

Comfort Lakes Association Annual Meeting
October 7, 2021 7:00 pm
Via Zoom
Minutes

President Jeanine Hansen called meeting to order at 7:05 pm

Board Members present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Mike Crepeau

Guest Speakers:

Jeff Marr
Angie Hong

Guest Members: 11

Welcome

President Jeanine Hansen called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm by welcoming the attendees and introducing the Board members. She then presented a short educational quiz on various invasive species that currently or may affect Comfort Lakes. She clarified that Northern milfoil is different from Eurasian milfoil, the latter being invasive.

Treasurer's Report

Dick Berglund presented the Treasurer's report. This year we received two grants: from the CLFLWD and the DNR. Our membership is at 65 households, the highest number in history. Dick explained that the CLA is a nonprofit organization and our financials are filed annually with the state. A summary of the monthly treasurer's report is included in the minutes for anyone to review on the website.

The Treasurer's Report as of 10/7/2021 is:

Beginning balance 1/1/2021: \$ 2,549.12

Income:

Dues:	\$ 6,268.00
Donations:	\$ 2,160.00
Other:	\$ 31.50
DNR Grant:	\$ 1,801.15

Expenses: (\$2,702.47)

CURRENT BALANCE \$10,107.30

As of 10/7/2021

- **Eurasian Water Milfoil 2021 Treatment Update**

The conditions of the summer of 2021 were ideal for Eurasian milfoil to flourish: It was a dry summer, leading to low water levels; the water was clear so the sun reached deep down into the lake – and the Eurasian milfoil grew like crazy!

CLA, due in part to the good relationship that has been cultivated with the DNR, was granted a variance to treat 13 littoral acres. The first treatment, with Aquathol K, was in May by some Board members using the Colonel Comfort. Unfortunately the treatment did not last all season, due to the unusual weather conditions, which allowed the milfoil to proliferate.

On October 6, Lake Management applied ProcellaCOR to other areas of the lake. Originally it appeared as though it was not working, however a representative from Lake Management did come out and said he could see that the Eurasian milfoil was dying.

In planning for 2022, the DNR has said that Comfort Lake is a candidate for a full lake treatment given the amount of milfoil. This is both wonderful news and a huge challenge. The cost to do the entire lake using the chemical Fluridone would be approximately \$ 53,000 to \$ 60,000; using ProcellaCOR \$ 100,000. We need to look into funding as part of specific EWM planning over this winter to be ready to act when spring comes.

We will know before January whether an all lake treatment is possible.

- **U of MN Wake Boat Study Update – Jeff Marr** (Associate Director of Engineering and Facilities, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory)

Mr. Marr explained that his staff of fourteen researchers comprises an independent research body and that they were charged with studying the impact of boat wakes and propeller wash.

Their research was done on Lake Independence in October, 2020 using 4 boats. Specifically a 2004 Larson LXI 210 I/O 260 HP; a 2004 Malibu Response LX Inboard 310 HP; a 2019 Malibu Wakesetter VIX V Drive Inboard 450 HP; a 2019 Malibu Wakesetter MXZ V Drive Inboard 450 HP.

They studied the impact from the energy of these boats, which comes from the waves they create on the following:

Shoreline/bank erosion
Aquatic vegetation
Impact on fish and aquatic life
Waterfowl, nesting and habitat
Water quality /turbidity
Nutrient release/nutrient cycles
Temperature distribution

Included in their collected data were the following:

Depth of penetration
Velocities and turbulence at lake bottom
Impact of wash on lake bottom sediment, temperature distribution/mixing and turbidity
Measure wave heights, wave energy (turbulence)

They analyzed the data and wrote their findings over the winter of 2020-2021. The paper is now with an international review panel. Mr. Marr feels confident in the findings. He said the data was consistent in all of their testing and that their equipment and measuring were of high quality. The paper will be released free of charge soon and can be downloaded at: umn.edu/SAFLhealthywatersinitiative.

Ultimately the study will prompt dialogue on how best to preserve natural water resources while manage water usage for all users. It will also hopefully challenge all water users to consider the question: How does my recreational activity impact other users, lake quality and lake habitats?

- **4th of July Boat Parade Results**

There were 10 boats in the parade this year with many shoreline observers. It appeared all had a good time. There are plans to continue the tradition as well as come up with other events to gather people as health and safety constraints allow.

- **Healthy Lakeshore Buffer Zones -- Angie Hong** (East Metro Water Resource Education Program)

Angie Hong offered a wonderful presentation as to what is a healthy lakeshore buffer zone looks like and the importance of it.

There is a direct correspondence between the amount of aquatic vegetation and the number of fish able to live in a lake. Even small changes, paving over or building on 8% of the land on a lot, can negatively impact water quality and fish survival rates.

The property value of shoreline property owners is tied directly to the health of the water body. To that end, minimizing impervious surfaces and maximizing native vegetation will go towards the health of the lake. Native vegetation along shorelines can be beautiful and there are places to help shoreline owners with planning. A buffer of deep-rooted native plants and trees help control erosion; keeps geese off lawns and provides a habitat for wild life.

Ms. Hong provided a resource for people interested in creating a pollinator habitat: the Lawns to Legumes program.

- **CLFLWD Plant Grant Program**

Jackie Anderson explained that the Watershed district has a cost reimbursement program for homeowners who create buffer zones using native plants along their lakeshore. In addition, the CLFLWD staff is a great resource in helping to plan buffer zones.

- **PSA Please do not blow leaves into the lake. (it's illegal)**

Some lakeshore homeowners may be dumping leaves into the lake, which is harmful to the lake. In addition due to wind and wave action, the leaves end up on other homeowners' shorelines and they have to deal with raking or shoveling the leaves out.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

The next CLA Board meeting will be held via zoom at 6:30 pm on November 4, 2021.