

Comfort Lakes Association Board Meeting
September 7, 2023 6:30 pm
Via Zoom
Minutes

President Jackie Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

Members present:

Jackie Anderson
Sharon Sill
Dick Berglund
Chris Roche
Mike Crepeau
Dave Freemore
Tom Hobday

Members Absent:

Bill Keilty
Mike Motzko
Jeanine Hansen

Guests:

None

Approval of Agenda - Board members did not have items to add. Agenda was approved.

Secretary's Report: Sharon had emailed minutes from the June 1 meeting (there was no July Board meeting) to Board members prior to this meeting for approval. Dave moved to approve the minutes. Chris seconded. June 1 Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Dick presented the Treasurer's Report as of 9/7/2023
CLA has 47 paid members. (There were 66 on 12/31/2022). Current Cash Balances:

General Fund:	9,799.24
Fish Stocking Fund:	525.00
Milfoil Treatment Fund:	220.00
Stewardship Ed Project:	20.00
TOTAL:	\$ 10,564.24

AGENDA ITEMS:

New Business

Review of Summer – 4th of July Event

The right number of Bomb Pops had been purchased (144) and handed out via driving a jet ski to docks after the parade. It was a great way to get them to people.

It was a “slower” day in terms of entries and observers, but likely accounted for by being a midweek (Tuesday) celebration.

Board Members are encouraged to begin thinking of ideas for next year’s celebration.

Review of Lake Conditions, Member and Resident Comments

Each Board Member shared their observations of the lake from the past summer as well as comments others have made to them. Impressions were fairly consistent:

- Milfoil was gone in nearly all parts of the lake; the whole lake treatment was highly effective
- Lily pads are in greater abundance. Lilies themselves were white in areas rather than yellow. These are indicators of a healthy lake.
- Water was probably 50% clearer than usual – in part due to little rain and therefore not as much run off
- Curly leaf pondweed is bad in many places (it was worse 20 years ago). We are looking to treat that in the spring
- Fish are in greater abundance

We discussed taking an informal, random survey of members about their impression of the lake this past summer. No decision was made.

EWM Spot Treatment in September

There will be a spot treatment in late September of those areas where there has been regrowth of EWM this year. A late August 2023 point intercept survey identified a small treatment area of 2.77 acres. The CLA has an aggressive treatment protocol, and Lakes Management, our professional applicator, agrees. They will be using ProcellaCOR at 3 parts per billion for the treatment, which they determined is the best treatment for small areas. Lakes Management has applied for the DNR permit. Estimated cost to be \$ 3,202.* Once we have the treatment date we will post on Facebook and email members. *(see Chisago County Grant Program below as to how this will be reimbursed)

Review of Other Information

Curly Leaf Pondweed, which appeared throughout Big Comfort and Little Comfort will be treated in the spring.* The delineation for Curly Leaf will be this fall. CLFLWD is paying for the

delineation (approximately \$2,200). If there is another delineation in the spring, CLFLWD will also pay for that. *(see Chisago County Grant Program below as to how this will be reimbursed.)

Old Business

Chisago County Grant Program

The \$ 3,302 we need for the additional EWM treatment will be reimbursed by the Chisago County Grant Program this year. This is a specific 2-year Chisago County Lake Association AIS grant program.

Our Curly Leaf Pondweed treatment scheduled for spring of 2024, and our educational efforts on AIS control will also be reimbursed by this grant program. There is approximately \$13,000 available for Big and Little Comfort Lakes, with unused funds carried over to 2024. If there are other AIS issues that come up and need to be addressed, we can use these funds.

Newsletter

CLA will send out a newsletter to members including end of summer updates sometime in October. Board members should be thinking about what to include in the newsletter and get ideas to Jackie. Possibilities for articles are:

- The history of treatment of EWM on Comfort, i.e., starting with a few Board members and “The Colonel” and how there has been success in the last three years of treating EWM
- Regulations regarding “floating docks and recreational items” – the DNR boating regulation’s booklet has information on the rules and regs for these.
- Riparian rights of shoreland owner (150’)
- Should we prepare an information and education shoreland owner resource booklet for our members?
- Lake level and weir – Per Mike C. DNR says it has no involvement at all in the lake level. However, Mike C. reported that Wally Ostlie has pictures of him working with the DNR on the Weir. Mike also indicated that Mike M. will have more information on this subject when he returns.

U of MN Zebra Mussel study –

6 ZM plates for a University of Minnesota (UM) study were placed in June, with 6 plates from the CLFL Watershed District placed at different locations on Aug. 12, to measure if there is new zebra mussel activity in late summer). A researcher from the UM, and the Andersons from the lake, will be collecting the ZM plates in late September. The researcher will be using a new photography method to measure and count the mussels aggregated on the plates. This process historically is done by hand counting and is very time consuming. The UM is also testing the reliability of using citizens to collect data. (The CLFLWD has been using a citizen corps for 20 plus years successfully for lake monitoring data collection.)

A check of the ZM plates in late August by Jackie & her daughters found of the original 6 plates placed in June, the highest number of mussels were found on plates under the Sill dock (West

middle of the lake); second highest under the Keilty dock (NW area of lake); and third highest concentration on the Hobday dock (N area of lake). All zebra mussels appeared to be at infantile stage – there were no hard shells. Jackie shared that one of the lake scientists that work with the watershed district has said there is likely not enough calcium in our lake to allow the mussels to form hard shells and support a robust zebra mussel population. They also checked and found there were no late season zebra mussel colonies found on the 6 plates placed in early August.

Shoreline Restoration Program

This will be a project to work on over the winter. Fifteen people have called in response to the first flyer about shoreline restoration grants available through the CLFLWD, which was mailed with our membership letter in March. Shoreline owners were directed to contact the CLFLWD. To recap; there are mini grants for small area plantings of up to \$500, mid-level restoration grants of up to \$1,500, and grants up to \$7,500 for unusual and larger shoreline restorations. There is also a grant for \$350 for 3 years for owners with existing natural shoreline buffers to offset property taxes. The point of the program is to educate shoreland owners on the importance of natural shorelines in maintaining the health of the lake and the clarity of the water.

Website – Facebook Page

Mike M. will work with Bill managing the Facebook page and Mike C. will post on the website and send member email messages when Sharon is not available.

Logo Signage - Ideas

We want to promote and use our logo as much as possible. Jackie is looking into a banner, which could, among other things, be displayed on the lead boat in the July 4th parade. Other ideas are yard signs for Association members with an additional sticker on the yard sign indicating a Board member. We could also consider member give away items such as pens, note pads, boat stickers, etc. with our logo on them. More discussion on this at future CLA Board meetings.

Wake Boat Study -

Jackie hasn't heard anything about the second wake boat study. A few people mentioned there are comments from lake shore residents complaining about wake boats. CLA already made a small donation of \$250 to help continue the U of MN study, but we could offer a bigger amount given our reserve balance. Board members were encouraged to talk to neighbors to get their opinions as to whether we should donate more to this study. It is an issue to be discussed at a future Board meeting. The board will reach out to the researchers at the University Research station to find out their current funding needs.

Mike C moved to Adjourn; Dick Seconded. **Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm**
Next CLA Board Meeting – October 5, 2023 at 6:30 via ZOOM