

Comfort Lakes Association Board Meeting

June 6, 2024 6:30 pm

Via Zoom

Minutes

President Mike Crepeau called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm

Members present:

Mike Crepeau

Mike Motzko

Sharon Sill

Jeanine Hansen

Chris Roche

Bill Keilty

Jackie Anderson

Members Absent:

Dave Freemore

Tom Hobday

Dick Berglund

Guests:

None

Approval of the Agenda: Jackie moved to approve the Agenda; Janine seconded. Agenda was approved.

Secretary's Report: Sharon had emailed a draft of the May minutes to Board members for review prior to the meeting. Corrections were suggested which were made. Chris moved to accept the minutes with the corrections; Bill seconded. The minutes with corrections were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Mike M. presented the Treasurer's Report in Dick's absence which had been submitted to members prior to the meeting.

Our financial situation as of 6/6/2024 is:

General Fund Balance	\$ 9,347.38
Fish Stocking Program	\$ 0.00
Invasive Species control and Prevention	\$. 495.00

TOTAL

\$ 9,842.38

Current membership: 32

2022 year-end membership: 66

2023 year-end membership: 49

A discussion was held on how to add new members – especially reaching out to those who have been members in the past. Jackie will draft a letter which will be for only nonmembers. It was reiterated that the dues of \$100 are for the calendar year. There is no prorated amount. Mike M, Mike C, and Dick will go through the membership list to get the correct names/addresses of 2024 nonmembers. Once ready and approved, the letter will be hand delivered – if people are not home it will be left by the front door. Mike M., Mike C, and Jackie have thus far volunteered to deliver. The shoreline guide will be left at all doors (included in the nonmember letter packet.)

AGENDA ITEMS

- **Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) Treatment** A majority of the discussion was devoted to the huge amount of CLP in Big Comfort. Board members have received multiple complaints from lake shore residents about how CLP is completely interfering with their boat/jet ski access to the lake; swimming use etc. The infestation seems to be affecting every part of the lake.

Some of the factors contributing to CLP being so bad this year are:

The warm winter supported its growth – with not much ice or snow covering the lake sun was able to get through to the plants at the bottom of the lake supporting growth.

The extent of CLP didn't become obvious until after the assessment for it was done by Blue Water Science, thus a recommendation for treating only 9 acres proved to not be nearly enough.

The DNR gave the permit to treat late in the season, so that by the time CLP was treated, it had already spread significantly.

One of the problems with CLP is that once you see it, it is too late to do anything about it.

This surge of CLP this summer was unexpected. The last time CLP was treated in Comfort was 2014 to 2015. We historically don't anticipate issues with CLP as an issue.

Nothing more can be done this year. It is too late to get a permit to treat and the deadline for treating was June 1. However, with warmer water –the CLP should die naturally.

We know communication with our lakeshore owners is important. They are angry and need to know we are frustrated with the situation as well. We will encourage complaints to the Board to be passed on to Garrett at the CLFLWD. Mike C. has had conversations with Garrett and Garrett said he welcomes hearing from lakeshore owners about it, while acknowledging nothing else will happen this year.

We need some education for members on CLP. Suggestions included emailing members with a link to Garrett at the CLFLWD; potentially doing a summer outdoor education seminar on it; putting updates on Facebook (Mike M.) and the website (Jackie).

- **No Wake Restriction.** “No wake” means that watercraft must move at the slowest possible speed necessary to maintain steerage, but in no case greater than 5 mph. (300 feet from shore). The ordinance will be removed once the lake's water level is 0.1 feet below the designated high-water elevation for three consecutive days. This is Chisago County Ordinance 15/0415-1. Mike C. spent much time trying to figure out the “chain of command” as to whom determines when there is a “no wake” status for the lake and then who is responsible for disseminating that information. Apparently the CLFLWD keeps track of the OHWL, reports it to the county and the county posts the signs.

The current process is an ineffective means of communicating “no wake” on Big Comfort as the sign is small, cannot be seen from the lake and is barely noticed at the landing.

Mike C. suggests we petition the DNR for a larger “no wake” sign and that it is posted at the end of the dock at the public landing. Potentially we also have

duplicate signs at various docks around the lake.

We also will instruct the weed inspectors to tell boaters entering the lake if there is a “no wake” status is in place.

SEP There was discussion about asking the DNR to set out buoys in slow speed areas.

- **Lake Level – Weir** The DNR was planning to survey or check our rock weir, but did not.

- **Zebra Mussel Collection Plates** – Mike C. distributed the U of M zebra mussel collection plates to various docks around the lake – they are fairly equally spaced. Jackie will distribute plates from the CLFLWD accommodating the locations of the existing plates.

- **4th of July Boat Parade** There was discussion as to whether to continue the parade tradition as participation as fallen far off. We decided that if we are going to cancel it we must do it much further in advance. Janine moved that we have the parade as usual on July 4, 2024. Mike M seconded. Motion passed. Chris moved that we do not offer treats after the parade as passing them out is a huge hassle. Jackie seconded. Motion passed. We also decided to forego the judging and therefore prizes. The parade will be at 2:00 pm. Mike C’s boat will lead. *

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Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Next Board Meeting:

July 11, 2024 6:30pm *

*moved to the 2nd Thursday this month only, due to the July 4th holiday