

**Comfort Lakes Association Board Members Meeting – June 8, 2017**  
**United Methodist Church, Wyoming, MN 7:00 pm**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Mary Renn

**Members present:**

Mary Renn  
Bruce Anderson  
Lori Bjork  
Wally Ostlie  
Sharon Sill  
Dave Freemore  
Bill Keilty

**Members not present:**

Steve Schreiber  
Dick Berglund  
Mary Jo Brueggeman  
Charlie Rheault

**Guests present:**

Approximately 22 CLA members attended

**Speakers:**

Chief Hoppe, Wyoming Police Department  
DNR Officer Phil Mohl

**Secretary's Report**

The secretary's report had been sent out ahead of time and no objections were received.

**Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer's report had been sent out ahead of time and no objections were received.

**Business**

The meeting was primarily devoted to the two speakers and audience questions for the board and speakers.

### Highlights of talk by DNR agent Phil Mohl:

- Reported that he has been on the lake more frequently, sometimes in a non-marked boat so people are not aware that he is there. He reported that legislation was recently passed that will increase the number of DNR enforcement officers by 36 over the next two years which will help with greater monitoring of lakes.
- He explained that carp bow hunters are not allowed to discharge bows at night within 150 feet of any occupied structure. There is not a restriction as to how close to shore the boat itself can go. Most seasoned fishermen know the rules and are good about following them. It is a violation if the red and green lights on a boat are not visible – sometimes that happens if the very bright lights of the carp boats outshine the red and green lights.
- Homeowners are at risk of being charged with “anger harassment” if the homeowner retaliates too much. If homeowners feel they are being harassed or bothered by fisherman, they should get a description of the boat, registration number and contact the DNR agent. Do not attempt to deal with perceived violators on your own.
- In response to questions about safety concerns over boats that are traveling very fast on the lake, Agent Mohl stated that there are no speed limits on the lake.
- Comfort Lake is an appealing lake for carp fishermen due to the historically high carp numbers and large size of carp
- During the last carp tournament sponsored by Frankie’s, there was only one participating boat on Comfort Lake.
- There were some questions regarding Native American netting on Comfort Lakes. There is a separate game warden for Native American rights. Officer Mohl was going to get more information about this.
- It was agreed that Officer Mohl contact information would be added to the CLA website

### Highlights of the talk by Chief Hoppe:

- Reiterated calling law enforcement if homeowners believe fishermen are violating laws or harassing. He stated that homeowners have been charged with harassing anglers in the way the homeowners have responded out of frustration with the anglers – especially the disturbances with glaring lights coming into homes at night from the carp boats.
- The city cannot write an ordinance to supersede the DNR statutes, which offer great protection to fishermen, boaters, hunters, etc.
- There are no DNR statutes that regulate where the lights on a carp boat need to be facing, though most face down at a 45-degree angle.
- The DNR has authority over lakes, though often contract with the police to help with policing the lakes and managing problems with users and homeowners of lakes. This includes the sheriff's department charged with recreational boat enforcement.
- It is illegal to put a camera at the boat access.

Chief Hoppe and Agent Mohl were empathetic with the disturbances homeowners are experiences by the carp boats when suddenly in the middle of the night, their homes are flooded with brilliant lights waking people up. Both speakers however, said, that in most situations the fishermen are conducting themselves within their rights. However, if there is a question, call law enforcement to deal with it. Do not attempt to confront the fishermen on your own.

### **Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm**

There is no July meeting in lieu of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.

The August meeting will be held on August 10, 2017 at 7:00 pm