

## **Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association Board of Directors minutes**

**Location: Skype, 9 a.m. April 13, 2020**

All Board members present along with Dennis Thornton. Anna Bartsch and EmilyHenrigillis of the Wolf Fox Watershed group

1)Chris called the meeting to order

2) Approval of Nov. 2019 meeting minutes

3) With traditional timing of CLPA Annual Membership Meeting (usually held on Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend) not possible because of Covid-19 guidelines, the board agreed to plan for a makeup date of the Saturday of Labor Day Weekend. Chris and Jessica will pursue.

4) Jessica presented the treasurer's report. 205 members so far. We'd like to get it up closer to the typical 250 or so, which usually happens because we get a second burst of signups at or around annual meeting time in May. (May have to make a second dues reminder when we notify lake residents that annual meeting will be in September.) Balance sheet looks good, with approximately \$124,000 in the reserve fund. Expenses are coming in. Greg moved to accept the treasurer's report, Gary second, motion carried.

5) An issue that came up during financial discussion: Might we benefit by revisiting liability insurance? Jessica to check with Wisconsin Lakes Association, cost and coverage.

6) Onterra's end-of-year 2019 Milfoil Analysis and Advice: Round and Pine lakes look very good, with very little milfoil. Onterra says a ½ day each of professional hand harvest this summer could knock it back even further. Lengthy discussion of Grass Lake, which remains at about 10% infested even with many days of DASH LLC harvest late last summer (at a cost topping \$20,000). Chris characterized Onterra's advice as: If 2020 is a poor growing season for milfoil, last summer's DASH work will have contributed to keeping milfoil at an acceptable level for another summer; if it's a fast-growing season, the positive impact of even extensive DASH efforts would be less noticeable. They're not encouraging us to choose another summer of all-out DASH. They say better option is to roll the dice and see if no-harvest is tolerable; if there is instead moderate or a lot of new milfoil growth evident by mid-summer, we might want to do some limited hand harvest in high traffic boat areas or to give Grass Lake residents some

boating lanes to get away from their docks. And apply any savings in reduced DASH budgeting to the next whole-lake chemical treatment.

Another option, at least on Pine and Round, would be to have citizen volunteers do spot harvest. Anna of Fox-Wolf will explore setting up a June training session and call for volunteers through blog, newsletter posting (and even a CLPA email, if desired).

7) Dennis shared an accounting of the three-year grant the Town of Belle Plaine and the CLPA have with the Wisconsin DNR that set aside approx.. \$62,000 to fight AIS (primarily milfoil). The grant runs out after this year, but in truth it's pretty much all spent already, with only about \$3,100 in DNR funds left at present. The big spenddown came in 2019 (the second, or middle, year of the grant) with at least \$31,000 in total outlays driven mostly by the \$20,000-plus spent on DASH hand harvesting. It's a 75-25 split with the DNR covering the lion's share; the agency recently billed the town (and its 50-50 partner the CLPA) for \$7,931 to cover the local one-quarter of 2019 spending. It was moved and seconded that the CLPA would reimburse the town \$3,966 from our general fund as our half of that expenditure.

Moving forward, Dennis (a Belle Plaine supervisor) said the township has always included a budget line to help with Cloverleaf Lakes projects including AIS-fighting costs, but this year the town would like to apply that line item toward the purchase of new marker buoys around the lakes, to replace worn, past-their-useful-life buoys. Long story short, the CLPA should not expect any additional help from the town once the remaining DNR AIS grant funds (the aforementioned \$3,100) is encumbered on 2020 projects. Some of that could go toward the CLPA's annual contract with Onterra environmental consultants (in the \$6K-\$7K) range and boat-monitor salary (north of \$5K, although the town has typically offset much or most of this line item with daily and season boat launch fees at the County Y landing.) The general consensus was that the CLPA has sufficient reserves to honor these commitments this year. The CLPA will need to reapply for a new DNR AIS grant for next year; there are never any guarantees of receiving that support.

8) Chris offered an update on the good news of the \$18,000+ DNR grant the Cloverleafs will receive to complete a new Comprehensive Management Plan. The grant will cover two-thirds of the estimated

\$27,000, two-year project with Onterra. Chris said the work will get underway in June with the first organizational meetings led by Onterra, and recruitment of local volunteers for the various work teams. He will meet with supervisor Dennis and Belle Plaine town clerk Kris Vomastic because the town is officially the partner of record for the grant, although the CLPA will likely provide most of the peoplepower. Dennis also cautioned that accounting-wise, this is a very formal process and the CLPA will need to keep receipts for every little outlay, and document carefully every volunteer hour, as the in-kind contributions are also important. Jessica said she could supervise (or help) the accounting.

9) Boat monitor will be 3 persons splitting these duties with training to be sometime in early May. Life jacket board and boat monitoring will be suspended until June as per DNR. At that time Boat monitoring will be about 30 hours per week.

10) Anna Bartsch talked about having a DIY boat decontamination station at or near the County Y landing. It would be inexpensive and could be effective in getting people to clean AIS (aquatic invasive species) from their boats before and after they launch on the Cloverleafs. One possible location that drew interest from board members is the trailer parking lot. Chris will talk to the town about approval of this -- and possibly with the town and/or county about an ordinance requiring boats to be cleaned. On this second aspect (the ordinance), he will check first with the Wis. Lakes Association office for background on which lakes and counties have already done this, and what is involved, and what relative success has been. Could be in place this summer, yet, but certainly by next summer, should we pursue. General consensus of board members was that we should, pending further investigation.

11) Water quality looks good for our lakes. Water testing program confirms that there are no red flags on the Cloverleaf water chemistry or on spot on the oligotrophic-eutrophic scale of lake health. Only concerns are the aquatic invasives.

12) Sometime this June or later a Cloverleaf lakes shoreline survey by Fox Wolf watershed will take place. Looking at types of shorelines, seawalls, trees, native plants etc. Emily did this last year on Shawano Lake (a huge project). Will be key info for upcoming Cloverleaf Lakes Management Plan. She said she is looking forward to seeing all the natural-shorelines and

shoreline buffer projects on our lakes as we have been a hotspot for local landowners taking advantage of state grants to encourage shoreline improvements.

13) 4th of July fireworks is on unless State would cancel it because of Covid-19 lockdowns continuing. Fund raising is going good but more money is still needed. Pontoon theme has not been picked yet. Kiddie parade is a go. CLPA to donate \$500 again this year to fireworks.

14) Jessica and Chris gave a report from the (online) Wisconsin Lakes convention. Both “attended” the loon workshop, and Chris also tuned into some other sessions. Regarding the loons, Chris shared that one topic was the idea of building noon-nesting platforms offshore but near cover. Not a new concept, but they now can be equipped with eagle guards to prevent predation. (On Grass Lake, Chris said, could be something to think about if high water or other factors diminish the desirability of current nesting area at the bulrush island to the point loon pairs abandon that site). From other sessions, Chris briefly shared that the highly publicized dispute over pier rights actually affects only a relatively small number of flowages statewide (and not our lakes)... that wake boating and big wakes in general remain hot topics for some but there is no magic solution, and certainly no encouragement for those who’d like to see this more tightly regulated... and, finally, that if a presentation is too academic and long it’s pretty easy to fall asleep in your comfy chair during an audioconference.

15) Annual Officers election and new member addition to be at a later meeting.

16) Next meeting scheduled for May 11, 2020, will possibly be with Skype again. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Gary Schumacher and Chris Sampson