

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

**Board of Directors meeting  
Tuesday, June 7, 2022, 3:00 p.m.  
Roundhouse Brewery, Nisswa, MN**

Board members present: Ann Beaver, Jodi Billy, Tony Coffey, Sarah Fogderud (ex-officio), Phil Hunsicker

Board members absent: Tom Beaver, Nick Bernier

Others present: Dave Peterson, Lake Ossawinnamakee; Bill Brekken, Crow Wing County Commissioner

The meeting was called to order by Tony Coffey, president. Board members introduced themselves to the guests. Dave Peterson was attending as a possible future member of the Board. Bill Brekken was attending to give an update on the Crow Wing County moratorium on boardwalks across lakefront wetlands.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2022 board meeting. Ann Beaver handed out and went through her treasurer's report. Current membership stands at 18 and dues continue to trickle in. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the treasurer's report.

**CWEPA Fund grant requests** Sarah Fogderud had reached out to several organizations to see if they wanted to submit applications for some of the grant money available. She had emailed the application information to board members prior to this meeting.

*Mississippi Headwaters Board* – Smiles on the 'Sippi: They requested \$3,000 to use for promoting this event which will promote recreational use of the Mississippi River in Brainerd and educational activities related to the river and its environment. After discussing the proposal, board members agreed they were generally in favor of a grant, but the request would better fit with the grant's purpose if the money were used for the educational or environmental aspects of the event. Sarah said she would relay these concerns and get more information from them. She would also ask them to propose a use of the money that would better conform with the grant's purpose. She will pass the information she receives on to the Board via email and the Board could vote on granting the funds via email if it is necessary before the Board's July 5 meeting.

*Crow Wing County Soil and Water Conservation District* – The SWCD submitted a request for \$6,000 to help pay for the cost of materials for a shoreline stabilization project on Crooked Lake. The project is on private property and board members expressed reluctance to give a grant that, while benefitting the lake in the long term, is restricted to one shoreline property owner. Further discussion included the idea that perhaps some future grant money could be given to SWCD to help pay/offset fees they charge landowners to conduct on site inspections and write up proposals for stabilization/restoration projects.

No grant applications were approved at this meeting.

**Crow Wing County Moratorium update** Bill Brekken explained where things currently stand in regard to this moratorium. County staff is looking into a number of things to try to deal with

the existing problem of crossing shoreline wetlands with boardwalks to enable lake access to property well off the lake. Two questions he brought up were: is a boardwalk the best way to cross a wetland (the answer appears to be “yes”) and how do we define lakeshore? Bill and board members engaged in a wide conversation on the moratorium issue and related topics. Bill said he believes township boards need to become more involved in land use issues that involve their township by both providing input to the county planning commission/board of adjustment and by attending meetings where applications regarding land in their township are being considered.

Bill also was asked how the VRBO ordinance is working. He felt things are going well except for the Crosslake area, where more conformance issues are being encountered.

**Discussion of how to use LARA assets** Board members felt the need to find ways to use these funds to benefit LARA members rather than letting the money sit in CDs at the bank. Several ideas were discussed and included: donate annually to assist a natural resource student (likely a CLC student) and match or partially match CWEPA Fund grants awarded. Tony also suggested asking Melissa Barrick, SWCD, for input on smaller projects that LARA might help fund.

**Possible annual membership meeting** Board members explained the dismal attendance at past annual meetings. Sarah suggested just bringing lake association contacts together in a social setting simply to talk to one another. All thought this was a good idea instead of a formal meeting. A possibility agreed upon was an early September gathering at Roundhouse Brewery where LARA would provide food/appetizers and attendees would buy their own beverage.

**Board member recruitment** Phil reported that he had talked with Laurie Noll, Lake Ossawinnamakee, and she would like to join the Board. Meeting guest Dave Peterson said he would still need to check on a few things before deciding. Phil said he had not yet heard back from Terry Coss, Bay Lake, whom he had contacted about possibly joining the Board.

The next meeting of the Board will be Tuesday, July 5, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Ann Beaver, secretary.