

CROW WING COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ALLIANCE (LARA)

Board of Directors meeting Tuesday, July 7, 2020, 4:00 p.m. Zoom virtual meeting

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

Board members absent: Tom Beaver, Sandy Holm, Kent Montgomery (ex-officio)

Others present: John Forrest

The meeting was called to order by Phil Hunsicker, co-president. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2020 board meeting. In her treasurer's report Ann Beaver noted the receipt of \$225 in dues and a donation of \$25 as well as \$3,500 from the Initiative Foundation as this year's payout from the CWEPA Fund grant. There were no expenditures. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the treasurer's report.

Eleanor Burkett introduced John Forrest who presented maps, an overview, and details on the development of the 195 acre Rotary Riverside Park, which has approximately 5,465 feet of frontage on the Mississippi River, and the Mississippi Riverfront Project.

LARA goals for 2020

LARA web site — Sarah Fogderud asked Board members to give her input and send her content for the website she is developing. In addition to items suggested at the June 10 board meeting, it was suggested all projects funded by the CWEPA Fund should be posted on the site.

Environmental Forum — Board members discussed various ways the Forum could be conducted this year since an in-person gathering would not be wise during the Covid-19 pandemic. Ideas included inviting candidates to send written responses to questions, taping questions and answers, and partnering with the Brainerd Dispatch and/or public TV. We could ask LARA members what they would like to ask the candidates. Eleanor Burkett said she would check with the other past forum partners to see what they might be interested in doing.

2020 CWEPA Fund grant use — Jodi Billy looked into using the funds to allow LARA members to distribute trees to their members and found it would not be practical because of the very large number of lake association members that could be eligible to participate in the project. Tony Coffey said it was too late in the season to support lakescaping projects on the Whitefish Chain, an idea that had been discussed earlier in the year. As to possible support of the Mississippi Riverfront project, although Board members seemed to like this idea, they decided it would be best to wait to see what would work best for the project. The final decision was to sit on the funds for now.

LARA newsletter — Phil Hunsicker asked for ideas for newsletter articles. After some discussion, Board members decided to wait on the newsletter until more information is available on a possible Environmental Forum and the new LARA website.

The next meeting will be a Zoom virtual meeting on Tuesday, August 4 at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Ann Beaver, secretary