



P.O. BOX 466, NISSWA, MN 56468

# The Thirty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Cullen Lakes Association

Saturday, August 12, 2017

## AGENDA

**REGISTRATION AND EXHIBITS -- 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.**

**BUSINESS MEETING -- 9:00 TO 10:30 a.m.**

- Call to order/Welcome . . . . . President Ann Beaver
- Special Presentation . . . . . Tim Plude, DNR AIS specialist

*We have zebra mussels in Lower Cullen Lake. What does the future hold?  
What should we do next?*

- Approval of 2016 Annual Meeting minutes
- Treasurer's report . . . . . Jack McNamara
- Adoption of agenda
- Nominating Committee report . . . . . Rich Johnson
- Election of Board Members
- Approval of 2018 budget . . . . . Paul Beilfuss
- Additions to the agenda, if any
- Membership discussion of concerns and issues
- Adjournment

*Board members meet briefly to elect officers for 2017-2018 following the meeting*

***The purpose of the Cullen Lakes Association is to protect, preserve, and enhance the three Cullen Lakes and their environs in order to assure the continued vitality of the lakes, high quality fish and wildlife habitat, safe and healthy family living, and the survival of these natural gifts for future generations.***

**CULLEN LAKES ASSOCIATION  
2016 ANNUAL MEETING**

**August 13, 2016 – Lutheran Church of the Cross**

**Call to order/Welcome:** Ann Beaver, president, welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order.

**Special presentation:** Carrol Henderson presented the results of pioneering research on the effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010 on loons that migrate between Minnesota and the Gulf of Mexico. Henderson has been supervisor of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Nongame Wildlife Program since 1977. In addition to many honors and accomplishments, he was responsible for the state adding the nongame wildlife checkoff on state tax forms. This voluntary contribution has raised more than \$30 million dollars to benefit nongame wildlife programs in Minnesota.

Henderson noted that there are more than 12,000 loons in the U.S. – most in the lower 48 states. In 2010 more than 4.9 million barrels of oil spilled and more than 800,000 gallons of toxic dispersant was employed off the coast of New Orleans and drifted east toward Florida – the exact area where loons from Minnesota migrate and spend their winters.

Research is focused on determining loon migration patterns and specifying where immature loons spend their two years away from Minnesota before they return; determining the extent of contamination that loons have from the oil spill; noting loon population trends and assessing the impact of the oil contamination; and determining remediation steps that might be needed. Loons have been implanted with monitors and tested for contamination. Generations of loons are being studied to determine any long-term impact on their future.

Henderson highlighted three other DNR areas of focus: to protect deep-water habitats rich with ciscoes, which the loons need for feeding before they begin migration; partnering with lake associations to continue the loon monitoring program and provide loon nesting platforms; and reinvigorating the “get the lead out” program for removing lead tackle and replacing it with nontoxic tackle and sinkers.

**Approval of minutes of 2015 meeting:** Attendees were asked to review the minutes from last year’s meeting. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the minutes as presented.

**Treasurer’s report:** Charlie Boudrye highlighted the balance sheet and noted the recent gift from the Norden estate. A special committee is looking at creating a legacy program for long-term use of these funds to maximize the value into the future. He also noted that many donations toward the 2016 treatment of curly-leaf pondweed were received at the end of 2015 and are not reflected in this report. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the treasurer’s report.

**Agenda:** Ann asked the membership if anyone wanted items added to the agenda for the Annual Meeting. The agenda was adopted as printed.

**Election of Board Members:** Dan Hurley noted that five Board members have terms that end with this meeting. He presented this slate of candidates: Ann Beaver, Lower Cullen; Rich Johnson, Lower; John MacGibbon, Lower; Jack McNamara, Lower; and Denny Opsahl, Upper. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made, seconded and carried to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of candidates as presented.

**Approval of 2016 Budget:** Paul Beilfuss presented the proposed budget for 2017. The budget shows member donations increasing over this year and a smaller DNR grant, which has been the trend. It projects an operating deficit of \$8005, which will “eat” into our reserves. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the budget as presented. Paul also noted that our financial records have been audited and found to have no material weaknesses.

**Membership discussion:**

- Ann noted that she was asked about the boat parade photos and why there are so many of Lower Cullen. It is because that is where Ann lives and she is diligent in documenting the parade. All members are encouraged to submit photos for inclusion next year.
- Tom Beaver asked if the group was aware of the Soteroplos scholarship, which was started by a donation in 1998 and which the organization committed to contribute to annually. The fund is administered by Central Lakes College and benefits one student majoring in environmental studies each year.
- John Maguire noted that there seemed to be a lot of fish dying lately. No specific reason was known.
- Nancy Carpenter described unusual eagle behavior on her shore.
- A concern was raised about the sediment on the Lower Cullen side of the channel, which makes the water level very low and affects boats going through the channel.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Jack McNamara, treasurer

As of July 31, 2017 we had the following balances in our accounts.

Cash and Bank Accounts	
Operating Checking Account	\$10,067.88
Project Savings Account	\$2,426.32
Operating Savings Account	\$0
Sub Total	\$12,494.20
Money Management Deposit Account	

Capital Fund	\$60,000.00
CD Legacy Fund	\$46,184.76
Sub Total	\$106,184.76
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$118,678.96</b>

The Association had total assets of \$126,136.22 as of August 1, 2016. The decrease this year is due to the loss of the DNR grant and CLP additional expenses.

Our future projects will be focused on curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) and other invasive species control. The income accounts display the money received for CLP control, member dues and other donations. The amounts received reflect a decrease from normal contributions as many members made donations in December to benefit from tax-deductible contributions for 2016.

The pro-forma revenues and expenses are summarized below:

Income	\$
CLP Donations	\$7,570
DNR Grants (3 lakes)	\$0
Support Donations	\$310
Member Dues (January 1 to July 31, 2017)	\$1,850
Interest	\$98
Crow Wing County	\$212
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$10,040</b>

Expenses	\$
Administration	\$75
Education	\$1,044
Water Quality	\$645
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$4
Invasive Species Control	
Clarke Aquatic Costs	
Sales Tax	\$2,646
Services – Clarke Aquatic	\$38,492
Membership	\$465

Total Expense	\$43,371
Deficit	-\$33,331

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Rich Johnson, chair

The CLA Board currently has 14 members. Of those, eight terms are ending as of the 2017 Annual Meeting. Dan Meixner, Middle Cullen, has elected not to stand for re-election due to work commitments. He has agreed to remain as the webmaster for the CLA website and we thank him for his service to the organization. Similarly, Jim Kostreba has decided not to run for another term and we thank him for his service to the organization. Anne Kostreba has agreed to run for that open position. The Nominating Committee presents the following names to the Cullen Lakes Association membership for election to the Board of Directors (two-year terms):

Paul Beilfuss	Lower Cullen
Jim Burrell	Lower Cullen
C.B. Bylander	Upper Cullen
Charlie Boudrye	Middle Cullen
Dan Hurley	Lower Cullen
Anne Kostreba	Lower Cullen
Carol Lindahl	Lower Cullen
Debi Oliverius	Middle Cullen

## PROPOSED 2018 OPERATING BUDGET

Paul Beilfuss, budget and finance committee chair

### INCOME

Membership Dues	\$6000
Donations (General)	\$1000
Donations (CLP)	\$31000
DNR Grant for 2018	\$0
Total	\$38000

### EXPENDITURES

Administrative Committee:	
Annual Meeting:	
Supplies, Postage, Printing	\$250

	Food	\$100
	Board Meeting Room Donation	\$100
	General Office Supplies	\$75
	LARA Membership	\$75
	Soteroplos Scholarship	<u>\$250</u>
	Total	\$850
Committees:		
	Water Quality:	
	Monitoring	\$700
	Education:	
	Guide/Map	\$160
	Newsletter Postage	\$525
	Newsletter Printing	\$900
	Web Site Management	<u>\$125</u>
	Total	\$2410
	Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):	
	AIS Annual Control (Clarke)	\$43000
	Membership:	
	Supplies and Printing	\$250
	Postage	\$300
	New Owner Packets	<u>\$50</u>
	Total	\$600
OTHER		
	Board Liability Insurance	\$950
	Miscellaneous	<u>\$250</u>
	Total	\$1200
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$48060
	PROPOSED 2018 OPERATING BUDGET (DEFICIENCY)	
	Estimated Income less estimated expenditures:	(\$10060)

### **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Carol Lindahl, chair

The Administration Committee organized the 2017 Annual Meeting, in conjunction with the full Board of Directors. Each year the organization strives to provide an interesting program and displays. The Committee has compiled a procedures manual for the CLA, as recommended in the Lake Management Plan's goals and objectives. These procedures will be reviewed and updated as needed during the coming year.

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

C.B. Bylander, chair

The CLA Education Committee continued to provide timely and helpful information about the Cullen Lakes through *Cullen Currents*, the quarterly newsletter that Ann Beaver edits, and [www.cullenlakeassoc.org](http://www.cullenlakeassoc.org), the association's website that Dan Meixner administers.

The committee also mailed zebra mussel information to all Cullen Lakes property owners this spring as part of an invasive species awareness and education effort. This mailing, a proactive response to the October 2016 discovery of zebra mussels in Lower Cullen Lake, was done at no cost to the association. It was funded by a Crow Wing County invasive species awareness grant that the association applied for and received.

The Education Committee intends to apply for another invasive species awareness grant in the spring of 2018, if still available through Crow Wing County.

### **INVASIVE SPECIES SUBCOMMITTEE**

Ann Beaver and Carol Lindahl, co-chairs

In mid-February we submitted our DNR permit applications for our spring treatment of curly-leaf pondweed (CLP). We submitted our applications for DNR grant funding within hours of learning the application period had opened. We learned a few days later that although we had sent in our application materials on the first day the grant program was open, the DNR received 142 applications that day and was able to fund only the first 91 received. Sadly, we were not among those first 91 received, so we did not receive any DNR grant funding this year. On May 15, Clarke Aquatic Services treated 18.41 acres of CLP on Middle Cullen. On May 18 they treated 33.16 acres on Upper Cullen and 26.19 acres on Lower Cullen. According to the June post-treatment surveys conducted by Clarke Aquatic Services, the results of this year's treatment again appear to be very good. During these surveys Clarke also mapped CLP found elsewhere in the lakes, some of which may be considered for treatment in 2018. However, since the DNR limits the number of acres that may be treated in each lake, we will have to make careful decisions on which areas to treat, giving larger concentrations of CLP preference due to the higher cost involved in treating smaller areas.

As for purple loosestrife, we ask you to monitor your own shoreline and either pull out/dig up or poison any loosestrife you find. One mature plant can produce up to 2.7 million seeds

annually, so if this invasive species is not dealt with our shorelines can be taken over by it. *If it's on your shoreline, it is your responsibility to get rid of it.*

In early July the DNR collected plankton samples in Lower and Middle Cullen Lakes to look for juvenile zebra mussels (veligers). Veligers were found in low numbers in the Lower Cullen sample, which tells us there is a population of zebra mussels reproducing in the lake. No veligers were found in the Middle Cullen sample. Because of these findings, there is no longer a need to report zebra mussel sightings in Lower Cullen to the DNR. However,

Middle Cullen folks should be on the lookout for zebra mussels in the lake or on equipment that has been in the lake and report any findings to the DNR.

### **WATER QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Ann Beaver, chair

This report changes very little from year to year, which is a good thing. The results of our water sampling since the last annual meeting continue to show the water quality of the lakes falls within the normal range for lakes in our ecoregion. Monthly results vary some from year to year, due to weather conditions, but the overall condition of our lakes remains fairly consistent. A more detailed report will be included in the winter, 2018 newsletter. We continue to update the CLA Lake Water Quality Plan for each lake at the end of the testing season so they may be included in our applications for DNR grants for the treatment of curly-leaf pondweed.

### **LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Ann Beaver, chair

There have been no land use applications before the Crow Wing County, Nisswa, or Pequot Lakes Planning Commissions/Boards of Adjustment this year that have required our attention, so this past year was again a relatively quiet one for the committee.

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Charlie Boudrye, chair

Dues-paying members in the Cullen Lakes Association number 250. Of those, 14 are Associate Members, meaning they are former lakeshore property owners, a property owner in the lakes' watershed, or a family member of a lakeshore property owner. In addition, there are six complimentary members (new property owners on the lakes).