

CROW WING COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ALLIANCE (LARA)

Board of Directors meeting Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 4:00 p.m. Zoom virtual meeting

Board members present: Ann Beaver, Tom Beaver, Nick Bernier, Jodi Billy, Tony Coffey, Sarah Fogderud (ex-officio), Sandy Holm, Phil Hunsicker, Mike O'Brien

Board members absent: Kent Montgomery (ex-officio)

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm. by Phil Hunsicker, co-president. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2020 board meeting. Ann Beaver, treasurer, reported there had been no financial activity since her last report other than a very small amount of interest being added to one of LARA's CDs. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the treasurer's report.

Use of CWEPA Fund grant money Sarah Fogderud had been in touch with The Northland Arboretum regarding its request for \$3,000 to help fund the establishment of a pollinator prairie at the Arb. Board members were open to the idea but wanted specifics as to how the money would be spent. Sarah said she would follow up with Candice Zimmerman, the Arb's executive director. Other ideas for use of the funds included checking with Melissa Barrick, SWCD, on possible projects she might know of and Jodi Billy offered to check with the Pine River Watershed's Board to see if they had any knowledge of possible projects, perhaps even to partner with LARA on. Ann Beaver reminded Board members that not only would there be around \$3,500 of 2021 grant funds to award but last year's \$3,500 was also available.

Crow Wing County AIS prevention plan The County had a virtual meeting on January 22 to discuss its 2021 AIS prevention plan. Board members who participated said there were around 25 people on the virtual meeting. They reported the watercraft inspection program would be similar to that of 2020. As to watercraft decontamination units, there would be the permanent one in Crosslake as well as one mobile unit that would rotate among Lower Cullen, Upper Hay, Pelican, Edward, and Upper South Long Lakes' public accesses. The plan calls for 75-80% of the AIS prevention plan's funds to be used for watercraft inspections.

Other business/announcements

Ann Beaver said she thought much of the meeting's discussion prompted possible ideas for a newsletter. Since there has not been a newsletter for quite a while, she suggested board members give thought to possible articles and come to the next meeting ready to share ideas.

Next meeting The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 2 via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned shortly before 5:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Ann Beaver, secretary