

COLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES



June 26, 2020

Present from Board: Kevin Horrocks, Gary Pulford, Mark Lastrup, Jim Coors, Dick Laumer, Chris Bedwell, Kris Sivertson, Dave Zimmer, Jeff Aspenwall

Present from Committees and Guests: Alf Sivertson, Dan Tyrolt, Rick O'Neil

Recording Secretary: Mark Lastrup

Kevin Horrocks called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to accept the May minutes was made by Kris Sivertson and seconded by Jim Coors. The vote was unanimous.

Treasurers Report: Chris Bedwell provided the board with Profit and Loss statement thru June. To date, COLA has received \$53,768 in donations for the Eco-Harvester. The total amount raised for the Eco-Harvester is \$104,417. Kevin Horrocks suggested moving \$4000 from the Eco-Harvester fund to the general fund if it is agreed to by the donors. After some discussion, it was agreed that the money will remain where it is because of uncertainties in what it will cost to operate the machine. Legal (\$7733) and LimnoTech (\$2662.50) bills were paid. The Clean Boats check was deposited for next year. A little over \$10,000 remains in the LimnoTech line from \$30,000. Chris set up a savings account to hold the funds received for the Eco-Harvester. We have received the foundation money for the year (\$77,471) to conclude the 2020 budget approval. Gary Pulford asked what we have in the general fund. Chris Bedwell replied \$1,500 had been received by COLA so far. There is Foundation money tied up in Eau Claire Community Foundation, and Jim Coors will call them to establish access to the account so that we know what the correct balances are. A motion to accept the Treasurers Report was made by Mark Lastrup and seconded by Kris Sivertson. The vote was unanimous.

SSC Update: Alf Sivertson said that the SSC petition has been filed with WDNR and they have 30-days to respond. Alf is confident they will accept it. Gary Pulford and Alf will get on the phone with Krista Westerburg on rule making protocols to make sure that Prehn and Kazmirski cannot torpedo the process.

CLP Update: Gary Pulford said that CLP has not materialized in Musky Bay. Barbertown and another bay have been treated. We need to either return the chemicals or find some place to store the Aquathol K. Anchor Bay Milfoil is not ready to treat yet. Maybe in a week. Nothing visible in the west basin yet. Gary mentioned that COLA needs to respond to Wisconsin Lakes and Ponds proposal to do an entire littoral survey of both lakes for AIS. Dan Tyrolt suggested waiting a couple of years until we can do a new point

intercept survey. Gary Pulford and Kevin Horrocks will respond to them. Kevin said we need to get more people involved with the AIS effort.

Update Aquatic Plant Management Plan: Gary Pulford said that LimnoTech is to provide us with a quote to update the plan and the update must incorporate new data. The current AIS grant will pay for it. The update is needed to acquire permits in the future for use of Eco-Harvester. Dan Tyrolt suggested he could do the update; he just completed a Round Lake update. Gary will contact Dan next week.

Shoreline Monitors: Dick Laumer has no news from anybody out looking. Jeff Aspenwall and Gary Pulford have the most information. Jeff has used his drone to document algal growth in Musky Bay. Algae is growing on last year's dead plants. Most is blowing on to the north shore. Gary thinks it is inhibiting the growth of CLP. Kevin Horrocks asked if the CLP treatment last year could be providing the nutrients for the algal growth this year. Dan Tyrolt and Gary Pulford will go out and investigate. Free association: is Jeff Aspenwall providing drone coverage to Beth Reneke?

Collector Training: Jeff Aspenwall lost cell coverage and was unavailable.

Eco-Harvester: Kevin Horrocks stated that we need a chair to oversee the project. Kevin provided a list of tasks that need to be completed before next spring. Kris Sivertson volunteered to take the lead. Kevin suggested that the tasks be assigned to different members. Gary Pulford is willing to carry on with the purchase process. Dick Laumer is interested in joining the conversation.

General Fund Strategy: Kevin Horrocks again mentioned we need a fundraising chair. Scientific questions need answers and we need the funds to get the answers. Alf Sivertson will call Kevin over the weekend to brainstorm. Chris Bedwell is interested in participating.

2020 Grants: Kevin Horrocks asked if we can get a grant to operate and maintain the eco-harvester. Chris Bedwell asked Kevin about a friend of his who is a grant writer. Kevin will contact the individual.

Septic Survey: Mark Lastrup said he spoke with Sawyer County and they have not funded the program since 2018 because of personnel and financial constraints. There will be no financial help from them. COLA can hire a certified septic person to head up the effort. And we need to get the county to partner in the effort. We will have to fund and therefore need to develop a project cost and include it in the 2021 COLA budget.

Buffers: Gary Pulford stated that we did not have much implementation success with the first go around. If we decide to survey again, Minnesota has perfected a protocol. We could use drone and lidar data to automate the process. Mark Lastrup mentioned that Sawyer County is in the process of scanning and linking septic system data with their land records database. We could use that information to focus the effort on potential problem areas. Gary mentioned that we still need to provide access to printed materials to shoreline owners.

Membership/Donation Linkup: Chris Bedwell and Rick O'Neill have been working on a new approach. Get rid of the membership model and move to a donation model. A \$50 donation equals a membership, up to > \$5000. There was discussion on the number of donor levels and how they would be named. Everything goes in to the general fund. Rick asked Alf Sivertson if what they are proposing is legal; Alf answered yes, the 501c3 designation covers it. Get rid of the term membership. Gary Pulford mentioned that if all 650 property owners participated, it would be approximately \$150 per property and would

raise \$100,000 per year. Alf mentioned that we need to integrate the legacy fund in the mix. The new model; from member to partner. Start the push to the new system this fall. Chris Bedwell said that we have all the memberships we are going to get in 2020 now. Jim Coors said we may need to change our by-laws. Alf Sivertson concurred. We will need communications in July and November as did the Foundation. Kris Sivertson asked about monthly donations. We need to provide that option. Dave Zimmer mentioned that peer pressure will generate funding; publish what was given within a range. Work in refining the message over the next month.

Watershed Forestry: Jim Coors spoke with Allison a couple of weeks ago. Paul Eckerline needs to get on board. Kevin Horrocks will call Paul. Allison needs Paul to make the introductions, etc.

Future Issues: Chloride and Dog Gifts: Kevin Horrocks asked Mark Lastrup if the signs he installed on Circle Road requesting people to be good neighbors and pick up after their dogs, was having any affect. Mark will survey to see if the problem is diminishing.

USACE Watershed Grant Update: Dan Tyrolt left the Zoom conference, not available.

We Need to communicate with membership, regardless if we call an annual meeting.

Adjourn: 5:01