

Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association Board of Directors minutes
Location: Round Lake park shelter
Sunday July 10, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Participating: Board members Jeff Casperson, Kevin Goodman, Pete Jensema, Chris Sampson, Gary Schumacher. Also attending: Round Lake resident and sewage district board member Lee Wetzel

Excused: Board members Andy Hines and Jessica Meier

- 1) Gary called the meeting to order
- 2) Approval of June 2022 meeting **Minutes**: Jeff moves, Chris seconds, all ayes
- 3) No **Treasurer's Report** this month, but Gary did share a couple of items of financial interest:
 - The CLPA is receiving a \$618 contribution from the Jim Aumann Memorial Golf Outing The donation traces all the way back to the 2019 event. Organizers held the proceeds until now because of the two-year COVID hiatus but are resuming fundraising and dispersals.
 - The Kiddie Parade netted \$91 in family donations to the CLPA.
 - Gary said treasurer Jessica will be proposing that the CLPA take advantage of the popular Independence Weekend festivities to run a fundraising raffle of its own starting in 2023.
- 4) **Fourth of July recap**: The Kiddie Parade coordinated by CLPA volunteers was another solid success. The count was 268 kids, walkers, families and misc. participants. The WAMSCO organization had two people handing out environmental-themed coloring books. The pontoon boat parade got great reviews, with kudos to the "redneck regatta" theme. The young woman recognized as Queen of the Lakes raised an impressive \$1,100. Many said the fireworks ranked with the best ever, and board members agreed that the length of the display was perfect – not too brief, not too long. Congratulations were offered to Kevin to share with past board member Peggy McMahan and others for their work on planning and fundraising with the Fireworks organization. Several board members commented that the number of vehicles parked on lawns,

driveways and roadsides around the lakes that night had to make it one of the most well-attended celebrations ever.

- 5) **Discussion of boating safety, logistic issues:** General consensus of board members was that while there are always a few outliers when the lakes get busy on a holiday weekend, were well-behaved during the daylong July 2 festivities. No significant incidents were reported. The Shawano County Sheriff's Department appeared for traffic control in the morning for the Kiddie Parade, and returned for boat patrol at night only for the pontoon parade, keeping the fireworks zone off-limits, and making sure boaters got off safely afterward. It was mentioned by some board members that they had hoped the Sheriff's patrol might have done some boating safety work during the day; but this apparently did not occur. Boat/motor problems might have been an issue.

- 6) **Election of Recording Secretary for 2022-23 CLPA year:** Chris volunteered earlier to take minutes for this meeting only. For the ongoing job of taking minutes at every meeting, both Pete Jensema and Jeff Casperson expressed a willingness to serve, and each was nominated and seconded. A written private ballot resulted in Jeff being designated as the organization's secretary.

- 7) **Update on development of new bylaws:** Jeff reported on his ongoing work with attorney Jessica Harrison of Scholz Nonprofit LLC in Madison, who comes highly recommended for her experience with lake associations and other nonprofits. Jeff is reiterating to her that the CLPA has a commitment not to exceed \$2,500 total on this project. One thing she has advised on is the question of whether a previous board's policy (or practice) that any expenditure above \$10,000 should require a full vote of the CLPA membership; she advised that something of this nature should NOT be part of the bylaws. The default starting point is that the elected Board of Directors controls the budget, period. Jeff will contact Ms. Harrison for a progress report on the bylaws project for our next meeting.

- 8) **Update on water-level discussions:** Gary (and Chris) reported on conversation they had June 29 at the County Y culvert with DNR specialists Scott Koehnke and the new dam/surface water staff

member for the region, Ryan Pichler. Chris had asked for the meeting for their advice and possible assistance on installing a calibrated water-level gauge there to be publically visible. Basically, the DNR reps repeated that the state/DNR has a very limited role and few if any avenues for involvement. Beyond confirming that the Rustic Road dam owned by the town of Belle Plaine is fully open when water levels are above the 1950s target level (it is, and basically has been for years), and the water level immediately behind the privately owned, downstream Pine Manor dam is at or below its own target level (it is)... there is no other action for them to take. If some waterfront property owners suspect beaver dams or perhaps other natural obstructions downstream on Matteson Creek are adding to higher lake levels, that's a private matter, and they are welcome to contact the downstream land owner to inquire about possible removal, but the landowner would likely have to agree. Scott said beaver removal has been tried in the past, with poor results. If dams are destroyed, they are quickly rebuilt; if animals are removed, they quickly return or re-colonize. Gary shared with CLPA board members that one approach Scott mentioned involves the installation of "beaver baffles." Basically, they are pipes (mini-culverts, in a way) that can be inserted through the dam to increase flow without tipping off the beavers that their dam has been breached and needs repairs; in some situations they have been successful. At a ballpark estimate of \$10,000, however, the cost is substantial. Gary said he would do more research on the baffle technology and share with the board. The CLPA in this way might serve as an information resource for interested parties and any partnership that might result to give the baffles a try. There was a general agreement among board members that they are hearing from a slightly larger circle of residents with questions about why lake levels have not receded much this year from the typical springtime, snowmelt levels.

- 9) **DASH update:** In a word, disappointing. Our DASH contractor Pete Karlson and volunteer Peggy McMahon report to Gary that the invasive milfoil has come back with a vengeance on Grass Lake. The experimental ProcellaCOR treatment that looked so promising right after application in midsummer 2021? One year later, there are again lush stands of EWM reemerging right in the middle of primary

treatment areas. Did the ProcellaCOR fail to get the roots, or is there something about our cool spring that favored EWM takeover in similar lakes across the area, regardless of the herbicide used. Gary said he would contact Eddie Heath at Onterra for an explanation of why the second-year effect seems to be very poor.

10) **Try new time slot for annual meeting:**

Gary shared his experience of attending the annual meeting at neighboring Long Lake. They held theirs on a Saturday morning in June and seemed to get a higher percentage of lakefront residents and association members than the Cloverleaves have been getting recently. In response to interest from CLPA board members, Gary said he would begin to explore moving the annual CLPA membership meeting from the Saturday of busy Memorial Day Weekend to a later day, perhaps the second Saturday morning in June.

11) **Future agenda item involving Belle Plaine room tax**

proceeds: There was general discussion of the increasing trend of air bnbs and home/cottage rentals on the Cloverleaf Lake chain, especially the recent case of a very large and noticeable party weekend at a Round Lake property. Gary mentioned that room-tax proceeds are typically applied to tourism programs in other municipalities; both Gary and Pete emphasized that with the natural resources of the Cloverleaves bearing the burden of heavier recreational use (wear and tear on landings, visiting boaters unfamiliar with local regulations) the township might be advised to invest in the lakes to help preserve their attraction for residents and visitors alike. It was agreed this can be a future agenda item for the CLPA, as a possible issue to raise with Township leaders.

12) **Adjournment:** Moved by Kevin, seconded by Jeff, all ayes.

The meeting adjourned at about 7:50 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sampson, acting recording secretary

Note: Change to the minutes before finalized is that CLFI is not a 501(c)3

JM