

## MEETING MINUTES



**January 22, 2021**

**Present from Board:** Kevin Horrocks, Gary Pulford, Chris Bedwell, Mark Laustrup, Dick Laumer, Jeff Aspenwall, Dave Zimmer, Kris Sivertson, Jim Coors, Mike Persson, Paul Eckerline

**Present from Committees and Guests:** Alf Sivertson, Rick O'Neill

Recording **Secretary:** Mark Laustrup

Kevin Horrocks called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion to accept the December minutes was made by Paul Eckerline and seconded by Jim Coors. The vote was unanimous.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chris Bedwell reported that the books are closed for 2020. December expenses totaled \$17,835.02. The actual income for 2020 was \$132,699. There is \$24,292 remaining in the 2020 budget to carry over to 2021. Checks are still coming in from general supporters, and also people that originally donated to the Foundation after it was dissolved. Chris is following up on all donations to see if new checks can be cut to COLA vs. the Foundation. The AIS 2020 reimbursement has yet to come in totaling approximately \$10,000 from WDNR. COLA will have approximately \$113,000 to work with for a budget in 2021 unless more donations come in. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Dick Laumer and seconded by Kris Sivertson. The vote was unanimous.

**Fundraising:** Alf Sivertson reported that \$52,967 has come in from 129 donors. Some donated to Eco-Harvester and passed on donating to the general fund for 2021. We are in the ballpark to match past efforts. Sight of the Eco-Harvester next summer may help with donations. A late summer request will go out. One-on-one discussions are still moving forward. Legacy estate planning will continue and expand. Kevin Horrocks mentioned that people are losing track of when they contributed. Is there a way to make it easier for them to track their contributions? Chris Bedwell said this will always be a problem for some. Alf Sivertson said that if you add all funds contributed, (plus Eco-Harvester) we approached \$150,000 raised in 2020 and he is optimistic about the 2021 effort. COLA will receive payments from the two Legacy Funds held at ECCF for their yearly distributions totaling approx. \$5,000. Jim Coors asked about a good way to inform the membership. Alf suggested that an email blast would work. Jim replied that it would be good to inform them of the success of the transition of fundraising from the Foundation to COLA. Kevin Horrocks said that we need to mention what work still needs to be accomplished.

**AIS Reimbursement:** Jeff Aspenwall said that the check should have already been sent. Kevin Horrocks will check the PO box.

**Grant Extension:** Kevin Horrocks reported that an extension was requested and granted. We can use the funds for anything AIS. It can be used for pre or post treatment surveys. There is still a question on whether we can use for the operation of the Eco-Harvester.

**Water Levels:** Kevin Horrocks mentioned that Jeff Aspenwall saw that the water levels in Little LCO were problematic in 2020. Several people are arguing with the county that the dam should be opened to reduce water levels on both lakes. The county will not share the water level information yet. The county did find an elevation marker. The county is talking with the DNR. The DNR will not support dredging. If dredging, who will pay for it? If the water levels are forced to drop, it will affect all property owners. Jeff Aspenwall said that when the county closed the dam gates last summer, the water level came up in Little LCO. Do we need a study to show that the dam has no effect on the big lake water elevations per Dan Tyrolt's observation? Kris Sivertson said that if the three individuals who are arguing for lower water levels want to take it to court, let them pay for the study. Jeff Aspenwall suggested that we accept what Dan Tyrolt said; the dam has little or no effect on the big lake water elevations. Kevin Horrocks said he is worried that the county will knuckle under to the pressure.

**Highlands Condo:** Gary Pulford stated that Sawyer County and WDNR are missing in action. The condo association lost in court but what are they going to do about the runoff problem. Alf Sivertson said he spoke with Dale Olson who is aware of the issue from both the county's and the DNR perspective. Dale is sending Alf the information.

**Wolf Point:** Kevin Horrocks asked what is going on. Mark Lastrup said that Phil Neis is on it and the DNR has already been on site. Dick Laumer said that we should we contact the homeowner directly. Kris Sivertson suggested that we go to court if they try to brush it under the rug. Dave Zimmer suggested Kevin Horrocks write a letter to both the county and DNR with our objections. Kevin will follow up. Kris Sivertson said we should file a complaint against the contractor. Chris Bedwell said that there are currently law suits out against the contractor.

**Musky Bay Mouth Photo:** Mark Lastrup explained that the county flew color infrared (CIR) aerial photography in April of 2020 and there was a large area at the mouth of musky bay that was red indicating a high chlorophyll concentration. Mark will find out the date(s) the imagery was collected. It was suggested (who?) to use a drone to collect data next year. Jeff Aspenwall will investigate upgrading his drone to collect CIR data.

**Shoreline Club:** Mark Lastrup mentioned a garden club approach to shoreland restoration. Contact those who have completed restoration work and ask them to head the effort up to develop a committee. Robin and Marty Malinowsky, Chris and Todd Bedwell and others who have gone through the process. Gary Pulford said to use this coming year to speak with landscaping companies to see what is available. Kris Sivertson said that he did that during the first shoreland survey and was not impressed with the response. Talk with Rolling Wood and Rick Nelson to see what can be done.

**COLA Archive:** Steve Umland has a box of archival material provided to Mark Lastrup by Steve Lilliblad and is starting to organize it.

**Musky Bay Sediment Analysis:** Mike Persson reported that nothing will happen until this coming spring.

**Aquatic Plant Management Plan:** The draft plan still needs to be approved by WDNR. Kevin Horrocks will speak with Dan Tyrolt to find out what the status is.

**Eco-Harvester:** Kris Sivertson has started the application process but needs the approved aquatic plant management plan. Kevin Horrocks/Gary Pulford will contact Dan Tyrolt. Kris said we will need 3 teams of about 6 people each. We need to crew up for a May startup. Dave Zimmer asked about plant disposal and boat storage. Kevin Horrocks said the Tribe will provide a disposal site as well as maintenance. Gary Pulford said that initially, the boat may be stored outside and the LCO Conservation Department fenced yard. Dave Zimmer asked if we need a cover for the boat. Dave mentioned a family by Wismo that has a large storage facility. Paul Eckerline knows the Richie family and will speak with them.

***Closed Session:***

**SSC:**

**CWA:**

**Communications:**

***Open Session:***

**SELT:** Jim Coors said that the next issue will deal with swimmer's itch, based on the results of the recent survey of shoreland property owners. Kevin Horrocks will provide Jim with information that COLA has distributed in the past on the subject.

**2021 Activities and Budget:** Kevin Horrocks asked the board to look at the budget sheet he sent out and fill in the blanks. Gary Pulford asked about the time frame. Kevin suggested by the end of next week; fill in what you can. Gary mentioned that we already have the Limnotech scope of work ready for 2021. We need to move on it. Kevin will speak with Gary about it.

**Shoreline Buffers:** skip

**Watershed Forestry:** Paul Eckerline said that Allison will contact Kevin Horrocks about the scope of the project. Kevin will email her and cc Paul.

Adjourn: 5:03