Johnson **Motion passed.**
5. CLPOA Board Member terms are for two years. This year the following board members are up for re-election: Lisa Miller-Johnson, Tom Flink, Tom Rider and Karl Karst. All have agreed to serve another term.
Motion to approve re-election of Lisa, Tom F., Tom R, and Karl was made by Bob Reed Seconded by Tm Nelson **Motion passed.**
6. Treasures report – Charlie Austin
\$5,966 Net Income/Expense as of 9/5/26. Ending Balance for the Year should be \$2,500.
Rusty Initiative = SSD \$13,394 (\$50 property owners) = Rusty Mitigation Expenses \$12,352

Dues can be paid in person, by mail at PO Box 11, Lutsen MN 55612 or online at <https://caribou.mnlakesanddrivers.org>

Motion to approve Treasurer's report made by Eric Jonhson Seconded by Ron McClellan
Motion passed.

7. CCCoLA update – Irene Mullen. Monitoring lake health – Caribou is doing well.
8. Water Quality update – Larry Mullen. Monitoring water quality. Caribou is doing well.
9. Rusty Crayfish update – Tom Rider
Update on why we harvest them and how they adversely affect lake health.
Harvest Estimation for summer of 2026 over 300,000 (5000 lbs).
 - a. Larry Mullen is experimenting/inventing a sound barrier to deter the rusty crayfish from coming into Bigsby/Caribou.
 - b. Talking to the DNR regarding a physical barrier as well as Larry's sound barrier.
Ongoing efforts. Working toward a sustainable solution to this invasive issue.
10. Changing the Organization Name from CLPOA to Friends of Caribou Lake.
To align with our mission and group make up.
Motion to change the name from CLPOA to Friends of Caribou Lake was made by Eric Johnson Second by Bob Warrick **Motion passed.**

Meeting Adjourned at 12:20 pm