

## CROW WING COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ALLIANCE (LARA)

**Board of Directors meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 3, 2020, 4:00 pm.**  
**Zoom virtual meeting**

Board members present: Ann Beaver, Tom Beaver, Nick Bernier, Jodi Billy, Eleanor Burkett (ex-officio), Tony Coffey, Phil Hunsicker

Board members absent: Sandy Holm, Kent Montgomery (ex-officio), Mike O'Brien

Others present: Northern Waters Land Trust's John Sumption, Land Conservation Specialist, and Annie Johnson, Grants Manager/Conservation Specialist

The meeting was called to order shortly after 4:00 p.m. by Phil Hunsicker, co-president. Board members introduced themselves to the guests present and John Sumption introduced himself and Annie Johnson, who gave a little background on herself.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2020 board meeting. Ann Beaver stated her treasurer's report had not changed since the last meeting. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the treasurer's report.

**Guest presenter** John Sumption gave some history on the transition of the Leech Lake Watershed Foundation to the Northern Waters Land Trust (NWLT). The NWLT serves Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, and Hubbard Counties. At this time, it does not hold conservation easements itself but rather works with the Minnesota Land Trust. NWLT's main focus at present is to identify high priority land parcels for protection through the use of conservation easements. Staff then meets with landowners of the identified parcels to see if they would consider protecting the land from further development in order to protect area lakes and rivers. NWLT has developed a GIS mapping system which scores all eligible parcels and thus helps prioritize parcel owners to contact. The NWLT web site will always have the most up to date parcel data for its GIS map. LARA can help educate parcel owners by putting a link to NWLT on its web site.

**Virtual Environmental Forum for Candidates** The Forum was held on October 21. There were four candidates who took part and about 20 attendees other than board members of the sponsoring organizations. Larry Kellerman did his usual excellent job moderating the Forum. Organizers and attendees felt the event went very well.

**LARA by-laws** A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the amended by-laws and the secretary was directed to send them to LARA member association contacts for their approval.

**Other business** Board member Sarah Fogderud sent an email regarding an update to the LARA web site. She has set up a gmail account for LARA – [crowwinglakesandrivers@gmail.com](mailto:crowwinglakesandrivers@gmail.com) – and has replaced all the personal contact information that was on the site with this address. All emails to this address will be forwarded to her and she will pass along any messages to the appropriate people as they come in.

**Next meeting** No decision was made regarding having a meeting in December. This will be decided closer to the date and will depend on whether or not there is business to be discussed/decided.

The meeting was adjourned a little after 5:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Ann Beaver, secretary