



COLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2015

Present from Board: Kris Sivertson, Gary Pulford, Mark Laustrup, Steve Umland, Kevin Horrocks, Jim Coors, Paul Eckerline

Present from Committees: Susan Kendrick, Frank Pratt

Recording Secretary: Mark Laustrup

Approval of Minutes: A motion to accept the October minutes was made by Jim Coors and seconded by Steve Umland. The vote was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: Steve Lilliblad stated that the account has a balance of \$1800 but that bills are due that will draw it down substantially. Steve is hopeful that two grant reimbursements from WDNR will arrive by the end of the year.

Annual Picnic: Susie Sivertson and Linda Pulford will take care of the food. There is still as question on what do with the raffle. Jim Coors suggested several big prizes instead of gift certificates, etc. Mark Laustrup suggested using the Muskies Inc. approach where each board member takes 5-10 businesses to contact for a donation. Kris Sivertson stated that the board will take it up again at the January meeting.

Shoreland Initiative Update: Kris Sivertson said that the organization has scheduled a conference call for next week and the website will be up by that time. They are spending their time writing a new bill. They are developing contacts in the southern part of the state. Kris Sivertson, Gary Pulford and Mark Laustrup will represent COLA. We were not contacted to be on the steering committee. Kris will contact them for more information.

Boat Inspection Update: Mark Laustrup will submit the grant application to WDNR by the December 10 deadline. He will schedule training for the hire, himself and Marty Malinowski. COLA will need to develop a banner (COLA Clean Boats) and purchase a small popup shelter. Steve Umland made a motion to allocate \$150 to the effort. The motion was seconded by Kevin Horrocks and the vote was unanimous.

CLP Update: Steve Umland said that he will check with Alex Smith (WDNR) for money to do genetic testing of the live and growing CLP found in Musky Bay last fall. He said Alex told him that boats have been put in storage and that there will be no field work for

the remainder of this year. Steve Umland is concerned that the 2016 spring pre-survey will not pick up the 2015 August growth. Steve will continue to try to set up a meeting.

Reserve Strip Ordinance Communication: Steve Umland praised the draft of the letter to be sent to LCO reserve strip properties. Kevin Horrocks suggested rearranging to put property owner criticisms up front and follow with an offer of a helping hand. There was some discussion about homeowners (property rights) vs. lake association members (lake rights). Jim Coors argued against forcing a division Shoreland habitat preservation acts to protect and enhance property values. Mark Laustrup will contact Justin Hall about township help with shoreland restoration costs on the reserve strip. Susan Kendrick will provide the board with a revision incorporating suggested changes.

Logging Tour: Paul Eckerline said that March and April are bad times but any other time would work. We will meet at Johnson Timber for a classroom session and then go visit a couple of field sites. It was decided to shoot for January 22, based on the weather.

SSC Update: Gary Pulford said the document(s) should be on their way to WDNR by December 1. Out the door by December 1. GLIFWC comments have not been received yet.

Cisco Update: Frank Pratt said that a cisco spawning area (just off the turn on KK) was re-seined for the first time since 1978. No fish were captured as the result of 10 hauls. On Whitefish Lake they caught 175 cisco and 13 whitefish. Frank suggested providing a grant to the Hayward Environmental School; \$500 will purchase a seine and \$1000 will cover all material expenses. Kris Sivertson suggested Frank submit the proposal to the Foundation; they have supported these kinds of efforts in the past (turtle study). Frank envisions a multi-year effort that includes students from the Northern Waters Environmental School and well as the Hayward charter school. Jim Coors made a motion to ask to Foundation to support the effort. The motion was seconded by Steve Umland and the vote was unanimous.

2016 Impaired Waters List: Gary Pulford summarized recommendations COLA made to WDNR. COLA disagrees with WDNR on: Sissabagama (5a to 5c); Whitefish (5p – exceeding P but no corresponding biological impairment); and LCO (landlocked Musky Bay). Limnotec will be looking at the last 5-years of water quality data to support the letter. The letter may change based on the results.

Buckthorn Infestation: Gary Pulford summarized the buckthorn infestation around LCO. It's found all along Thoroughfare Road and on Victory Heights. On Victory Heights, it was eradicated in 2-years. It costs \$35/hour to treat. Frank Pratt stated that the plant builds up toxins in the soil that affects other plants.

Communications Update: Jim Coors indicated that a press release on the musky/walleye fishery has been sent out via email blast and the article will be archived to the website. He also mentioned that an article on the COLA shoreland grant and

shoreland zoning was published in the Sawyer County Record. Susan Kendrick said that what COLA is doing can be transferred to other lakes and we should make the effort to do so. Jim Coors said the next effort will be on the release of the SSC and the hydrodynamic model.

Watershed Sector Engagement: Jim Coors is developing a budget for 2016 to cover the expense of mailing to the entire watershed. He will also check with Mike Colson, Sawyer County IT, to see if email addresses are part of the land records database. Frank Pratt suggested that the Regional Land Trust may be better out front of the effort. He also went on to say that shoreland buffers are the most important issue and COLA is in the forefront. Kris Sivertson said the task will be revisited at the January meeting. Gary Pulford said that we have to somehow engage the other lake associations within the watershed, dairy/agriculture, forestry, highway departments, etc. to push best management practices. COLA will have to wait for completion of the 9-key element plan before moving forward. Budgets will need to be developed to advance work in each sector. Jim Coors will contact John Kotar, forestry consultant, Mark and Gary will handle dairy/agriculture, Kris, lake associations, and Jim Coors and Paul Eckerline, Forestry. We will need budgets by the January meeting.

Shoreland Buffer participants: Kris Sivertson indicated that a mailing will go out to 70 properties that could use remediation, in order to recruit new participants.

December Board Meeting: There will be no December meeting – use email. Next meeting, Jan. 22.

Loon Call: Kevin Horrocks will work on it in Iowa because all the pheasants are dead.

Other: The Foundation year end fundraising letter has several issues. Kris Sivertson will contact Rob Gales.

Adjourn: 5:20.