

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

### **Board of Directors meeting Wednesday, August 5, 2020, 4:00 p.m. Zoom virtual meeting**

Board members present: Ann Beaver, Tom Beaver (4:27), Nick Bernier, Jodi Billy, Eleanor Burkett (ex-officio), Tony Coffey, Sarah Fogderud (ex-officio), Phil Hunsicker, Sandy Holm, Mike O'Brien

Board members absent: Kent Montgomery (ex-officio)

Others present: Candice Zimmerman, executive director of the Northland Arboretum

The meeting was called to order by Phil Hunsicker, co-president. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2020 virtual meeting. Ann Beaver, treasurer, sent her report to Board members prior to the meeting. She noted the receipt of \$100 in dues and no monthly expenditures. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the treasurer's report.

Phil Hunsicker introduced Candice Zimmerman who presented an overview of the Northland Arboretum. She noted the member-supported non-profit organization's focus is on education, recreation, and conservation. A short discussion ensued on Whiskey Creek, the stream which flows through the Arboretum and into the Mississippi.

**2020 Environmental Forum** — Phil and Eleanor Burkett have been meeting with LARA's other two partners in hosting this forum, the Brainerd Lakes United for the Environment and the Brainerd Lakes Audubon Society to discuss possible formats and timing. They have decided on using a virtual forum Zoom format which will take place on October 19 or 21. A moderator will be used to ask questions submitted by the membership of the three partnering organizations. The forum will be recorded so it can be shared with others on YouTube. People who join the Zoom forum will likely be limited to 100 and will be able to listen but not to speak. Candidates will be invited to participate in the forum starting next week.

**LARA's Vision and Mission Statements** Board members felt the statements, written several years ago, are still valid. Phil Hunsicker pointed out a typo ("site" should be "state") which will be corrected before posting the statements on LARA's soon-to-be web site.

**Use of CWEPA Fund grant money** Since the Mississippi Riverfront project leaders have not responded to Eleanor Burkett's emails asking for how they could use potential grant funds, Board members decided to forego any further action regarding their project this year. Tony Coffey asked if the funds could be used to support a fundraising campaign for a U. of MN study on the impact of large waves created by wake boats. Although this is a worthy study, there were mixed feelings on whether or not it would qualify for a grant from the CWEPA Fund. Tony will draft a communication to share with the boards of LARA member associations seeking their opinions and Phil Hunsicker will communicate with the Initiative Foundation to see if they think the study would fit within the guidelines for a CWEPA Fund grant.

The next Zoom board meeting will be Tuesday, September 1, at 4:00.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned shortly before 5:30.

Minutes submitted by Ann Beaver, secretary