



P.O. BOX 466, NISSWA, MN 56468

The 38th Annual Meeting of the Cullen Lakes Association

Saturday, August 10, 2019

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 John Maguire, Lisa Hirschev
Celebration of 100 years on Cullen Lake. 1919 -2019

Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting minutes

Treasurer's report Carol Lindahl
Adoption of agenda
Nominating Committee reportDenny Opsahl
Election of Board Members
Approval of FY 2020 budgetPaulBeilfuss
Additions to the agenda, if any
 Drawing for CLA mugs and glasses

Membership discussion of concerns and issues

Adjournment

Board members meet briefly to elect officers for 2019-2020 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
2018 ANNUAL MEETING**

August 11, 2018 – Lutheran Church of the Cross

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

Special presentation: Ann introduced guest speakers Dan and Kay Long from Lower Cullen Lake. Dan presented the history of his and Kay's cabin and involvement in the area, sharing many tidbits of history: meeting Tim Russell, the sound guy from the Prairie Home Companion radio program; the Lennon sisters being on Lower Cullen (Lennon built their home in the 1920s); their summer kitchen with 31 windows now being the home of the Cullen Lakes sailing regatta each summer; the history of the 4th of July boat parade (this was our 50th year); having one of the largest red maples in the state, and his and Kay's view that they are the caretakers of this land with intent to preserve it for future generations.

Approval of minutes of 2017 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: Jack McNamara, treasurer, presented the current financial data, outlining the Legacy Fund of major donations and the balance in the capital fund, which is higher this year because we did not treat curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) due to weather conditions. This balance allows us to have a reserve against future needs. He noted that the Board recently agreed to adopt a fiscal year of October 1 to September 30 to give better transparency to the membership on income and expenses, since most dues and donations are given at year-end and money is spent during the spring/summer. CLP treatment is expected to be our major expense and we will ask for donations at the same level. Ann noted that one expense we incur is sales tax on the chemicals used in the CLP treatment, and asked members to contact their state representatives to work to exempt lake associations from this tax. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept 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: Paul Beilfuss noted that five Board members have terms that end with this meeting. Leaving the Board for a "sabbatical" is Rich Johnson. The attendees thanked Rich for his service on the Board. Paul then presented the slate of candidates: Ann Beaver, Lower; John MacGibbon, Lower; Jack McNamara, Lower, and Denny Opsahl, Upper Cullen. Ann asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none, a motion was made, seconded and carried to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of candidates.

Approval of 2019 Budget: Paul Beilfuss presented the proposed budget for FY 2019. The budget shows member donations at the same level as this year and projects an operating deficit of \$1100. Paul indicated that we will continue to have to treat CLP and thanked all donors who support this effort. He further asked that attendees consider putting the CLA in their estate plans to support the Legacy Fund. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the budget as presented.

Miscellaneous:

- Fifteen attendees were selected at random to receive a CLA logo mug or glass.

Membership discussion:

- Members commented that navigation in the channel seems to be getting worse and asked for the history of that area. Tom Beaver noted that lakes are constantly changing and that is true in this situation as well. Historically, at one point there was no navigation between the two lakes. Over time, the channel and point developed, and beavers and humans changed the area. The lake owners on both sides of the channel have worked with the DNR to stabilize the land. The lake association has sought the DNR's review of this area and they will not interfere with the natural process of the channel and the sand bar area it has created. It was noted that we can work with the property owners on the channel to keep it cleaned out and that has helped in previous years. Several property owners on the Middle Cullen side of the channel expressed concern that making it more open will increase the speed and number of boats using the channel making the erosion they are already seeing only worse. Also, the fact that Lower has zebra mussels now but Middle does not argues against more boats moving through the channel and possibly spreading them to Middle.
- Ann reminded everyone to inspect all docks and boats during fall removal for the presence of zebra mussels.
- Several attendees noted that the number of jet skis seems to have increased and that they need to be educated on keeping away from other boats and loons, and that they are not allowed on the lakes later than one hour before sunset.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Carol Lindahl, treasurer

As of July 31, 2019, we had the following balances in our accounts.

Bank Accounts	
Checking Account	\$3,041.07
Money Mgmt. Operating Account	\$136,041.94
Legacy Fund	\$48,159.10
Total Assets	\$187,242.11

The Association had total assets of \$159,336.72 as of July 31, 2018. The increase this year is due to the increase in CLP donations and lower CLP treatment expenses.

Our revenues and expenses for 2019 YTD are summarized below:

Income	
CLP Donations	\$36,900.00
DNR Grants (3 lakes)	\$0
Support Donations and Merchandise Sales	\$35.00
Member Dues	\$6,175.00
Legacy Fund Donations	\$175.00
Interest Income	\$809.31
Total Income	\$44,094.31

Expenses	
Administration	\$75.00
Education	\$1,695.11
Water Quality	\$645.00
Other Expenses	\$0
Invasive Species Control	\$11,734.53
Membership	\$499.39
Total Expense	\$14,649.03
Net Income	\$29,445.28

The Association has roughly \$2,000 in budgeted expenses yet to occur in this budget year ending September 30, 2019.

PROPOSED FY 2020 OPERATING BUDGET

Paul Beilfuss, budget and finance committee chair

INCOME

Membership Dues	\$6000
Donations (CLP)	\$40000
Interest income	<u>\$1000</u>
Total	\$47000

EXPENDITURES

Administrative Committee:

Annual Meeting:

Supplies, Postage, Printing	\$250
Food	\$ 75
Board Meeting Room Donation	\$250
General Office supplies	\$ 75
LARA Membership	\$ 75
Soteroplos Scholarship	<u>\$250</u>
Total	\$975

Committees:

Water Quality:

Monitoring	\$700
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Education:

Guide/Map	\$175
Newsletter Postage	\$495
Newsletter Printing	\$900
Web Site Management	<u>\$250</u>
Total	\$2520

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):

AIS Annual Control	\$43000
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Membership:

Supplies and Printing	\$250
Postage	\$300
New Owner Packets	<u>\$ 75</u>

OTHER

Board Liability Insurance	\$1000
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 250</u>
Total	\$1250

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$48370

PROPOSED 2020 OPERATING BUDGET (DEFICIENCY)

Estimated Income less estimated expenditures: (\$1100)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Denny Opsahl, chair

The CLA Board currently has 13 members, one more than the minimum required by the association's by-laws. Of those 13, the terms of 10 of them are ending as of the 2019 Annual Meeting. Jim Burrell, Lower Cullen, and Charlie Boudrye, Middle Cullen, have chosen not to stand for re-election. We thank Jim for his 5 years of service to the lake association and Charlie for his 17 years, 13 of which he served as treasurer.

Because of the number of terms that expire this year, to better balance when future terms expire we are recommending the election of some of the slate of candidates to one-year terms and some to the usual two-year terms.

The Nominating Committee presents the following names to the Cullen Lakes Association membership for election to the Board of Directors to two-year terms:

Paul Beilfuss	Lower Cullen
Dan Hurley	Lower Cullen
Patti Hicks	Middle Cullen
Joel Knutson	Middle Cullen
Debi Oliverius	Middle Cullen
John Maguire	Middle Cullen

And the following names for election to the Board of Directors to one-year terms:

C.B. Bylander	Upper Cullen
Carol Lindahl	Lower Cullen
Anne Kostreba	Lower Cullen

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Anne Kostreba, chair

The Administration Committee organized the 2019 Annual Meeting, in conjunction with the full Board of Directors. Each year the organization strives to provide an interesting program and displays.

INVASIVE SPECIES SUBCOMMITTEE

Ann Beaver and Carol Lindahl, co-chairs

Curly-leaf pondweed In early February we submitted our DNR permit applications for our spring treatment of curly-leaf pondweed (CLP). On April 30 and May 17 Clarke Aquatic Services

surveyed the Cullen Lakes to determine potential areas for chemical treatment of the CLP and sent its maps to the DNR to complete our permit process. At the time of the surveys, the CLP growth was minimal and the DNR Aquatic Invasive Species specialist called to discuss his reluctance to allow any treatment this year. We encouraged him to check the areas himself on all three lakes where we knew there would be heavy CLP growth. He did so and did not find a lot of CLP but authorized the treatment of 8.32 acres on Upper Cullen and 3.9 acres on Lower Cullen. He did not find enough CLP growth in Middle Cullen to warrant treatment and he said the native plants were abundant and active within the proposed treatment areas, so he denied our permit application for that lake.

As anyone who has been out on the lakes this summer or who has a dock in areas of CLP can tell you, this summer's CLP nuisance growth is widespread and dense. The late June surveys done by Clarke proved this to be the case and thanks to these surveys we have maps of proposed treatment areas ready to submit with our applications next year. However, if the CLP is not growing abundantly enough during the short time frame allowed by the DNR for its chemical treatment, we could end up with the same problem next year. We plan to meet with the DNR specialist later this summer to discuss what can be done to allow us to deal effectively with the CLP that is matting and causing navigation and swimming problems throughout the lakes. We should have more information to share with you in the fall newsletter.

Purpleloosestrife We again ask you to monitor your own shoreline and either pull out/dig up or poison any loosestrife you find. There is a display on this invasive species at this Annual Meeting or you can find information on the CLA web site. Please refer to it and familiarize yourself with the plant's identifying characteristics. 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.*

Zebra mussels This invasive species has been found in many areas of Lower Cullen Lake and last fall many people had to scrape or power wash the mussels off the watercraft they had left in the water all summer. The population is bound to continue to increase and spread to new areas. Zebra mussels attach themselves to anything solid in the lake and its microscopic juveniles can hitch a ride in any Lower Cullen Lake water. Please do all you can to prevent them hitching a ride to another lake in your watercraft. Although there have yet to be any reports of zebra mussels in Middle Cullen, people should be on the lookout for them in the lake or on equipment that has been in the lake. If you are on Middle or Upper Cullen Lake and discover what you think might be a zebra mussel, please report it to the DNR and to one of us.

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, 2020 newsletter.

LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Ann Beaver, chair

The only land use applications before the Crow Wing County, Nisswa, or Pequot Lakes Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment this past year that we were notified of were two requests by Wilderness Point Resort. One was to amend its conditional use permit (CUP) to expand its existing beach area and relocate the existing boat ramp to the other side of the beach. The other was for a variance to remove the existing boathouse in the shore impact zone and reconstruct the boathouse with the same dimensions but including a restroom. We submitted a letter to the Pequot Lakes Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment stating CLA had no objection to the CUP requests, especially since they had been approved in 2014. The resort didn't act on them within the required 12 months, thus the CUP expired and the resort had to reapply. We could find no land use ordinance basis for objecting to the reconstruction of the boathouse, but we did express concern over the proper handling of waste from the proposed boathouse restroom. The CUP was approved and the variance was denied.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

C.B. Bylander, chair

The CLA Education Committee continues to provide helpful information about the Cullen Lakes and related topics through four sources. They are:

- **Cullen Currents**, the quarterly newsletter that Lower Cullen's Ann Beaver edits.
- **Cullen Lakes Association website**, which Middle Cullen's Dan Meixner maintains.
- **Cullen Lakes Association Facebook page**, which Lower Cullen's Alli Isaacson of Eagle's Nest Resort maintains.
- **Annual meeting**, at which Education Committee members provide relevant brochures and other information.

Of these, the newsletter continues to be the most consistent source of timely information, thanks largely to the efforts of Ann Beaver.

That said, plenty of opportunity exists for all lake association members to contribute timely photos and information to our website and Facebook pages.

Anyone with photos or other information they would like to post on our website can contact Meixner directly at dmeixner@tds.net. Similarly, those who have photos they would like to share on Facebook can send them directly to Isaacson at info@eaglesnestnisswa.com. Both Dan and Alli will gladly post your offerings in a relatively short time. Consistent and interesting content is what drives page views. So, the more we collectively share what we have the more we will build our Cullen Lakes social media community.

In the upcoming year the Education Committee aims to put greater emphasis on providing timely website and Facebook content.

In other news, the Education Committee considered seeking yet another Crow Wing County aquatic invasive species awareness grant (this was done the past two years) but decided against it as there was no urgent educational awareness need. Instead, the committee decided to use the newsletter to share on-going AIS information. If the county offers another round of \$250 grants in 2020, the committee will again weigh the value of utilizing these funds.

Finally, the committee encourages those who seek a deeper understanding of AIS to visit the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center website at www.maisrcn.umn.edu. This site is chock-full of insightful information, including research reports, volunteer opportunities and more. One particularly interesting research paper, for example, explains how genetic and genomic science has concluded that zebra mussels in Mille Lacs Lake were not the source of zebra mussels that were later found in Gull Lake and Lake Minnetonka. Interesting stuff. And good stuff to know when talking about AIS with others.

FISHERIES COMMITTEE

C.B. Bylander, chair

The CLA Fisheries Committee reports that:

- It will be a year or so before the Department of Natural Resources conducts another Cullen Lakes fish population assessment. The most recent survey was conducted in 2015. The next one is tentatively scheduled for 2021. Typically, the DNR tries to survey each of the state's 4,500 fishing lakes once every six years. However, that schedule can be delayed based on local staffing and workload situations. When new information is available the committee will share it in the newsletter and on our website.
- When the next Cullen Lakes fish population survey is held it could be interesting. That's because by the time it is conducted new northern pike fishing regulations will have been in place for at least two years. As you may recall, since the spring of 2018 anglers on the Cullen Lakes can keep 10 northern pike but not more than two pike longer than 26 inches and all from 22 to 26 inches must be released. The old limit was three. The new limit, which applies throughout north-central Minnesota, is designed to address overpopulation of small pike. It often takes up to a decade to fully evaluate the effectiveness of a fishing regulation change. Still, it will be interesting to see if anything is changing in the short-term. It's possible there will be some modest improvement in the number of northern pike in the middle 20-inch to upper 20-inch range. For those who don't know how to cut the Y-bones out of a northern pike you can learn how by watching videos on YouTube or the DNR's website.
- The DNR is looking into the viability of revised sunfish regulations at some future date. Currently, the agency is focusing on increasing angler awareness of the current status of bluegill and other sunfish populations, which in most waters have shrunk in average size over the past 50 years. The DNR conservatively estimates Minnesota anglers keep about 14.1 million bluegills each year. This number translates to about 1,500 miles of bluegill when placed nose-to-tail. That's roughly a continuous string of bluegill from Minneapolis

to Maine. Fisheries researcher Jeff Reed explained in a recent *Conservation Volunteer* article, "There's a myth that you can't take too many sunfish. In reality, a lot of populations are overexploited." A lot of anglers, he added, don't understand how long it takes to grow a big, 9- or 10-inch sunfish. "A bluegill that size can be 10 years old. In the same time it takes to grow a trophy sunfish, you can grow two or three trophy white-tailed deer bucks."

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Carol Lindahl, chair

CLA membership currently stands at 257. This includes 233 current property owners, 14 associate members (former owners or family members of current owners), and 10 complimentary memberships (new owners). We are grateful for the on-going support and participation of our members.