

# CULLEN LAKES ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting  
9:00 a.m., October 8, 2016, Lutheran Church of the Cross

Present: Ann Beaver, Paul Beilfuss, Charlie Boudrye, C.B. Bylander, Dan Hurley, Rich Johnson, Jim Kostreba, Jack McNamara, Deb Oliverius, Carol Lindahl

Absent: Jim Burrell, John MacGibbon, Dan Meixner, Denny Opsahl

1. **Ann Beaver, president, called the meeting to order.**
2. **Approval of minutes:** A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2016 meeting.
3. **Treasurer's report:** Charlie Boudrye distributed copies of the report, noting that we have more than \$125,000 in assets, which includes the "legacy fund" money. He has paid the director liability insurance to carrier U. S. Liability Insurance. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Treasurer's report.
4. **Review of agenda:** Agenda was adopted as presented.
5. **Member open forum.** Tom Steffens, Wilderness Resort Villas, and Lowell Bonema, Middle Cullen resident, joined the Board to present their concerns regarding the channel between Lower and Middle Cullen lakes. Steffens noted that his owners have expressed a concern over the navigability of the channel and resulting delta into Lower Cullen. They believe that it would be beneficial to dredge the delta area, although the cost of that could range up to \$15,000 to 20,000 and would need to be maintained; not a one-time cost. They asked what the position of the Board is and would the Board support such a venture –believing that the DNR would be more likely to allow such an operation if the Board supported it. Dan Hurley responded that they would need to present a real proposal showing lake owner support and source of funding before the Board could take a stand, as there is nothing for us to respond to at this point. Jack McNamara stated his position as a Lower Cullen owner that opening up the channel and delta for increased boat traffic, potentially larger boats with higher speeds and more wave action was not something he thought to be beneficial. Steffens and Bonema noted they would work toward a formal proposal and would contact Ann Beaver when they were ready to discuss again.
6. **Committee assignments:** Ann reported that the draft committee assignments are adopted and to add Debi Oliverius to the Education committee.
7. **Committee reports:**
  - a. **Administration:** C.B. Bylander reported that Rich Baker is not available to speak at next year's Annual Meeting. The Board brainstormed other ideas and decided that the speaker should focus on zebra mussels, since they were just discovered in Lower Cullen. Ann will invite Paula West to discuss her experiences in dealing with zebra mussels. Paul Beilfuss suggested that a discussion on local birds would be of interest to the group and Pam Perry was suggested for that topic; she could be a back-up idea for 2017 or for 2018. (Ann has since sent an email to the Board indicating that Pam Perry is our speaker for 2017.)

- b. **Budget and Finance:** Paul reported that the “legacy fund” committee (Paul, Debi and Jack) had met and Jack presented the results of their discussion, which focused on four options: 1—do nothing and save funds for emergencies; 2—keep principal in a CD and spend no more than 10 per cent per year; 3—keep principal in a CD and spend no more than 10 per cent per year on special projects; 4—invest in a stronger “investment vehicle” that might deliver interest income as well as become a system that encourage others to donate; authorize Board to spend no more than 10 percent per year on on special projects. During the discussion several themes emerged: maintain the principal if at all possible; encourage other donations to such a fund; seek a vehicle that maximizes income while keeping risk low. Paul reported that the Brainerd area has a community foundation that allows for donor-advised funds, where we might gain the advantage of being in a larger investment portfolio while maintaining the ability to control how funds are used. Ann noted that the Initiative foundation has a similar program. The Board agreed that for now we would choose option 1 -- “do nothing” with the funds for the immediate future, while doing further work in two areas: investigating investment tools that are available for these types of funds and establishing criteria around “special” projects.
  - c. **Education:** Ann reported that the fall newsletter will focus on zebra mussels. The article will link to DNR website and other sources of information. C.B. will apply for a CWC grant for educational outreach and showed several examples of what could be done to educate members on zebra mussels. The Board liked the example of waterproof info cards and authorized him to proceed with this project.
  - d. **Environmental Issues:** Ann reported that some duck hunters have expressed concerns about the temporary culvert to Nisswa Lake. She has learned that the concrete culvert will go in next spring, with a three foot clearance from the high water level to top of culvert. There was also discussion on the holding ponds being constructed as part of the Highway 371 project and how these will drain into Lower Cullen.
  - e. **Invasives:** As reported earlier, we now have confirmed zebra mussels in Lower Cullen and our lakes have been marked as “infested.” We will continue to educate members on best practices to help ensure that other invasives do not enter our lakes.
  - f. **Fisheries:** The DNR is still seeking public comment on new rules for fish sizes and limits.
  - g. **Land Development:** Wilderness Resort Villas will be presenting a new lake plat proposal to Pequot city council. This proposal will leave the cabin on the point and not build private villas in that area. This is the fourth amended plat since 2005.
  - h. **Membership** –Jack has drafted a letter to go with the membership mailing this fall. Carol will send the mailing right after Thanksgiving.
  - i. **Water Quality** – Water quality has been inconsistent, probably weather-related.
8. **Old business – Paul** reported that the decals showing the lake association logo and the words donor or contributor will cost approximately \$250 for 500. It was moved, seconded and carried for Paul to order these for distribution to donors to the association. Carol will send with thank-you letters.
9. **New business – none.**
10. **Adjournment** – A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting.

**Next meeting: 9 a.m., Saturday, May 20, 2017 at the Lutheran Church of the Cross.**

Submitted by Carol Lindahl, CLA secretary