

Deer Lake Watershed Association
Board Meeting - Tuesday, March 3, 2020
Carpenter Township Hall

CALL TO ORDER: the meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Bill Cromell. Board members present: Bill Cromell, Gail Blackmer, Sheila Vorland. Mark Smith participated via speakerphone connection. Alternate board member Val Cromell was present.

This meeting was stated to be a closed, working meeting, therefore no other guests or members were present. Note that this meeting replaced the regularly scheduled February meeting which was postponed until today's date due to illness and availability of board members.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL – Following review of agenda and addition of the 5K and the Itasca Co. Board of Adjustment as discussion items, the agenda was accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Sheila Vorland provided treasurer's report. Current general fund checking account balance is at \$4642.19, the Continuous Outflow fund balance is \$2034.34, and the Watershed Protection fund is at \$495.53. Monies donated and reserved specifically for the CCC Camp Project are \$190, and the amount received from business memberships plus profits of apparel sales which is reserved to cover web site maintenance is at \$272.85. Treasurer's report was approved on a **motion** by Gail, **seconded** by Bill.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Gail provided Secretary's report, noting that the minutes from the December 2019 meeting had been distributed via email to board members. A paper copy of these minutes is available at today's meeting. Minutes of the December meeting were approved on a **motion** by Sheila, **seconded** by Bill.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

A. Continuous Outflow Committee

1. Boat Run Volunteers – Mark Smith agrees to email or otherwise contact the group of volunteers who made the boat runs last year, anticipating they will be available to schedule for runs again this coming season. Mark reviewed the need for more frequent runs in later summer as vegetation grows. More volunteers would be very welcome to relieve the work load on current volunteers.

2. Capital Outlay for equipment – Bill and Mark discussed that a surface drive motor, otherwise known as a "mud motor" is a type of motor that would be useful in conditions found on the creek. A capital equipment account is a consideration for the future with a goal of purchasing a surface drive motor to be owned by the DLWA and utilized by boat run volunteers for all creek runs. While this is cost prohibitive at this time, it is something to consider should there be a capital equipment fund drive sometime in the future.

B. CCC Camp Project Status

Bill reviewed that Loey Master continues as a coordinator for the CCC Camp Project, and that they are still waiting to hear from the DNR to provide a lease that states parameters for use of the area. Bill has spoken with the DNR employee writing the lease, who states that no problems have been identified; however, we do not have the lease in hand yet. We will continue to wait for the lease to determine DLWA's involvement in the project. We do anticipate that the lease terms will include a \$50/year cost, and that a full ten years' worth of the cost is due upfront, so there may be a need for the CCC Camp Project volunteers to raise an additional \$310 to add to the \$190 already in their Savings Account. Bill stated again that no money from DLWA's other accounts will be diverted to the CCC Camp Project. Treasurer Sheila Vorland reviewed that there is a savings account established for donations specifically to the CCC Camp Preservation Project, but that details of creating a separate checking account have not been established. Again, no action until a lease has been received from the DNR.

C. Membership committee – Val Cromell, committee chair, provided a written report on membership activities. Currently there are 128 paid memberships, including annual paid up household, business, Lifetime, and advance paid memberships. A mailing went out in late January to 22 expired member households. Of these, ten were receiving the first renewal notice, two received the second notice, and ten received the third notice. Val clarified that an annual membership is considered to be 12 months from the date that a membership check is written or cash received. There are five paid Business Advertisers on the website. Some are up for renewal and will be contacted by Chris Fischer. Deer Lake Charlie's joined as a Business Advertiser at this meeting. Val reviewed the policy stating that requests for emails from non-members will be removed after six months if they don't become a full member.

D. Events – Reviewed the events that are expected to take place this summer: Gail will co-ordinate the MN DOT roadside clean up, typically the first Saturday of May. We also will go ahead with the Fourth of July Flotilla, Gail will "judge" entries, Sheila will get supplies for the root beer floats, and all board members should participate in serving and greeting participants, if possible. Mark asked to discuss re-instating the 5K; after reviewing the amount of time and volunteers needed to put on this event, it doesn't seem likely it can happen this year. Gail will check on availability and interest of sponsors for a brat feed and games event this summer.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Assurance of DLWA Sustainability – Discussion

1. The board held discussion on records retention, i.e. backup of policies, minutes, forms, etc. so that board members in the future can continue to build on the gains made to date. Bill reviewed our current long term goals, including continuous outflow, and water quality particularly in terms of water quality testing and prevention of AIS.

2. Treasurer/Bookkeeper position – in keeping with the sustainability topic, Sheila presented an outline she had prepared of treasurer duties. This can be reviewed by the board, included in the storage of documents, and the policy referred to in the bylaws. Further, Val has developed

procedures for the process of maintenance of the DLWA Membership and Email list which also can be included in saved documents and referenced in the bylaws.

B. Septic System Topic – The board recognizes that septic systems, particularly systems non-compliant with code requirements, are potential polluters of lakes and streams. Discussion held on what other lake associations have done on this topic and ways we could educate and inform our members. Due to the economic impact home or cabin owners could face with septic repair, we understand this is a sensitive subject.

C. Grants – Discussed submitting grant requests to Carpenter Township and the North Itasca Electric Round Up Program for funding to help with water quality testing. Val and Bill agreed to work on this.

D. Water Quality Testing – We expect testing to be held on Battle and Mirror lakes this summer. The DLWA and property owners are fortunate to have this water testing completed free of charge. Kim Yankowiak, the SWCD water tester who spoke at the last annual meeting will be conducting the testing. The final testing results will go the MPCA and be available for graphing and viewing locally in our newsletter. DLWA member Larry Blackmer is a resident on Pickerel Lake who has direct access to Battle Lake. Larry will be a volunteer supporting Kim with marine equipment to access Battle Lake.

A DLWA member expressed interest in water testing Popple or Lorraine Lake this year. Quite a volume of water comes in through that creek and flowage system. This is still to be confirmed.

E. Website Update – Chris was not available for updates at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2020 Walleye Regulation – The 17”-26” protected slot limit has been dropped on watershed lakes. One walleye over 20” permitted. This will be effective this coming season.

B. AIS Summit request for sponsor contribution – There will be a summit in April on this topic, the sponsors are requesting up to \$500 to help with expenses. DLWA declines to contribute this amount as a hardship to our organization. This could be an informative meeting and allow for networking with other groups in the county however, and attending would be a benefit to DLWA. Bill **moved** to allow up to three of our members to attend this summit and have the \$20 lunch fee paid by DLWA. Gail **seconded** the motion, carried. Registration needs to be sent in by April 6.

C. ICOLA Update – Gail attended the last ICOLA meeting in Grand Rapids and summarized the meeting information. There was information on the availability of AIS inspectors being hired throughout the area for the coming season and how to contact Itasca Co. AIS office to apply for that job. Also there will likely be another training session for volunteer AIS inspectors such as the one attended by Bill, Mark, and Donna last season.

D. AIS meeting with Bill Grantges – Bill reported that Bill Grantges, Itasca Co. AIS director had met with him, Chris, and Mark to discuss AIS prevention in our watershed. Included was information on the inspector job as noted above, and CAP grants that may be used to match funding for projects such as signage at the public access.

NOTE: A copy of the meeting minutes documented with Bill Grantges will also be attached to the email sent with the DLWA monthly minutes. Minutes were taken by Bill Cromell. Bill Grantges was very helpful in providing information and ideas for our association in regards to AIS. (Are these minutes available?)

E. Winter 2020 Newsletter – The winter newsletter has been sent out electronically and paper copies by mail to those who have requested them by adding postage cost to their membership. We have received response from some members complimenting the newsletter. ICOLA (Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations) President, Patty Dzuik stated, “This is the best newsletter we have read. We just had to write and tell you we thought it was interesting, timely and hit all the right areas of concern. Good going, keep up the great work.” She will be forwarding it on to Jeff Forester, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers and Mike Oja with the Itasca County Board of Adjustment.

Additionally, a discussion took place regarding the newsletter formation process of two previous newsletters, and the current 2020 DLWA newsletter. The process will be modified prior to the 2020 Fall or 2021 Winter newsletter being published for continuous improvement purposes.

F. Next Newsletter – The board discussed the next newsletter in terms of appropriate timing to have it completed, coordination of topics, authors, and tone of the articles to be included. A decision was made to not generate a second newsletter this spring due to time constraints. Gail Blackmer suggested producing a flyer-style, shorter newsletter this spring which could relate to any topic of interest. The board will approve the flyer before it is published.

ADJOURN

Sheila **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 8:48. Motion **seconded** by Bill. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Gail Blackmer, secretary.