

**CLA ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**  
**Saturday, August 13, 2016**

**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 . . . . . Carrol Henderson

*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.*

*Carrol Henderson has been supervisor of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Nongame Wildlife Program since 1977. He has a B.S. in zoology from Iowa State University (1968) and a Master of Forest Resources degree in ecology from the University of Georgia (1970).*

*In 1977 he was hired to create and develop Minnesota's new Nongame Wildlife Program for the Department of Natural Resources. He has continued in that role to the present and has developed a comprehensive program for the development and protection of Minnesota's nongame and endangered wildlife species.*

Approval of 2015 Annual Meeting minutes

Treasurer's report . . . . . Charlie Boudrye

Approval of agenda

Nominating Committee report . . . . . Dan Hurley

Election of Board Members

Approval of 2017 budget . . . . . Paul Beilfuss

Additions to the agenda, if any

Membership discussion of concerns and issues

Adjournment

*Board members meet briefly to elect officers for 2016-2017 following the meeting*

**CULLEN LAKES ASSOCIATION  
2015 ANNUAL MEETING**

**August 8, 2015 – Lutheran Church of the Cross**

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

**Special presentation:** Jackie Froemming, Crow Wing County Extension Coordinator, introduced Master Gardeners Dorothy Johnson and JoAnn Weaver. Jackie began their presentation with a video on the Pine River Watershed, highlighting how watershed areas create and impact our lakes and rivers. Dorothy showed how she created two triangular areas of plants that grow in sandy soil that help protect her shoreline on Lower Cullen. JoAnn shared how she was influenced to let her shoreline “go natural” after seeing before and after photos of a property that had done that. She lives on a point on Pelican, which provides beauty along with unique challenges. All presenters noted several resources available to anyone who wants to improve and naturalize their shoreline.

A lively question and answer session touched on several topics:

- Why was last winter so hard on the shore? We had at least two large “rushes” of ice toward the shores which pushed the soil around more than normal.
- Should reeds that drift toward the shoreline be left in the water? Recommended to remove them and compost away from the lake.
- Are weed rollers a good idea? You need a permit to operate; one member commented that you should also consider the impact on your neighbors.
- What blooming plants are good for the shore? Recommended Carrol Henderson’s book on water and shore plants. Can be borrowed from the CLA library; contact Ann Beaver.
- How can we prevent a muskrat invasion? Watch in the fall and try to prevent them from digging in. Tom Beaver will also consult with property owners on removal.

**Approval of minutes of 2014 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 net of just over \$85,000. He noted that the increasing costs of treating curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) is depleting our reserves and causing us to operate at a loss. He thanked all the members who donate extra along with their dues payments to help cover the costs. 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:** Rich Johnson noted that eight Board members have terms that end with this meeting. Kathy Kriewald chose to not stand for re-election and Rich thanked her for her service on the Board. He then presented this slate of candidates: Paul Beilfuss, Lower Cullen; Charlie Boudrye, Middle Cullen; Jim Burrell, Lower Cullen; Dan Hurley, Lower Cullen; Jim Kostreba, Lower Cullen; Carol Lindahl, Lower Cullen, and Dan Meixner, Middle Cullen. Rich noted that this provides Lower Cullen with a lot more representation than the other two lakes. Ann asked for any nominations from the floor; C. B. Bylander, Upper Cullen, was nominated by his wife, Linda, and accepted the nomination; Deb Oliverius, Middle Cullen, volunteered. A motion was made, seconded and carried to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of candidates as presented with the addition of C.B. and Deb.

**Approval of 2016 Budget:** Paul Beilfuss presented the proposed budget as printed in the meeting booklets. He noted that apart from the costs of treating CLP, we have a very efficient organization that operates on about \$5,000 per year, which covers the website, newsletter, membership mailings and water quality testing. Paul also thanked all members who make donations to the organization. John Szafranski, visiting from Arizona, was recognized and thanked by the group for his work in the fund-raising effort that has paid for the costs of CLP treatment for the past seven years. John MacGibbon pointed out that at the current burn rate we will exhaust those funds in the next three years, emphasizing again the need for donations. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the budget as presented.

**Lake Management Plan (LMP):** Based on the membership survey earlier this year, the LMP was reviewed and updated. The new plan was printed in the summer newsletter. Ann asked the membership for any comments and for a vote of support for the plan. It was moved, seconded and carried to lend membership support for this plan.

**Membership discussion:**

- There is a meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 12 to hear the results of recent work done to evaluate the impact of the gulf oil spill on our population of loons. Carrol Henderson from the DNR will review the testing and results.
- Charlie reviewed the work done by Bob Stepaniak and himself to attempt to get a permanent “no wake” buoy placed at the entrance to Little Bay on Middle Cullen, in addition to the signage at the channel between Lower and Middle. The request was denied due to the width of the lake at that point.
- Bob DeMay encouraged the Board to be very forthright in asking for more donations to support the CLP treatments – even providing guidance on the size of contributions needed. Quick math by Dan Meixner provided this suggestion: with no DNR grant, our approximately 200 members would need to give extra \$175 each to eliminate the deficit; with a DNR grant similar to this year’s, that amount drops to \$150. Knowing that not all members can or would donate that much puts an extra burden on those who could possibly give more. Nancy Carpenter suggested that if you have neighbors who are not at this meeting it is important to share this information with them.

- Web site: Dan has added a “for sale” section. Our newsletters are available on the website, along with a lot of other information.
- What percentage of property owners are members? Charlie reported that we have 87 per cent of owners as members – this is very high compared to other associations.
- Tom Beaver volunteered to help with ice ridges and muskrats.
- Don Long requested that the minutes reflect the membership’s appreciation for the time and effort Board members contribute to the organization.
- Remember the sailing regatta will be the third weekend in July next year; photos from this year’s event are on display.

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

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Charlie Boudrye, treasurer

As of August 8, 2016 we had the following balances in our accounts.

Cash and Bank Accounts	
Operating Checking Account	\$6527.88
Project Savings Account	\$1150.58
Operating Savings Account	\$1457.76
Sub Total	\$9136.22
Certificates of Deposit	
Projects 403520 Matures 1/26/16	\$15,000.00
CLP 403787 Matures 10/23/16	\$60,000.00
CD Legacy Fund	\$42,000.00
Sub Total	\$117,000.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$126,136.22</b>

The Association had total assets of \$85,968.25 as of August 1, 2015. The increase this year is due to the generous donation from the Norden estate.

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 2015.

The pro-forma revenues and expenses are summarized below:

Income	\$
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CLP Donations	10,519
DNR Grants (3 lakes)	7,600
Support Donations	655
Member Dues (January 1 to August 8, 2016)	2,356
Interest	5
Memorials	46,185
Total Income	<b>\$67,320</b>

Expenses	\$
Administration	345
Education	1255
Water Quality	670
Miscellaneous Expenses	376
Invasive Species Control	
Legal Fees/Permits	7,650
Postage & Printing	0
Services – Clarke Aquatic	35,552
Membership	341
Total Expense	<b>44,189</b>
Surplus	<b>23,131</b>

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dan Hurley, chair

The CLA Board currently has 14 members. Of those, five terms are ending as of the 2016 Annual Meeting. No new candidates have been identified prior to this meeting. The Nominating Committee presents the following incumbents' names to the Cullen Lakes Association membership for election to the Board of Directors (two-year terms):

Ann Beaver	Lower Cullen
Rich Johnson	Lower Cullen
John MacGibbon	Lower Cullen
Jack McNamara	Lower Cullen

**PROPOSED 2017 OPERATING BUDGET**  
Paul Beilfuss, budget and finance committee chair

## INCOME

Membership Dues	\$6000
Donations (General)	\$2000
Donations (CLP)	\$27000
Department of Natural Resources Grant (Projected)	<u>\$5000</u>
(\$7600 DNR Grant for 2016)	
Total	\$40000

## EXPENDITURES

## Administrative Committee:

## Annual Meeting:

Supplies, Postage, Printing	\$250
Food	\$150
Board Meeting Room Donation	\$100
General Office Supplies	\$75
LARA Membership	\$75
Soteroplos Scholarship	<u>\$250</u>
Total	\$900

## Committees:

Water Quality Monitoring	\$750
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## Education:

Guide/Map Update	\$130
Newsletter Postage	\$525
Newsletter Printing	\$950
Web Site Management	<u>\$100</u>
Total	\$1705

## Aquatic Invasive Species:

AIS Annual Control (Clarke)	\$43000
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## Membership:

Supplies and Printing	\$250
Postage	\$300

	New Owner Packets	<u>\$50</u>
	Total	\$600
Other:		
	Board Liability Insurance	\$950
	Miscellaneous	<u>\$100</u>
	Total	\$1050
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$48005
Proposed 2017 Budget (Deficiency)		
	Estimated income less estimated expenditures	(\$8005)

### **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Carol Lindahl, chair

The Administration Committee organized the 2016 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.

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

John MacGibbon, chair

The CLA Education Committee maintains two major sources of information about the Cullen lakes and the lakes association: Cullen Currents, published quarterly and edited by Ann Beaver, and the Cullen Lakes website: [www.cullenlakesassoc.org](http://www.cullenlakesassoc.org) under webmaster Dan Meixner. Both the newsletter and the website continue to provide essential information on the Cullen Lakes to all members.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES COMMITTEE**

Rich Johnson and Jack McNamara, co-chairs

#### Highway pick up

Due to the highway 371 construction project, highway pick-up will be suspended until the spring of 2018.

### Shoreline restoration/preservation

It has been four years since we last were able to present a Most Improved Shoreline Award and again this year we do not have any nominations. We assume that people are making every effort to keep their shorelines environmentally friendly and we appreciate their diligence to help keep our lakes in pristine condition. Also, for the third year there will be no Lake Friendly awards. Let us hear from you! If the Board doesn't get positive feedback on these programs, we may consider dropping them and pursuing other beneficial plans or programs.

### **INVASIVE SPECIES SUBCOMMITTEE**

Ann Beaver and Carol Lindahl, co-chairs

In mid January we completed DNR permit applications for our spring treatment of curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) and applied for DNR grant funding to help offset the cost. We received DNR grants for the three Cullen Lakes totaling \$7,600. 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. Clarke did find new areas of CLP in Middle and Lower Cullen with densities great enough to merit consideration for treatment in 2017. However, the DNR does limit the total acreage of CLP we can treat in each lake, so after Clarke does its pre-treatment surveys next spring we will likely have some decisions to make as to which areas to treat. Also, we will continue to map known areas of CLP this year. We ask all lake users to notify us of areas they discover when out on the lakes. This knowledge will help Clarke and us effectively define treatment areas in the coming years.

As in the past few years, local DNR personnel are no longer able to map and treat purple loosestrife on the Cullens, as they had so graciously been doing for us, because they have their hands full dealing with the aquatic invasive species in the Brainerd Lakes area. So, 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. Please refer to the summer newsletter for methods of control. *If it's on your shoreline, it is your responsibility to get rid of it.*

### **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, 2017 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.

### **LAKE MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Ann Beaver, chair

Last fall brought the completion of the Lake Management Plan (LMP) update process, something that is done every five years. The Plan's supporting documents were updated and the LMP booklet was assembled and given to CLA board members to guide them in carrying out their CLA and committee responsibilities. It was also shared with appropriate government agencies.

### **LAND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Ann Beaver, chair

Committee members continue to attend meetings of the Pequot Lakes Planning Commission to represent the lake association's concerns regarding redevelopment aspects of Wilderness Resort Villas. CLA has a representative on the Pequot Lakes City Council/Planning Commission committee that monitors the continuing development of the resort, especially the removal of trees in the structure setback from the lake. There have been no land use applications before the Crow Wing County or the Niswaga Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment 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 229. A total of 21 former members have not yet paid their dues for 2016. There are 13 complimentary members (new property owners on the lakes) the same as last year. We have 17 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.

### **FISH MANAGEMENT**

Dan Meixner, chair

Data from the DNR lake surveys completed in the summer of 2015 have been compiled and released. It shows mixed conditions as to the status of our 3 lakes.

**Bluegill/Sunfish** in general are down significantly in number and size. In fact, Middle and Lower numbers are at record lows sampled in the net. Middle for instance, had a high catch per net of 97.6 fish and now has 9.6 fish per net. Upper numbers are similar to Middle and Lower. While the size of the fish remained the same in Upper, Middle and Lower fish were smaller in general and the average size shrunk as well.

**Crappie** numbers are similar to past numbers. Size structure is about the same to slightly larger as well.

**Bass** numbers are about the same as the last survey with the exception of Middle. In Middle, numbers per catch are down from 114 in 2003 to 75 in 2009 to 58 in 2015. The size is down in Middle and Lower, while larger in Upper.

**Walleye** numbers are roughly the same as the 2009 survey. The age class of the walleyes sampled in Upper and Lower match the 3 year interval of Middle Cullen stocking. This indicates at least some of the fish stocked in Middle are moving into Upper and Lower. The size structure in Middle is up from 18" to 19.5" average lengths. Upper and Lower size structure is down about 4" on average from 22"-18" in Upper and 23"-19" in Lower.

**Northern Pike** numbers are up in Middle and Lower, but down in Upper. The numbers in Upper are still at or above the numbers sampled in Middle and Lower. The size structure however, shows the smallest fish in Upper and the largest fish in Lower.

- Upper shows size averages below 24" for most fish sampled. Last survey, 19% were over 24" and in the latest survey there were only 13% over 24". The DNR recommends releasing all fish 22" and over, and only keeping fish under 22".
- Middle shows size structure dropping from 26.6" to 24.2" average length. In this survey, only 41% were over 24" in length while in 2009 64% were over 24". The DNR recommends releasing all fish 24" and over, and only keeping fish under 24".
- Lower has larger fish sampled this survey. The average size is up from 24.3" to 25.9". 55% of the fish are over 24" now while in 2009 only 35% were over 24". The DNR recommends releasing all fish 22" and over, and only keeping fish under 22".

Because many of the lakes in MN now have smaller Northern Pike average lengths, the DNR has proposed changing the limits and sizes that may be taken. The goal is to increase the average size and number of larger fish in our lakes. To do this, in 2018 the DNR is proposing a possession limit of 10 fish with no more than two over 30". The protected slot would be from 22"-26" where all fish caught would have to be immediately released.

Please see our website for more detailed information on the above summaries. Links to the expanded articles and DNR information are on the **Lakes** page and the **Fisheries Committee** page under the **Board Member** page. Links to these are also at the top of the **News** page.

