

**CULLEN LAKES ASSOCIATION
2017 ANNUAL MEETING**

August 12, 2017 – 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 speaker Tim Plude, Aquatic Invasive Species specialist with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Tim grew up in Wisconsin and has held similar jobs in Wisconsin and other parts of Minnesota. He spoke on the recent infestation of zebra mussels in Lower Cullen, which was discovered last fall. Recent testing has found a viable (reproducing) population in Lower Cullen but no veligers (the larval stage of zebra mussels) in Middle Cullen. He described zebra mussels as filter feeders that filter out plankton, which are also needed to feed the fish population. Zebra mussels attach to any hard surface (rocks, docks, boats, etc.) and as adults are small with very sharp edges, which can be dangerous to anyone who might step on or touch them. He said that the way they affect a lake differs – Mille Lacs, which has a high nutrient level, has a strong zebra mussel population while on Pelican, with a lesser amount of nutrients, the population seems to have leveled out. Lakes with sandy bottoms will have a lesser population because they need something hard to attach to. While every adult zebra mussel produces lots of veligers, about 98-99 per cent will not survive. He recommended that people using pumps on the lake run hot water through them periodically, as that will kill the veligers, and add filters to prevent adults from getting into the system. Tim then opened the meeting for questions from the attendees and a lively discussion followed. Highlights include:

- Can we block the channel to prevent boats moving the mussels from Lower to Middle? DNR did this to protect Kimball. Tim answered that the DNR doesn't do that anymore because it is not a viable long-term solution. (Kimball is now infected and the rocks in the channel are coming out.) He recommended creating more awareness of boats moving through the channel of the risks of transporting veligers in drops of water and adult zebra mussels that can detach from a boat moving through the water.
- What is the DNR's plan? Making it voluntary doesn't work! Tim replied that ultimately the DNR needs tools to control zebra mussels and right now none exist. The DNR has a dual push on education and enforcement via boat inspection. There is a pilot project in Wright/Stearns counties in which boats must be decontaminated before entering another lake.
- The lake owners should be able to control access to the lakes because we are the ones who suffer from the consequences – or at least we should be able to block access when the launch areas are not manned for inspections.
- Do adult zebra mussels swim? No, but they can crawl.
- If a lake becomes infested does it always stay infested? Yes. Attempts to kill off everything have so far been unsuccessful. Christmas Lake tried all the current treatments with a 98 per cent kill. Not good enough.
- Will taking boats and docks out of the water kill off the mussels? Yes. Scraping them off will decrease the base surface areas so that can also be helpful.

- How does this compare to the spread of other invasives? CLP and purple loosestrife have been around for a long time, but both have treatments.
- Most of the problems have arrived here via the Great Lakes and ships dumping ballast water. What is being done to hold them responsible? Ballast water is being regulated. Ships must have a treatment system and switch out fresh water with saltwater to prevent invasives from being transported.
- What about the genetic research to create a non-producing population? Lots of great genetic work is being done to describe the genome of mussels to determine where they came from. All the infestations in the Brainerd area have the same genetic structure—they all came from the first infestation on Ossawinnamakee. Researchers are also doing gene manipulation with mosquitoes.
- How long can veligers survive in stagnant water? Not very long; this being studied.
- Does the DNR have training and certification of companies that take out docks and move boats arounds? Yes. All lake service providers need to be licensed and have passed a training program educating them on these issues.

Approval of minutes of 2016 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 thanked Charlie Boudrye for his many years as CLA treasurer. Jack then reviewed the budget figures and the balance in our accounts. He thanked all donors to the curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) treatment program and told attendees that we will continue to ask for donations for this program this fall, timed so that charitable contributions can be recorded in time for tax filings. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the treasurer's report. Ann pointed out the amount of sales tax that we pay for the CLP treatments and asked members to contact their local state representatives to support legislation exempting sales tax collection on money spent to protect Minnesota lakes.

Agenda: Ann asked the membership if anyone wanted items added to the agenda for the Annual Meeting. Attendees mentioned following up on putting signs about zebra mussels in the channel and at Wilderness Resort Villas and any other boat access areas. Ann indicated that the AIS committee will follow up on these items. The agenda was adopted as printed.

Election of Board Members: Rich Johnson noted that nine Board members have terms that end with this meeting. Leaving the Board due to work conflicts are Dan Meixner, who will continue as webmaster, and Jim Kostreba, whose wife, Anne will run in his place. Rich thanked them for their service to the organization. He then presented this slate of candidates: Paul Beilfuss, Lower Cullen; Jim Burrell, Lower; C.B. Bylander, Upper; Charlie Boudrye, Middle; Dan Hurley, Lower; Anne Kostreba, Lower; Carol Lindahl, Lower; and Debi Oliverius, Middle. Joel Knutson and Patty Hicks, both on Middle Cullen, were nominated from the floor and added to the slate of candidates. A motion was made, seconded and carried to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of candidates.

Approval of 2018 Budget: Paul Beilfuss presented the proposed budget for 2018. The budget shows member donations increasing over this year and a no DNR grant. It projects an operating deficit of \$10,060, which will "eat" into our reserves. Paul indicated that we will continue to have to treat CLP and thanked all donors who support this effort. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the budget as presented.

Miscellaneous:

- Ten attendees were selected at random to receive a CLA logo mug or glass.
- Dan Meixner, webmaster for the CLA site, announced that we now have a Facebook page managed by Alli Isaacson from Eagle's Nest Resort. He encourage members to follow our page and to submit appropriate photos for posting on the Facebook page and on the website.

Membership discussion:

- Members asked what lobbying groups represent our interests to the State legislature. Two groups were highlighted: Crow Wing County Lakes and River Alliance (LARA) and the Minnesota Lakes and River Advocates (MLR). The CLA is a member organization of LARA and our members are encouraged to visit their website (crowwinglara.org) for their newsletter and links to other information about the lakes and on-going concerns. MLR has a citizen action network that sends emails on issues to interested individuals (sign up on the LARA website or at mnlakesandrivers.org). Remember -- the best way to have your voice heard is by direct communication with your local representatives.
- Fishing tournaments were raised as a concern due to the additional boat traffic that brings to a lake. Depending on the size of the tournament they are regulated by the DNR or by the local county.
- Donors to the CLP control effort were thanked again and the need for continued funding was underscored.

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