

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

### **Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, June 4, 2019, 4:00 p.m. Jackpine Brewery, Baxter, MN**

Board members present: Ann Beaver, Tom Beaver, Nick Bernier, Jodi Billy, Phil Hunsicker, Mike O'Brien

Board members absent: Eleanor Burkett (ex-officio), Sandy Holm, Kent Montgomery (ex-officio)

Others present: Dave Williams, Pelican Lake

The meeting was called to order by Phil Hunsicker, co-president. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2019 board meeting. Ann Beaver handed out and went through her treasurer's report noting the receipt of lake association dues and a personal membership. There were no expenses since the last report. She read a thank you note from the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) for LARA's 2018 donation of \$1,000. After brief discussion about the importance of the work MAISRC is doing, a motion was made, seconded and carried to donate \$1,000 to MAISRC again this year.

Phil Hunsicker introduced Dave Williams to the Board. Ann Beaver had invited him to speak to the Board about Vacation Rentals by Owner (VRBOs) and the lack of a county ordinance regulating them. Board members introduced themselves to Dave. Dave reviewed the ways in which VRBOs can be a problem, both environmentally and to neighbors. He cited more than six Minnesota counties and several municipalities that have a VRBO ordinance and are successfully enforcing it. Board members agreed there is a need for Crow Wing County to adopt and enforce such an ordinance and they and Dave discussed what LARA can do to help get the County Commissioners to support such an ordinance. Dave said the two new commissioners support having an ordinance. A multi-pronged approach was suggested: letters in local newspapers, attend County Board meetings, and letters to County Commissioners. Phil offered to write a letter to the County Board members encouraging them to support adopting a county VRBO ordinance; he will stress the environmental issues that can arise when a lake property is used for short term rental. Dave encouraged board members to attend a County Board meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month) and speak briefly (maximum of 3 minutes) during the Open Forum at the beginning of the meeting. The County Commissioners need to hear from as many people as possible expressing the desire and need for the County to adopt and enforce an ordinance regulating VRBOs.

**MN COLA dues** Phil said he had received a letter from MN COLA saying it is time to pay dues (\$150) for the year. Board members briefly discussed the merits of doing so, since they weren't sure MN COLA was doing much. They decided LARA should belong to MN COLA one more year and then make a decision on whether or not to continue membership after reviewing its accomplishments. Phil said he would email its meeting minutes to board members when he receives them. A motion was made, seconded and carried to renew LARA's membership in MN COLA.

**CWEPA Fund** No one knew offhand of any project, other than Kent Montgomery's CLC idea, that might qualify for and need money available from the CWEPA Fund. It was suggested LARA talk with Ron Meyer about a joint venture. Ann Beaver will email project requirements to the board members.

**Newsletter articles** Ideas suggested and assigned: VRBOs – Dave Williams; Moussebay loon camera – Jodi Billy; Change in CWEPA Fund grant – Ann Beaver; Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center – Ann Beaver. Email all articles to Ann Beaver who will assemble an informal newsletter and email it to LARA member contacts for further distribution.

**Next meeting** The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 2, 4:00 p.m., location to be determined.

Minutes submitted by Ann Beaver, secretary