

June 12, 2021

Cullen Lakes Association
Board of Director's Meeting
9:00 a. m. via Zoom (Video)

Present: Ann Beaver, Carol Lindahl, Paul Beilfuss, Debi Oliverius, John MacGibbon, Denny Opsahl, Joel Knutson, Dan Hurley, C. B. Bylander. Also Randy Steenholdt, possible Board candidate.

Absent: Patty Hicks, Michael Lawrow.

1. President Ann Beaver called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. Approval of Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2021 CLA Board Meeting. Motion carried.
3. Treasurer's Report: A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried. Paul Beilfuss, Budget & Finance Committee chair, asked other CLA committee chairs to send him budget items for the next fiscal year as soon as possible. Otherwise, committee budgets will remain as before.
4. Committee Reports

4a. Administration - Debi Oliverius.

Debi signed a room use contract with the Lutheran Church of the Cross in Nisswa for the 2021 annual membership meeting. The Celebration Room in the church is reserved August 14th from 8:00 a. m. until 12 noon for the annual Cullen Lakes Association meeting. Current Covid-19 restrictions per the Church are that if one is vaccinated, no mask is required. Unvaccinated patrons are strongly encouraged to wear masks. Assignments for the annual meeting were given. For the past 4-5 years, the CLA attendance has averaged 60+ folks.

The CLA annual meeting agenda is as follows:

8:30 a.m. Exhibits open/coffee and rolls available

9:00 a.m. CLA business meeting starts.

Clarke Aquatic Services is allowed about 15 minutes to explain its curly leaf pondweed surveying and treatment. Curly leaf pondweed is a large AIS annual expense.

Short break. 5-10 minutes. Also allows for speaker transition.

10:00 a.m. Speaker presentation (Stan Tekeila)

Carol Lindahl mentioned that in the past typically \$100 was allotted or allowed for speaker presentations at the CLA annual meeting. A motion was made, seconded and approved to allow up to \$300 for speakers at the CLA annual August meeting.

Regarding the upcoming 2021 annual meeting, an anonymous Board member generously offered to personally augment an extra amount of up to \$350 to help with this year's speaker expenses if necessary.

Joel Knutson motioned, which was seconded and unanimously approved, to contact Stan Tekeila, Victoria MN, about speaking at the annual CLA meeting. Tekeila is a naturalist, wildlife photographer, syndicated columnist, radio host and author with a special interest in ornithology. Tekeila has regularly spoken to lake association groups. It was suggested Tekeila speak on the ornithology of the lakes and forests of central MN. Prior to the current CLA Board meeting, Joel Knutson had contacted Tekeila about his schedule and possibly presenting at the August 14 CLA meeting. Tekeila was open and willing to present. Tekeila's normal speaking fee is \$450 plus travel, the travel portion unknown at this time. Thus Tekeila is the likely speaker and presenter for the 2021 CLOPA event.

A motion was made, seconded and carried for the Administration Committee to handle advertising of the August 14th event.

4b. Education – C.B. Bylander

The Education Committee, which had been asked to consider participating in the Get the Lead Out for Loons decided against doing so. The committee recommends that the board accept this recommendation.

The committee intends to convene soon to discuss the upcoming Cullen Lakes video approved at last month's meeting. Other members are welcome to share input or photos.

4c. Environmental Issues- John Maguire

The Environmental Issues Committee also was asked to reflect on the Get the Lead Out for Loons and has decided not to pursue this program as well. Concurring with Bylander and others in the Education Committee, we feel promoting loon conservation and habitats with sound environmental practices as the CLA has done in the past is sufficient and should continue. Thus, there was no formal board motion to accept or pursue the MPCA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal regarding getting the lead out.

As Maguire missed the May meeting, there was no discussion in May in regards to establishing a Lake Steward Program. Dorothy Whitmer, of the Gull Chain of Lakes Association, initiated a Best Practices Lake Owners model on Gull Lake in 2019. The Minnesota Lakes and River Advocates (MLR) under Jeff Forester would like to have lake associations model Gull Lake's Lake Steward Program and initiate the program statewide.

Whitmer's Gull Lake Lake Steward Program evolved over time and there appear to some differences between the Gull Lake Lake Steward Program and the MLR Lake Steward Programs.

The Environmental Issues Committee will continue to research and explore possibilities for a future Lake Steward Program. In many ways, this program has many of the same issues and goals as a previous CLA Lake Friendly Award used to serve in promoting healthy habits for the Cullens.

4d. Fisheries- C.B. Bylander

The Fisheries Committee intends to convene soon to discuss objectives of the short upcoming Fish of the Cullen Lakes video that was approved at last month's meeting.

DNR Fisheries crews will conduct a netting assessment of the Cullen Lakes fish populations in July. The work is scheduled to begin in July and continue for about 3 weeks. The DNR conducted an electro-fishing assessment of Cullen Lakes fish populations on June 2.

4e. Invasive Species- Ann Beaver

On May 19 Clarke Aquatic Services technicians treated 7.7 acres of CLP on Upper Cullen, 5.5 acres of CLP on Middle Cullen and 18.9 acres of CLP on Lower Cullen. The post treatment survey and report is yet to come, likely in early July. The Clarke invoice is being re-issued as the chemicals used by lake associations to treat AIS are now exempt from MN sales tax. The sales tax exemption will be substantial, perhaps \$1000.

Crow Wing County watercraft inspectors will again be monitoring the Lower Cullen public access over the summer for AIS and aquatic vegetation on boats and trailers entering and leaving Lower Cullen Lake..

4f. Land Development – Ann Beaver

The former Mark Peterson undeveloped property on the west shore of Lower Cullen was sold to Next Shift Enterprises, LLC. The property is about 10.5 acres with just over 1,000 feet of shoreline. The buildable area is separated from the lake by the Paul Bunyan Trail. The owner is proposing to divide the property into 9 conforming lots. All the lots have some shoreline. The depth of the shoreline between the lake and PB Trail right of way ranges from 6 to 26 feet. The lake in the area is quite shallow with rushes and lily pads the predominant aquatic vegetation. A sketch plan review, required by the Niswaga, was before the planning commission on June 4. The board tabled the review until the July meeting. A tour of the area indicates it will be awkward to develop. Ann will keep us updated.

4g. Memberships – Carol Lindahl

We have 252 paid members and 8 complimentary memberships.

4h. Water Quality –Ann Beaver

Water testing was done the third weekend of May. Water Clarity (Secchi disk reading), total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a* results are within acceptable and usual

ranges. It will be interesting to see how or if the lack of rain affects the 3 parameters in the months to come.

A. W. Lab at the Brainerd airport does the water analysis for the CLA. A. W. Lab can also provide well-water testing if need be.

4i. Nominating – John MacGibbon

The following current board members whose terms expire August 14, 2021 have agreed to stand for another 2- year term: Paul Beilfuss, Dan Hurley, Joel Knutson, John Maguire and Debi Oliverius. Randy Steenholdt has also agreed to stand for election to the Board for a 2- year term.

The next board meeting is the usual second Saturday of July. On the fourth Saturday of July there is a second board meeting in final preparation for the annual meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 am.

Submitted by
John Maguire