CROW WING COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ALLIANCE (LARA)
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 10, 2026 3:00 P.M. Zoom Call
First Western Bank, Nisswa, MN

Board members present:	Nick Bernier, Tony Coffey, Carrie Ruud, Susan Koering, Michael McDaid, Bob Noll, Mike Bosquez, Sarah Fogderud
Board members absent:	Alan Albrecht
Guests:	Jon Lubke, Melissa Barrick

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:00P.M. by Tony Coffey, President.
2. Tony introduced Melissa Barrick to the board. She is the District Manager for the Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
3. Melissa gave the CWSWCD update covering their plans for 2026:
    a. Participating in a hybrid cattail study with the U of M and the Pelican on Pelican Lakes Association.
    b. Received funding for the Pine River, Crow River, ad Mississippi River watersheds – for shoreland restoration and other projects approved under the One Watershed One Plan for each of the watersheds.
    c. Pick several lakes in each watershed to review septic permits and compliance on each parcel on the lake, with follow up to individual property owners as needed.
    d. Develop a pilot for a standardized Lake Steward program.
    e. Coordinate with Amy and Dan Brennan from Emily to a county wide well testing program, including a seminar this summer.
    f. The MN Board of Water and Soil Resources produced a video highlighting the SWCD gully project in the city of Brainerd.
    g. Reviewed the successful biochar project at Rotary Park conducted by SWCD in conjunction with the Brainerd Fire Department.
    h. Joined the MN DNR “Keep It Clean” initiative to encourage removing debris and trash from the ice during the winter activities season.
4. Motion to approve February 10, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Motion approved.
5. Treasurer’s report – Tony gave the financial report.
    - Checking account funds available as of today - $14,999.38

- 1 year (3.25%) CD #1239701 total $5,766.80 Matures 1/17/2027
- 6-month (3.75%) CD #1239702 total $4,556.48 Matures 5/17/26
- **Total Funds available: $25,322.66**

- CWEPA funds available - $12,100

- Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made and approved.

6. LARA Membership Renewals – Michael highlighted that to date we have received dues from 22 of the 38 members of LARA. We have collected $1,600 to date.
7. 2026 AIS Roundtable Update – At the Roundtable there will be 3 speakers from MAISRC at the June 6 event at Immaculate Heart Church in Crosslake. One of the topics will be Swimmers Itch. A motion was made to support the event at 50% up to $500. The motion was approved
8. Middle Cullen has found Starry Stonewort up to 3 feet thick and this is after 3-4 treatments. Last fall WAPOA purchased an underwater ROV for use at Rush lake and other sites on the Whitefish Chain. The approach is to cycle through 2 rounds of DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting) as well as 2 rounds of Algaecides (Komeen Descend). Scheduling DASH is an issue they are working through.
    a. The cost estimates are
        i. DASH – 1 Acre area, $7,500-14,000/treatment
        ii. Algaecide – 1 Acre area, $1,900/treatment
9. MN COLA position paper. Motion was made to adopt the MN COLA position paper on enhanced wakes and responsible boat use as the LARA position. Motion was approved (attached at bottom of minutes). Safe Wakes maps for CWC Lake Associations were postponed to next meeting.
10. CWEPA Grants – We have not had any applications for any grants and will decide in future meetings that if we do not receive any requests, we could assist the lake associations with purchasing the wake maps for their lake
11. The board is exploring *GATHER* as the location for our Happy Hour and Annual Meeting – Same location as last year. The date that is being check out is August 25
12. Other business – None
13. Next Meeting – June 16, 2026 at First Western Bank – Nisswa / Zoom
14. Motion to adjourn approved at 4:15

AGENDA

CROW WING COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ALLIANCE (LARA)

Meeting of the Board of Directors – First Western Bank Nisswa/Zoom
Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 3:00 – 4:15 pm

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Introduction of guests
3. CWSWCD Update – Melissa Barrick
4. Approval of minutes from February 10, 2026 board meeting
5. Treasurer's Report
6. LARA Membership Renewals
7. 2026 AIS Roundtable Update
    a. June 6, 2026, 8:30 am to noon, Immaculate Heart Church Crosslake
    b. LARA Sponsorship
    c. LARA member publicity
8. Rush Lake/Middle Cullen Starry Stonewort Updates
    a. CWC Starry Search
9. MN COLA Position Paper – Enhanced Wake Activities
    a. LARA's position
    b. Safe Wakes maps for CWC Lake Associations
10. CWEPA Grants
11. LARA 2026 Happy Hour and Annual Meeting
    a. Theme/Topic?
    b. Location?
12. Other business/announcements
13. Next Scheduled Meeting: TBD
14. Adjourn