

COLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

February 27, 2015

Present from Board: Gary Pulford, Mark Laustrup, Steve Umland

Present from Committees: Mike Persson, Frank Pratt

Recording Secretary: Mark Laustrup

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM by Gary Pulford.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to accept the January minutes was made by Steve Umland and seconded by Mark Laustrup. The vote was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Lilliblad was not in attendance. Steve mentioned to Mark Laustrup that COLA received \$1000 from WDNR for the 2015 Clean Boats Program instead of \$4000. Frank Pratt mentioned that WDNR will provide 25% of the grant up front and pay the remainder when billed. Gary Pulford will check with Dan Tyrolt to make sure that is the case.

Sawyer County Land and Water Resources Management Plan Recap: Gary Pulford stated the COLA was the only group to attend the meeting. Sawyer County is updating the plan and requested COLA input. Gary said that there are less than 40 farms in the county. Mike Persson asked how many acres are involved in farming; Gary wasn't sure. A question came up of how many acres of agricultural operations directly impact water quality. The state (ATCP) has best management practice (bmp) requirements for cranberry operations, herbicides, pesticides, nutrients, etc. Steve Umland, Dan Tyrolt and Gary Pulford asked the county to start inspecting cranberry operations for compliance and to tie TMDL nutrient management plans back to agricultural operations in the watershed. Road maintenance was also mentioned as an issue that needed to be addressed.

WDNR Complaint Update: Gary Pulford said the complaint is based on a 1982 agreement between the cranberry industry and WDNR as part of a cooperative agreement resolution process geared to resolve issues prior to legal action. The complaint was filed about a month and a half ago and should start the process. WDNR has not responded to date.

COLA Grant Applications Update: Gary Pulford said that the planning grant for the restoration of musky spawning habitat was denied because, according to WDNR, it was not comprehensive enough. This will be a topic of discussion for the March meeting. The grant to reestablish lakeshore buffer zones includes a \$100,000 request from

WDNR with a \$25,000 match from COLA. Twelve property owners have agreed to participate out of 60 who received the offer. If the grant is awarded, letters will go out to the next 120 properties with buffer zone issues. COLA will hire local landscaping companies to work with property owners to design and install plants. COLA will work with Sawyer County to ensure the buffers remain intact.

Review of LimnoTech 2015 Revised Scope of Work and Budget: LimnoTech provided three options to meet WDNR requirements for approval of the SSC and TMDL. Frank Pratt argued against the high priced option because the lake is in relatively good shape and nutrient models are used for heavily impacted water bodies. He went on to say that the necessary information is already out there. LimnoTech also provided estimates to develop impairment documents for Whitefish Lake and the west basin. Frank stated that it is imperative that these documents are submitted.

COLA Sponsorship of Wild and Scenic Film Festival: Frank Pratt said the festival includes independent short films with a watershed focus. They are seeking sponsorship for the festival. COLA missed an opportunity to get in early but will be able to set up a booth to highlight work on LCO buffer work. Kris Sivertson (through Gary Pulford) made a motion to provide \$500 from the COLA budget to support the effort. The motion was seconded by Mark Laustrup. There was no quorum present and Gary Pulford will find an additional vote. Steve Umland will get a COLA stamp made to update existing posters showing COLA sponsorship.

Kathy Hanson Contract: Steve Umland suggested tabling the discussion until the March meeting because of key players being absent from the discussion. Gary Pulford, Kris Sivertson and Jim Coors conference called to develop a list of possible topics. Jim Coors spoke with her and she is interested. Frank Pratt said the first order of business is a communications plan. Steve Umland asked whether she had the right contacts, Madison, political, etc. Jim Coors has agreed to continue working on the effort. Gary Pulford and Sue and Kevin Horrocks will get together and develop a recommendation for the March Meeting.

Web Update: Mark Laustrup said that the SSC/TMDL WDNR meeting response letter and "Next Steps" documents are available on the web site as well as the Sissabagama response, COLA Budget, and 2014 aquatic plant management report. There are still missing documents associated with the email blast. Gary Pulford suggested going with what we have.

LCO Tribe/COLA Partnership update: There was no one present to speak.

2015 CLP Treatment: Steve Umland has the permit and needs a check for \$240 from Steve Lilliblad to accompany the permit. Steve will hand deliver letters to the home owners.

Clean Boats: Allan Hoeft will take care of it and is contacting students at LCO College.

AIS Monitoring/Volunteers: Sue Horrocks was not present. Steve Umland will speak with her and make sure everything is taken care of.

Other: Gary Pulford indicated that the Foundation wants COLA to develop a 5-year plan on funding requirements and that maybe COLA should engage in some strategic planning. COLA needs to get more people involved; we are understaffed and have many important items to be addressed. Add a call for volunteers to the email blast.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.