

CROW WING COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ALLIANCE (LARA)

Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, March 5, 2019, 4:00 p.m. Jackpine Brewery Baxter, MN

Board members present: Ann Beaver, Tom Beaver, Eleanor Burkett (ex-officio), Sandy Holm, Phil Hunsicker
Board members absent: Nick Bernier, Jodi Billy, Kent Montgomery (ex-officio), Mike O'Brien

The meeting was called to order by Phil Hunsicker, co-president. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2019 board meeting. Ann Beaver handed out and went through her treasurer's report noting the receipt of dues from nine lake associations, a donation from one lake association, the expense of stamps for the membership mailing and general use. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the treasurer's report.

LARA website Mike O'Brien reported via email that after looking into the costs and benefits of having a web site, he would recommend hosting a Facebook page instead. He said he could help set it up and maintain it. Board members agreed a website isn't really necessary for LARA and maybe a Facebook page would be adequate. This will be discussed at the next board meeting when Mike is back in the lakes area.

CWEPA Fund Phil and Ann reported on what LARA's CWEPA Fund Advisory Committee decided to do after consultation with Don Hickman and Kate Bjorge of the Initiative Foundation (I.F.). Due to the lack of applications for the CWEPA Fund grant the last few years, the Advisory Committee requested the Fund be reclassified to a Designated Fund. What this means is that an annual grant will be awarded to LARA as long as the organization continues to exist and its mission supports the purpose of the Fund. There will no longer be any advisors to the Fund and the I.F. will continue to manage the Fund. LARA will use the annual grant to support Crow Wing County projects and initiatives that meet the purpose of the Fund. LARA will have the ability to retain money not given to qualifying projects any given year and thus increase the amount available for future use. This is something it couldn't do under the former fund designation.

Meeting with DNR Commissioner Strommen Several lake association representatives were invited to a question/answer session with the new DNR Commissioner on February 21. Tom Beaver attended on behalf of the Cullen Lakes Association and gave a brief report on the meeting.

Other business Ann Beaver shared information on a proposed resort development on 7.3 acres of what was once the Driftwood Resort on Upper Whitefish Lake. The developer was before the County Planning Commission/Board of Adjustment on February 21. His proposal requires several variances and elicited concerns from neighbors and the DNR. WAPOA does not oppose the resort development but also has concerns about the number of variances being sought. The PC/BOA tabled the application until they can visit the property in the spring. Ann would like to put together comments for LARA to submit regarding the proposed development. The Board was open to this idea. She will send her comments to all board members via email as soon as she has them ready.

Next meeting The next board meeting will likely be in April, but the date will be determined once more board members are back in the area.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Ann Beaver, secretary