

Cullen Lakes Association

Board of Directors Meeting

9:00 a.m., May 18, 2019, Lutheran Church of the Cross (Nisswa)

Present: Ann Beaver, Paul Beilfuss, Charlie Boudrye (arrived 9:18), Jim Burrell, C.B. Bylander, Anne Kostreba, Carol Lindahl, Denny Opsahl

Absent: Patty Hicks, Dan Hurley, Joel Knutson, John MacGibbon, Debi Oliverius

Guest: Ms. Georgia McGuire, Middle Cullen Lake

1. Ann Beaver, President, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
2. The October 13, 2018 Board meeting minutes were approved on a voice vote with three minor corrections suggested by Ann Beaver.
3. Carol Lindahl distributed the treasurer's report (attached). Carol indicated that revenues are satisfactory and expenses are tracking adequately by budget category. Carol suggested the removal of the web site's old domain name from the budget, since the \$30 allocated annually goes unused. The treasurer's report was approved on a voice vote.
4. There were no additions to the agenda.
5. Ann Beaver introduced Georgia McGuire, Middle Cullen property owner. Ms. McGuire brought a safety concern to the Board's attention regarding the channel between Lower and Middle Cullen Lakes. Ms. McGuire reported that a variety of boats typically anchor on the south end of the channel on a delta created by the channel's current from Middle Cullen. She indicated that it is very dangerous to have boats moving through the channel between lakes navigating among anchored boats. The anchored boats are blocking navigable waters and creating a safety hazard. In addition, boat passengers often exit their boats and enter the properties near the channel to urinate and defecate. Passengers have been found on nearby docks, playing loud music, using foul language, and throwing items (e.g., glass bottles) toward shore. Ms. McGuire indicated that the shallow, sandy area is perfect for swimming and wading, and is very attractive to

lake users. She also reminded Board members that the land under the channel water is private property. Ms. McGuire said that she has contacted the county sheriff's office about her concerns, and she stated that the sheriff is aware of the issue, and that he will add supervision to the area. The sheriff intends to focus on June weekends and July 4th, when the area is often heavily populated with anchored craft. In addition, local conservation officers on our lakes will be informed, and they are willing to help in the area's supervision. Ms. McGuire requested the Board to communicate to property owners to practice general courteous behavior, and not to anchor boats in/near the channel. She requested the Board to explore and support the possibility of adding buoy markers in/near the channel. In addition, she requested Board members to spread the word about this safety issue, and to call the County Sheriff or local area conservation officers to address future inappropriate behavior in/near this channel. Finally, Ms. McGuire said that her extended family will be celebrating its 100th anniversary of property ownership. She stated that family members are preparing an anniversary book to commemorate the occasion.

6. Committee Reports:

- a. Administration: Anne Kostreba led a Board discussion regarding annual meeting presentations. Anne Kostreba further suggested that Clarke, our CLP contractor, be held in abeyance to present at this year's annual meeting. It was further suggested that the Hirschey/McGuire family be contacted to present at this year's annual meeting to share the family's 100-year history as property owners on the Cullen Lakes. The Board was reminded that this year's annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 10, 9:00 a.m., at Lutheran Church of the Cross in Nisswa, with exhibits and a continental breakfast at 8:30.
- b. Budget and Finance: Paul Beilfuss reported that the budget is in good shape as the Treasurer's report indicates; however, it appears that we are going to be limited in our CLP area treatment this year. Therefore, we have to be diplomatic in our requests for additional future CLP donations; however, it is a good idea to build a "war chest" to address future budget issues. In addition, Joel Knutson, Debi Oliverius, and Paul

- will meet in the near future to flesh out a policy regarding the Legacy Fund.
- c. Education: Ann Beaver stated that she is finishing the spring newsletter. C.B. Bylander said that he will provide newsletter articles, and that he is pursuing a \$250 grant focused on AIS information signage at public accesses. The signage is supposed to be more visible to lake visitors.
 - d. Environmental Issues: Anne Kostreba stated that “471” (gravel path north of Lower Cullen Road) is open again. She said that the Nisswa City Council was informed of this informal road serving properties along the west end of Lower Cullen. She also stated that the plantings along State Highway 371 are complete. Anne reported that the DNR “Loon Watcher” program has expired. Anne is interested in pursuing contacts with area organizations of bow-fishers to address concerns about the disruption of loons during bow-fishing.
 - e. Fisheries: No report.
 - f. Invasive Species: Ann Beaver reported that CLP treatment occurred on May 16, and she distributed survey treatment maps. There was no treatment on Middle Cullen, since it was determined that possible treatment areas were too sparse. Lower Cullen had one treatment area of 3.9 acres, and Upper Cullen had 8.32 acres treated. We may wish to consider employing hand-pulling to address limited Middle Cullen CLP areas. The areas Clarke treated were approved by the DNR, and they are smaller than in years past. There was speculation that past treatments and heavy snowfall on early lake ice may have reduced the CLP.
 - g. Land Development: Ann Beaver reported that area communities are addressing an issue of short-term rental properties, especially lake properties. Pequot Lakes recently approved regulations with respect to rental property, sometimes known as the “VRBO effect.” Ann will explore a presentation about this issue for a June Board meeting.

- h. Membership: Carol Lindahl reported that we have 225 paid members, 6 complimentary memberships, and 13 family or past members.
 - i. Water Quality: The monitoring is delayed until Memorial Day weekend, or by special arrangement.
7. Nominating Committee: Ann Beaver requested John MacGibbon and Denny Opsahl to join her as the Board member nominating committee, since they are the only members not up for election or re-election. It was suggested by Carol Lindahl that the Board consider staggering Board members' terms to avoid a possible large Board turnover. Members present indicated their interest in re-election. Charlie Boudrye and Jim Burrell said they would not run for re-election. C.B. Bylander, Anne Kostreba, Carol Lindahl, and Paul Beilfuss indicated that they would seek re-election to the Board.

There was no old or new business added to agenda; however, Ann Beaver reported that our usual meeting place, Lutheran Church of the Cross, was not available for our June 8 meeting, so she sought suggestions for our next meeting location. Anne Kostreba and Ann Beaver are going to explore the Pequot Lakes Public Library, Nisswa Library/School, Nisswa American Legion, as possible locations for our next meeting.