

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

President Jeanine Hansen called meeting to order at 6:31 pm

Members present:

Jeanine Hansen
Mike Motzko
Dick Berglund
Sharon Sill
Dave Freemore
Jackie Anderson
Tom Hobday
Bill Keilty
Chris Roche

Members Absent:

Mike Crepeau

Guests:

Mike O'Connell, Lake Management

Approval of Agenda

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

Secretary's Report

Minutes from the November 4, 2021 meeting had been emailed to Board members for review. (There was no December meeting). Mike M. moved to approve the November minutes. Jackie seconded; Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Dick presented the 2021 Year End Treasurer's Report, which had been emailed, to members prior to the meeting. As of December 31, 2021 we had 65 paid members for 2021, and 1 pre-paid member for 2022.

Balances in accounts as of 12/31/2021 are:

General Fund \$ 9,111.45;

Walleye Stocking Program \$ 0.00;

Milfoil Treatment Program \$ 718.75

Total Balance: \$ 9,830.20

Jackie moved to accept the treasurer's report; Mike M. seconded; Treasurer's report was accepted.

- **Eurasian Water Milfoil Project Team Update**

Jeanine reported on an early December meeting composed of: Jackie, representing CLFLWD Board; Mike O'Connell representing Lake Management; Jeanine representing CLA; Garrett Miller representing CLFLWD staff; and Christine Jurek of the DNR. At that meeting CLA was assured we would receive a variance to treat the entire Comfort Lake, rather than just the 13 acres which is the standard. We also secured the commitment of Lake Management to treat EWM in Comfort Lake with Fluridone in the summer of 2022. This process is so complicated and time consuming that Lake Management will only treat one lake per summer with Fluridone. Following this brief overview and introduction, Mike O'Connell from Lake Management spoke and answered Board members' questions.

- **Mike O'Connell (Lake Management) re: the whole lake treatment using Fluridone**

If a whole lake treatment is decided upon, Fluridone will be applied to Comfort Lake in liquid form using an underwater application technique. This chemical was developed in 1986 and while not widely used in MN or WI, it is used in many other states and other countries. It is only appropriate for whole lake treatment because it is difficult to contain; i.e., it is not used for "spot" treatments on lakes. It attacks only milfoil and will not affect native plants. It is applied in a very low ratio, 4 parts per billion. The initial application needs to happen when water temperature is approximately 50 degrees. Following the initial treatment, the level of Fluridone will be monitored by Lake Management weekly by taking samples in two spots in different parts of the lake, one in deep water and one in a shallow area. If the ratio dips to 2 parts per billion another treatment would be done in order to maintain the 4 parts per billion. The goal is to maintain a concentration of 4 parts per billion for essentially the entire summer season or approximately four plus months. The milfoil plants will continue to draw it up through the season. Damage usually starts to appear in 4-7 days, but the desired level of control is achieved sometime between 30 to 90 days after application.

The timing as to when to begin treatment depends on the thermocline, that is the mix of cold and warm water. That will likely be mid-May at the earliest, or could go to June 1. Fluridone works by going into the EWM's root system, limiting the plant's ability to shield itself from the sunlight and then decomposes. Fluridone targets all types of milfoils, even the adaptive varieties.

Samples are taken once per week then overnighted to a lab in North Carolina. There typically are a total of 8 visits to get samples beginning at week 1 to day 100. There are no restrictions on fishing, swimming, or animal drinking lake water after treatment. The only restrictions will be to irrigation and that is because Lake Management needs to guarantee the ratio in the water is less than 10 parts per billion, so must wait until lab results are back from the samples. That restriction could be as long as 14 days.

Eradication of milfoil is not possible, but Clear Lake is an example of what an expected outcome is like. Clear Lake is in year 3 after treatment and has had no samplings of EWM. If a small area is found later, that specific area is treated with ProcettaCOR or something similar, so basically the lake goes into a maintenance phase. It will be very important for there to be ongoing inspections for new crops of milfoil to keep it from becoming a problem again – so should any areas of milfoil appear, we can treat them immediately. We will rely on inspections from lakeshore owners; CLA; CLFLWD and possibly the city of Wyoming.

Most lakeshore owners whose primary problem with their lakeshore is EWM will not need to individually contract with Lakes Management for treatment.

The cost is estimated between \$ 54,000 to \$ 60,000 for the total lake treatment. The cost is estimated because the amount of product is yet unknown – it will depend on how many treatments are necessary. CLA will be applying for grants through the DNR and the CLFLWD to pay for this. It is hoped that the entire cost can be covered by grant money. Lake Management will assist by providing any documentation that is requested. DNR grant money that is received must be spent by July 1.

It has not yet been decided whether the contract with Lake Management for treatment of Comfort Lake will be with CLA or with CLFLWD. However, we need to move forward on this immediately in order to apply for grants and secure Lake Management's commitment to treat Comfort Lake in 2022.

Jeanine made a motion to approve moving forward for a whole lake treatment of Comfort Lake with Fluridone by Lake Management; that it will be done in a timely/efficient manner whether that means the contract is between Lake Management and CLA or Lake Management and the CLFLWD.

Dave seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- **CLFLWD Invoice for Watercraft inspections – approve \$ 500 payment**

During the summer of 2021 there were 825 inspections of watercraft entering and exiting Comfort Lake, entailing 554 hours of paid time for inspectors. The total money spent for this was \$ 11,496.00. Chisago County AIS program paid \$ 5,000; CLFLWD paid \$ 6,000; and CLA was billed the balance of \$ 500 by the CLFLWD.

Mike M. moved that we pay the \$ 500 invoice; Dave seconded. Motion passed.

- **Elections of CLA Board Officers for 2022**

All Board officers need to be reelected. The president is elected for one year; all other officers are elected for two years. Jeanine asked if any current officers wished to step down or if any Board members were seeking an office. She indicated that no Board member had approached her about changing a current office or seeking office since the meeting in November. There was no discussion. Jeanine moved that the following slate of officers be elected: Jackie seconded:

Assistant Secretary: Dave Freemore. (2 years)

Secretary: Sharon Sill. (2 years)

Treasurer: Dick Berglund. (2 years)

Vice President: Mike Motzko. (2 years)

President: Jeanine Hansen. (1 year)

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Update on Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates (MLR) Lake Steward Program or DNR program.**

Due to the pressing issue of work on the Fluridone treatment this was tabled for next month. It was noted that the MLR was instrumental in getting the \$ 850,000 AIS grant money for the DNR.

Mike M. moved to adjourn. Dave seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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