

Comfort Lakes Association Board Meeting
May 6, 2021 6:30 pm
Via Zoom

Minutes

President Jeanine Hansen called meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Members present:

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

Members Absent:

Tom Hobday
Dave Freemore

Guests:

None

Approval of Agenda

The agenda had been emailed to members prior to the meeting. One item was added under “other”. Jackie moved to accept the agenda; Mike C. seconded; Agenda was approved.

Secretary’s Report

Minutes from the April 1, 2021 meeting had been emailed to Board members for review prior to the meeting. Suggested corrections had been made. Mike M. moved to approve the minutes; Mike C. seconded; Minutes were approved.

Treasure’s Report

Dick presented the Treasurer’s report, which had been emailed, to members prior to the meeting. As of May 6, 2021 we have 53 paid members for 2021.

Balances in accounts as of 5/6/2021 are:

General Fund \$ 8,343.41;

Walleye Stocking Program \$ 0.00;
Milfoil Treatment Program \$ 856.49.
Total Balance: \$ 9,199.90.

Dick explained that donations in addition to dues go into the general fund unless designated for a purpose such as the milfoil treatment program. While we have a healthy balance, we will need most of it for milfoil treatment.

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

- **CLFL Watershed District Grant Application and Updates**

Jackie had sent her proposal for the Lake Association Grant program to the Board prior to the meeting. She has been pushing the District to adopt a broad grant program than focused on a single issue, such as Aquatic Invasive Species, even though treatment of AIS would likely be an area certain associations would want money for. She is also concerned about arbitrary limits being placed on grants, such as a lake's littoral area as the acreage of a lake more accurately reflects needs of a lake relative to other lakes in the district. She believes all lake associations/lake shore owners should be focused on keeping our lakes clean and healthy, fully swimmable and fishable, regardless of what is needed to work towards that goal in any given year and acknowledging that needs may change from year to year. Keeping the grant flexible as long as the overall objective of clean and healthy lakes is met seems a more realistic way to work with the associations. Jackie stressed that a strong partnership between the District and Lake Associations allows more work benefiting lakes to get done.

The grant language should be discussed at the next CLFLWD meeting, May 13. Hopefully after that applications can be submitted for grant funds. Jackie will contact Jeanine with application information following the May 13 meeting.

It was also mentioned that many resources are available on the CLFLWD's website. We should encourage lakeshore owners to take advantage of this information. Of special interest were topics listed and linked in the Board's meeting agenda of April 28:

<https://www.clflwd.org/4-28-21> special board meeting.php

- **Membership Outreach Update**

Mike M. reported on the work, he, Jackie and Chris did to categorize the lakeshore owners by areas around the lake, designating members and non-members. There are 103 homes on Big Comfort and 18 on Little Comfort. Each Board member will contact approximately five non-members living near them so we hopefully communicate with all the remaining homeowners to

encourage membership. The lists were made available to Board members to sign up as to whom they planned to contact.

- **EWM Treatment 2021 Update**

Jeanine indicated that the Procellacor treatment of 8 ½ acres by a commercial vendor would likely take place around July. We are estimating the cost to be \$ 7,000 - \$ 8,000 and the treatment to last for 3 years.

The Aquathol K treatment on a different part of the lake will need to be applied by the end of May. Bill and Dick will get the pontoon out. Ted Hansen via Jeanine volunteered to help Bill with the application. Other volunteers will likely be needed.

- **Loon Nesting Project**

Dave reported on the idea of building platforms or areas for loon nests. He knows that a group did this on Lindstrom Lake working with the DNR. Because loons are so territorial, it is important to work with the DNR if we are to undertake such a project because there is the potential of chasing our loons away. Mike M. and Bill volunteered to work with Dave on researching this project.

- **Hole at end of public access**

The deep hole at the end of the boat launch at the public access is not safe. Jeanine will find out the name of the DNR contact and Mike C will follow up with the DNR to learn if we can correct it or if the DNR will do something.

- **CLFLWD 2021 projects**

Jeanine received a summary of the main projects undertaken by the CLFLWD, which was sent to Board members prior to the meeting for review. District Board member Anderson reviewed some of these with the Board, specifically a Clean Water Fund Grant* which has the purpose of reducing phosphorus into Little Comfort which impacts both Little and Big Comfort. The projects include the Heath Avenue “East Wetland” Impoundment and School Lake Outlet/Little Comfort Stream Channel restoration. These projects will slow the flow of water into Little Comfort Lake, allowing more time for surface flows to infiltrate into the ground. Right now approximately 280 pounds of phosphorus from Little Comfort is flowing into Big Comfort per year. It is believed that the planned projects will reduce the flow of phosphorus into Little Comfort by 194 pounds per year. This will dramatically affect Big Comfort as well. (One pound of phosphorous triggers 500 pounds of algae growth.) *NOTE: The Watershed District receives around one million dollars a year in Clean Water funds for District projects.

A second project is entitled Greenway Visioning, whereby natural corridors connecting terrestrial and water resources are identified. It is visionary in that the project contemplates

changes due to climate change and will seek to protect areas not yet developed and hold in perpetuity. Bixby Park wetland is an example of this. It is naturally treating storm water runoff from the city of Forest Lake, including much sediment and phosphorus before water flows to the Sunrise River and eventually to Big Comfort Lake. (Typically flow time to Comfort Lake after heavy rains, prior to the Bixby Park wetland project, was six hours, according to Anderson.)

- **Lake Water Level.**

The lake level is quite low this year due to very little rain and not much runoff from snow. The lake levels are taken electronically and can be followed on the CLFLWD website. If people want more information Garrett Miller is the contact person at the District.

- **Communication with Members**

We decided it was important to communicate a brief summary as to the milfoil treatment plans to members as well as projects of the CLFLWD. Jeanine will draft the milfoil information and Sharon will summarize the watershed projects.

Mike M. moved to adjourn. Bill seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Next Board Meeting is June 3 2021, at 6:30 pm.