

Comfort Lakes Association Board Meeting
February 3, 2022 6:30 pm
Via Zoom
Minutes

President Jeanine Hansen called meeting to order at 6:33 pm

Members present:

Jeanine Hansen
Dick Berglund
Sharon Sill
Jackie Anderson
Tom Hobday
Bill Keilty
Chris Roche
Mike Crepeau

Members Absent:

Mike Motzko
Dave Freemore

Guests:

None

Approval of Agenda

The agenda had been emailed to members prior to the meeting. Bill moved to accept the agenda; Jackie seconded. The agenda was approved.

Secretary's Report

Minutes from the January 6, 2022 meeting had been emailed to Board members for review. Any suggested corrections had been made. Dick moved to approve the January minutes. Jackie seconded; Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Dick presented the Treasurer's Report, which had been emailed, to members prior to the meeting. As of February 3, 2022 we have 65 paid members for 2021 and 3 members for 2022. Membership letters for 2022 have not gone out yet.

Balances in accounts as of 2/3/2022 are:

General Fund \$ 8,779.27;

Walleye Stocking Program \$ 0.00;

Milfoil Treatment Program \$ 1,591.75

Total Balance: \$ 10,371.02

This is a larger balance than we are used to at the beginning of the year due in part to:

- Nearly 30-50% increase in members over previous years
- Increase in dues
- Some major expenses were paid by grants

We will need a large amount of money this year, however in order to supplement grant money to help pay for the all-lake milfoil treatment.

Jeanine moved to accept the treasurer's report; Bill seconded; Treasurer's report was accepted.

Agenda Items:

Eurasian Water Milfoil Project Team Update

- Jeanine reported there will be a zoom meeting for all CLA members and any interested persons on February 17, 2022 at 7 pm to update them on the all-lake milfoil treatment plan for Big Comfort in the summer.
- The Board reviewed the proposed meeting notice to members and suggested a few modifications. Bill will post the notice on Facebook; Sharon will post on the website and email to all members.
- There is no milfoil (nor zebra mussels) in Little Comfort Lake, though curly leaf pondweed is there. Thus, there is no need for milfoil treatment in Little Comfort.
- DNR Grant Application update. Jeanine attended a webinar on how to prepare the strongest possible grant application. Included in the CLA application will be that we are doing a whole lake treatment and that we are looking towards a long-term plan for the lake. We have a solid history of working on the milfoil problem in Big Comfort, including working with the DNR and can show that anything less than a whole lake treatment will not be successful. The highest award to one lake association in each region is for \$ 25,000. Jeanine's goal is to get that award. Prior to submitting the application, Jeanine plans to have Garrett from the CLFLWD and Christine Jurek from the DNR review it. We are hopeful Christine Jurek will be an advocate for us getting the top award for the region. The grant application is due on February 21, 2022. Whatever money we might receive from the DNR must be spent by July 1, 2023.

- Funding from the CLFL Watershed District. Jackie reported that bringing Eurasian Water Milfoil back into the Aquatic Invasive Species program of the CLFLWD is on the agenda for the 2/24/2022 meeting. (Previously the AIS concentrated on phosphorus in the lakes but we know that EWM creates phosphorus as it is dying.) If this is successful it will open up grant money from the watershed for treatment of EWM.
- To pay for the whole lake treatment (estimated cost between \$ 52,000 and \$ 60,000) our hope is to receive \$ 25,000 in grant money from the DNR; CLA would pay \$ 10,000 to \$15,000; and the balance would come from the CLFLWD. Other potential sources of funding are Chisago County and the city of Wyoming.

2022 Membership

We will plan to send an executive summary of the February 17, 2022 meeting and our 2022 membership application letter out after the 2/17/2022 meeting. The two (membership letter and executive summary) will be mailed together. The letters will be ready by Saturday, February 19 and those board members who can, will meet at Jeanine's at 10:00 am, Saturday, February 19, to stuff envelopes. Dick will purchase and bring the envelopes and stamps.

Jackie, Dick and Sharon will be on the membership team to create the 2022 membership letter; Bill, Mike M., Jackie and Jeanine will work on the executive summary as they are the EWM project team.

Boat Wake Study

The project study has now been published. There is a webinar to review the findings on February 16, 2022 at 7:00 pm. All board members need to educate themselves about this issue and we should register for the webinar even if we cannot attend. We will not discuss this issue at the February 17 meeting, but instead hold another member meeting about this issue in March or April and have Jeff Maar attend as a speaker.

Sharon will forward the email from the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Association about the wake boat study to members so they can also register for the webinar on February 16, 2022.

Update on Lakeshore Steward Programs

We have had various discussions previously as whether to adopt the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) Lake Steward Program or the DNR "Score Your Shore" Program. In general, the MLR Steward Program, while excellent, seems to be more stringent and therefore

not realistic as a first effort. The “Score Your Shore” program is a good basic education program for all shoreline owners.

Jackie moved that the CLA concentrate on the DNR’s “Score Your Shore” program as an educational effort for 2022, instead of the MLR Lake Steward Program. Sharon seconded. Motion passed.

Other

Jackie will get in touch with Aidan from the CLFLWD for an update regarding the buckthorn cleanup at the boat launch.

Jeanine adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm.

Next Special Membership Meeting regarding All-Lake EWM Treatment will be on
February 17, 2022 at 7:00 pm via zoom

Next Board Meeting will be on March 3, 2022, at 6:30 pm.
Via Zoom