

Comfort Lakes Association Annual Meeting – August 15, 2019
United Methodist Church, Wyoming, MN 7:00 pm

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Amanda Osgood Jimenez.

Board Members present:

Amanda Osgood Jimenez
Mike Motzko
Sharon Sill
Dick Berglund
Bill Keilty
Dave Freemore
Jeff Blankenheim
Bruce Anderson
Jeanine Hansen
Mike Crepeau

Board Members Absent:

None

Guests:

Leslie George, Supervisor DNR Hinckley Area Fisheries
Garrett Miller, Watershed Assistant, Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District

Association Members

19 CLA members

President's Report

Amanda began by welcoming everyone and introducing the Board members. She named the 4th of July Boat Parade winners. She explained the role of the Board and accomplishments of the CLA over the past six months. There are open positions on the Board and Amanda asked that CLA members consider joining the Board.

DNR Hinckley Area Fisheries update

Leslie George, Supervisor for the DNR Hinckley Area Fisheries explained responsibilities of her office; how fish are caught for tracking and then released; how the species of fish supported in various lakes tells much about the health of the lake water and how her office looks also at the aquatic vegetation of lakes given that is where fish live. The Fisheries division of the DNR

raises fish, such as muskies; and monitors tribal harvesting. Regarding Comfort Lake specifically from a sample testing over a two week period the fisheries department found an average of 1 walleye; 30 plus northern pike (which is a good number); there is a great variation in the number of blue gill and black croppies; large mouth bass are increasing and the number of yellow perch is good. Fish sampled using gill nets cannot be returned to the lake. Leslie addressed the issue of stocking Comfort Lake with walleye. She said the fisheries department has aggressively stocked walleye on Comfort since 1986 and they have learned that it hasn't made a difference. There is no evidence of natural reproduction. They believe the walleye in Comfort— what there is of this fish, come from Forest Lake via the Sunrise River. She also said the water quality of Comfort has been improving over the years even though it may not appear to be that way.

Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed update

Garrett Miller introduced himself and offered to be a resource to lakeshore owners. He said that zebra mussels have been found in Comfort Lake and that the watershed wants to track the mussels' location. Residents are asked to report where any are found. There is no treatment for the zebra mussels given they have been seen in a number of areas. He also mentioned the Score Your Shore inventory lakeshore owners can review to assess the healthiness of their lakeshore.

Secretary's Report

Minutes from the July meeting had been emailed to Board members prior to the meeting and there were no objections.

There is a new surcharge on boat registration that began this summer of \$ 5.60 per boat. The monies from that are to be used for invasive species management. The idea behind the surcharge is that the cost of managing invasive species should be borne by those who use the lake not only lakeshore owners. Starting in 2020 lake associations can apply for matching grants from this pool of money for invasive species management projects.

Sharon reminded members that any Minnesota watercraft 10' and longer must be registered, including paddle boards.

Treasurer's Report

Dick presented the Treasurer's report including the 2018-year end report, membership status, and current balance in the general and milfoil treatment accounts.

Old Business

Amanda provided an updates and overview on the Milfoil Treatment Plan and the permit we have from the DNR

Bill explained the Treatment progress and plans for next year.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

Next meeting is September 12, 7:00 pm.