

CROW WING COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ALLIANCE (LARA)

Board of Directors meeting
Tuesday, May 2, 2023, 4:00 p.m.
Roundhouse Brewery, Nisswa, MN

Board members present: Ann Beaver, Tom Beaver, Jodi Billy, Tony Coffey, Sara Fogderud (ex-officio), Dave Peterson

Board members absent: Nick Bernier

The meeting was called to order by Tony Coffey, president. The minutes of the October 11, 2022 meeting will be approved at the next board meeting since members did not remember their contents. Ann Beaver was asked to resend the meeting minutes. She then handed out and went through her treasurer's report, noting the receipt of dues, donations, and expenses so far in 2023. She noted that after awarding a \$2,000 grant to Crow Wing SWCD for the environmental information kiosk housed now at the Brainerd Welcome Center, CWEPA grant funds still available are \$9,600. These funds are included in the checking account balance. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the treasurer's report.

AIS handout Board members discussed possible invasive species to include on this handout. Ann was asked to resend the old AIS card and order information to the rest of the board for them to consider before the next month meeting.

CWC AIS Prevention Plan process discussion Board members agreed the current process is flawed. LARA, LIDs, and lake associations should be involved in the development of the prevention plan, not just asked to react to one that has already been written.

LARA 2023 Priorities

***Crow Wing County plans** All present believe the County should seek public input on its Comprehensive Plan rewrite and the AIS Prevention Plan before writing the plans. Most municipalities host public meetings to seek input before even beginning to undertake their Comprehensive Plan rewrites and the County should do the same.

*LARA should assist as it can with the **protection of sensitive shoreline**.

***Mississippi River One Watershed One Plan** LARA needs to know what the process is and discuss how it can help promote/advertise it.

***LIDs** Crow Wing County has become more open to lake improvement districts (LIDS) with the change in the Board of County Commissioners makeup.

***LARA Board membership** One possible way to attract additional board members might be to have current board members attend the annual membership meetings of LARA member associations. Ann was asked to send an email to current LARA members asking when and where their 2023 annual membership meetings will be. Ann was also asked to send Tony a list of lake associations that used to be members of LARA but haven't been lately. Board members then brainstormed possible board member candidates, both voting and ex-officio.

Next meeting: Tuesday, May 30, 2023. Future summer meetings: July 11 and August 8.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Ann Beaver, secretary