

Courte Oreilles Lakes Association
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
Bass Lake Town Hall (zoom for non-local people)
AUGUST 26, 2022, 2:30-4:00 PM

MINUTES

I. Call To Order

Chris Bedwell called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

II. Roll Call

Chris Bedwell, Jim Coors, Kurt Schroeder, Mark Lastrup, Shelley Paine, Paul Eckerline, Mike Perrson, Steve Umland, Jim Paine, Jeff Aspenwall, Jessie Brickner, Alf Sivertson

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from July 22, 2022

A motion to approve the Meeting Minutes was made by Shelley Paine and seconded by Steve Umland. The vote was unanimous.

IV. Reports

a. Treasurer's Report (5 min)

- \$61,408 in donations so far for 2022
- Increase donation to Bass Lake - \$600
- Increase donation to Muskies Inc - \$500
- Remove donation for Glacial Lake and Walleyes Inc.

A motion to approve the report was made by Mark Lastrup and seconded by Paul Eckerline. The vote was unanimous.

b. Committee Reports (40 minutes total time allowed to cover all committee discussions)

i. Clean Boat Committee – 5 Minutes

- I-LIDS camera was installed on July 16th – 2000 images collected so far.

ii. Fishery/Water Safety Committee – 5 Minutes

- Buoys to be pulled in mid-October
- Musky Bay Project – We are unable to deposit sediment back into water from dredging, it needs to be deposited on land. Unfortunately, this is very cost prohibitive.
- There are still two options available -
 - Using some sort of egg mats or AstroTurf type surface where the eggs can be deposited. More research is required for this option.
 - Using Aqua Thrusters (<https://aquathruster.com/>) to blow the sediment away from the shoreline.

iii. Eco-Harvester Committee – 10 Minutes

- Hydraulic motor that runs the paddle wheel broke – New motor on order
- More discussions to take place on where to harvest next once harvester is repaired.
- Question was asked on how late in the season AIS can be harvested – this needs to be investigated.
- For 2023 it was suggested that it might make sense to have a paid team to run the Eco-Harvester.

iv. AIS Committee – 10 Minutes

- What is the alternative plan if chemical treatment permits are not approved in 2023 (both lakes)? This needs to be investigated further. One option is the use of divers.
- There are two scheduled meetings with the DNR in September -
 - Grant pre-application
 - Chemical Treatment/2023 Permit
- AIS growth in both lakes has exploded and we are struggling to keep up with it. This is due to a few reasons:
 - No chemical permits in 2021 and 2022
 - Eco-Harvester learning curve, scheduling, and maintenance improvements in 2021 and 2022.
- The plan for 2023 is to get ahead of the permitting and plotting process so that the permits will be approved, and we have a plan in place before spring. This will allow us to attack and kill it early in the season before native plants have taken root. The Eco-Harvester will then be used to clean up any new patches that are found throughout the spring/summer seasons.

v. Communications Committee – 10 Minutes

- New website is live (many thanks to the hard work of Jac Coverdale)
- Melissa Orenstein is now working on backend SELT eblasts
- ~710 subscribers for SELT
- The open rate for SELT emails has been very high (60%+) which is great for the lakes and shows that the COLA members are very interested in the two bodies of water.
- Call for public comment for economic impact analysis for Site-specific phosphorus criteria (SSC) started August 26 and runs through September 9. More information can be found here:
 - <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Rules/WY2120EIANotice.pdf>
- There will be a brief sidebar in SELT regarding water hemlock with link to get more information

V. New Business (5 Minutes)

a. Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APMP) update

- Sept 15th deadline for pre-application grant

- It was noted that Little Lac Courte Oreilles (LLCO) is not currently included in the Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APMP). LLCO needs an APMP in order to qualify for treatment grants. Should LLCO be included in the LCO APMP? DNR requested board approval if we go that route.
- Advantages with adding LLCO to the current LCO APMP:
 - It would be simpler. It doesn't require creating an entirely new plan for LLCO.
 - It would save time this year and allow us, if grants are received, to use the grant money for LLCO treatment along with LCO.
- Disadvantages with adding LLCO to the current LCO APMP:
 - LCO and LLCO would be considered one plan which would limit us in applying for a separate grant. Effectively it could cost us several thousand dollars in money.
- It was also noted that it would be impossible to create a new APMP for LLCO in time for the September 15 pre-application deadline. If we don't combine the two bodies of water for this round of grant funding, we would not have any grant money to use for LLCO as any received grant money would be for LCO only.

A motion to combine Little Lac Courte Oreilles into the existing Lac Courte Oreilles Aquatic Plant Management Plan was made by Steve Umland and seconded by Shelley Paine. The vote was unanimous.

b. COLA promotional clothing/gear order?

- Kurt will investigate designs both old and new
- More follow up on this topic in the September meeting

VI. Old Business (10 Minutes)

a. Update on Lake Management Plan – LimnoTech still working on it

- Should be finalized next week (Week of August 28, 2022)

VII. Closed Session – COLA Legal Matters (15 Minutes)

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Shelley Paine and seconded by Paul Eckerline. The vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 4:09 PM.