

Cloverleaf Lakes Protective Association
2024 Annual meeting minutes
Saturday, May 25, 2024
Round Lake Shelter

The annual meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by President Gary Schumacher with approximately 45 people in attendance.

Board of Directors were introduced. Gary Schumacher, president; Kevin Goodman, vice president; Jeff Casperson, secretary; Jessica Meier, treasurer (excused); Andy Hines, Pete Jensema and Rick Schultz (excused).

2023 Annual meeting minutes were approved after a motion by Steve Joosten and second by Glen McMahon. All in favor. None opposed.

In the absence of Jessica Meier, treasurer, the financial report was given by President Gary Schumacher. CLPA has current assets totaling \$114,261. This money is held in money market, CD's and a checking account. Past year income from dues and donations was \$27,661. Past year expenses were \$35,439 most of which went towards weed control. Currently there are 205 CLPA members. Financial report was approved after a motion by Pete Jensema and a second. All in favor. None opposed.

Board members Jeff Casperson and Andy Hines 3 year terms are up. Both agreed to continue for another 3 year term. No other candidates submitted their name for consideration as a board member. Motion by Gary and a second to re-elect Jeff and Andy to the CLPA Board of Directors. All in favor. None opposed.

A discussion was held regarding aquatic invasive species, specifically eurasian milfoil and the fact that it is becoming more problematic in our lake system each year. As these weeds take over, they continue to jeopardize the overall health of our lakes and hinder recreational use (swimming, tubing etc).

There are three ways to combat these weeds. Option 1 is with DASH (diver assisted suction harvest). By this means a diver actually pulls the weed from the lake bottom by the roots. This is the most effective method of control however the amount of milfoil currently in our lakes prevents this from being a reasonable option. There just would not be enough man hours available for our diver to remove all the milfoil and it would be cost prohibitive. Option 2 is to "mow the tops off". Given milfoil can grow up to 2 inches per day in summer and by cutting, the weeds are spread, this is not a good option. Option 3 is chemical treatment of the lakes. This is the method Onterra, the lake ecology group CLPA works with has recommended as the best, and really only feasible way of controlling these weeds.

Chemical treatment comes with a significant cost. If we had treated the lakes in 2024 as recommended by Onterra, the bid was \$135,000. Onterra anticipates this one treatment should cover our lakes for 5-6 years. The CLPA applied for a DNR grant to help offset these costs but that grant unfortunately was denied. Explanation for the denial was lack of DNR funds. It seems

as most lakes in Wisconsin are now dealing with this problem, there is not enough DNR money to go around. Lake associations are being told that future grants for weed control will be very limited and the associations need to figure out future funding for weed control. CLPA will continue to submit grants. Due to insufficient CLPA funds we were not able to proceed with chemical weed control this year.

So we are confronted with either allowing the weeds to march on, thereby diminishing lake quality, recreational use and property values or fundraising to do weed control next year. The CLPA board has chosen fundraising. We are guessing next year's price will be around \$150,000. A plea was made by the board for donations. A generous matching fund challenge was made to kick off the fundraising. Correspondence to all CLPA members will be forthcoming informing them of the fundraising campaign.

Pete Karlson gave an update on the DASH program. He reported 170 total hours were worked. Of that 110 hours were diver time picking weeds. 54,948 pounds (17 loads) of milfoil was removed from the lakes. He explained the benefits of DASH and reiterated the fact that given the amount of milfoil in our lakes, there just is no way he would be able to remove it and keep up with it. DASH is however a very good way to help maintain weed control after chemical treatment has done the bulk of the work. He is always seeking volunteers to help on the boat and asked that interested people please contact him. He also asked boaters to keep a minimum of 100 feet from his dive boat at all times.

Andy Hines introduced two boat monitors hired for this summer. They will be present at the boat landing weekends and holidays this summer. Their purpose is to educate boaters on lake rules and inspect boats and trailers for invasive aquatic species before they launch into our lakes.

Kori Holstead from WAMSCO (Waterway Association of Menominee and Shawano Counties) gave a synopsis of WAMSCO activities including their use of a mobile trailer to provide educational materials to people of Menominee and Shawano counties. She encouraged people to contact WAMSCO with any water related concerns.

There was a discussion concerning lake water levels. After removal of beaver dams downstream, cleaning the Pine Manor dam and Rustic Drive culvert clean out by volunteers (Thank You to those volunteers!!) there was a significant improvement of outflow. The lake level dropped several inches. Beaver activity will continue to be monitored. A lake level gauge is being considered at the culvert near the boat landing. The age old question of "who determines what the correct lake level is?" was again raised with no final determination made.

Independence Day celebration will be Saturday, July 6, 2024. There will again be a Kiddie parade at 10:00 AM, Pontoon parade with the theme "favorite TV shows" at 6:30 PM and fireworks at dusk. Candidates for King and Queen are being sought.

Concerns were raised about the increase in the number of rental properties on the lake. It seems the frequency of lake rules being violated has increased as the number of rentals has gone up.

Property owners need to make sure their renters are informed of the rules. A suggestion was also made that a portion of the rental income should go to the lake association for maintenance and improvements. It was noted that a policy to do that would likely need to come from the Belle Plain town board.

Dennis Krubsack announced that the Sanitary District has a part time maintenance position open. Interested people can contact Dennis.

After a motion by Glen McMahon and second by Joy Krubsack the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Casperson

CLPA secretary