

CROW WING COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ALLIANCE (LARA)

Board of Directors meeting Tuesday, May 30, 2023, 4:00 p.m. Roundhouse Brewery, Nisswa, MN

Board members present: Ann Beaver, Tom Beaver, Nick Bernier, Jodi Billy, Tony Coffey, Dave Peterson

Board members absent: Sara Fogderud (ex-officio)

The meeting was called to order by Tony Coffey, president. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2022 and May 2, 2023 meetings. Ann Beaver handed out and went through her treasurer's report, noting the receipt of dues and expenses so far in 2023. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the treasurer's report. Ann said she had checked with a bank officer at First Western bank in Nisswa to see what needed to be included in this month's minutes to be able to cash in LARA's existing four 6-month CDs and put the money into two new 10-month CDs at a much higher rate of interest. As a result of what she was told, a motion was made, seconded and carried to cash in LARA's four 6-month CDs. Next, a motion was made, seconded and carried to reinvest the money in two 10-month CDs. Finally, a motion was made, seconded and carried to name Tony Coffey and Dave Peterson as the Board members to have their names on the CDs as people authorized to withdraw the funds. They will replace Sue Jordan (deceased) and Ann Beaver (soon to retire from the Board).

MLR membership Tony wanted to check to see if LARA is a member of MLR. It is and has been for a number of years.

CWEPA grants Although unable to attend this meeting, Sarah Fogderud sent an email with an idea for use of grant funds. She suggested the WonderTrek Children's Museum in Brainerd (currently operating out of the Franklin Arts Center) as a possible recipient of funds. They are raising money to build an actual museum in Baxter within the next couple of years. She thought perhaps they could receive a CWEPA grant to develop and purchase some water quality exhibits or do some programming related to water quality. Board members agreed this could be a possible future recipient of a grant and would like Sarah to get more information about it.

AIS handout Board members agreed to stay with the existing format but delete purple loosestrife and add starry stonewort to the species pictured and explained. Sarah had volunteered to take the lead on getting the new cards printed. Ann was asked to send Sarah the information for the company that printed the card in the past.

Mississippi River Brainerd One Watershed One Plan No updates.

LARA priorities Board members agreed the three priorities as presented and discussed at the last meeting were good ones. Dave Peterson pointed out that the County plans to hold public hearings and input sessions for the Comprehensive Plan update before it is written.

Member meeting? The Board decided to host a member meeting on Tuesday, August 29 from 4-6 p.m. Tony will look into having the event in the lower level room at Dunmires on the Lake. Jeff Forester, MLR, was suggested as a possible brief speaker.

Other business Ann related the problem the Cullen Lakes Association had this spring in getting its CLP treated. Between the late ice out and heavy winter snow cover, which slowed all aquatic vegetation growth, and the fast rising water temperature, Tim Plude of the DNR would not issue any treatment permits for the three Cullen Lakes. She said both the association's treatment contractor and the independent contractor they hired to do the verification surveys required by the DNR grants they had received believe the 60 degree water temperature cutoff is not based on science and is arbitrary. She asked the Board for permission to email LARA member association contacts to see if they also had problems this spring. The Board agreed, but said she should approach it from a LARA perspective, not her lake association's perspective, to see if this is an area in which LARA could assist all its members.

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 11, 4:00 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Ann Beaver, secretary