



## COLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### MEETING MINUTES

October 23, 2015

**Present from Board:** Kris Sivertson, Gary Pulford, Mark Laustrup, Steve Umland, Steve Lilliblad, Jim Coors

**Present from Committees:** Alf Sivertson, John Berg, Rob Gales, Susan Kendrick, Dan Tyrolt, Frank Pratt

**Recording Secretary:** Mark Laustrup

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion to accept the September minutes was made by Paul Eckerline and seconded by Steve Umland. The vote was unanimous.

**Treasurer's Report:** Steve Lilliblad stated that \$5000 for communications is in the COLA account. Kris Sivertson will submit the first draw on the shoreline restoration grant; almost \$9,000 has been expended. The current balance is \$3,400 with \$1,000 going to Susan Hendricks. No dues are coming in. Time in kind needs to be submitted for shoreland restoration. Steve Lilliblad will mail the paperwork to Kris Sivertson to submit for reimbursement. Time in kind needs to be submitted for the AIS grant also. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Paul Eckerline and seconded by Steve Umland. The vote was unanimous.

**LCOFI Reserve/2015 Fund Raising:** John Berg provided an overview of LCOFI from its inception in the summer of 2009. To date, \$526,000 has been raised to support COLA activities. The Foundation has used direct mail and has found it to be most effective at year end. Over 150 families have donated 3 years or more. The golf tournament provides visibility. There is still a lot of potential out there; 300 families are not giving. The Foundation now has a WISMO board member now and there is some potential there. There is a potential \$10,000 deficit this year with a reserve of \$140,000. Only 4-5 families have provided 50% of the money raised to date and fatigue is a concern. John reiterated that the Foundation's job is to raise money to fund COLA work. Rob Gales summarized the overall fundraising strategy and said the goal of LCOFI is the creation of a \$3 million endowment.

**Annual Picnic:** Transitioning away from Barbara and Allan Hoefft carrying the entire picnic burden was discussed. Paul Eckerline suggested developing and list of tasks

and passing it around for people to sign up. More work is necessary to define responsibilities.

**2016 Boat Inspection/Grant:** Mark Laustrup indicated that Marty Malinowski has agreed to oversee the program next year with help from Mark Laustrup. Marty suggested that some type of a tent/kiosk be purchased to give the inspector visibility. There was discussion about what age should be recruited because kids will want to be with their friends. Someone mentioned that Dick at Earl's Marine has someone in mind. Mark Laustrup will go to the WDNR website and fill out the necessary paperwork for 2016. Dan Tyrolt said that Sawyer County has the training materials to get the new hire up to speed.

**County Shoreland Zoning Rollback:** Gary Pulford said that the board approved a resolution supporting the repeal of Act 55. He went on to say that Wisconsin Lakes is pushing negotiation rather than repeal which is disheartening.

**Bass Lake Reserve Strip Ordinance:** Gary Pulford summarized work that he, Kevin Horrocks and Mark Laustrup had done to provide the town board with comments on the draft ordinance. The preservation and protection of the reserve strip benefits lake water quality by limiting runoff where shoreland buffers have been proven to be most effective in accomplishing that goal. And public ownership ensures that the buffers will remain intact. The group attempted to find middle ground between removing everything and leaving everything. A motion to approve the letter for submittal to the town board was made by Paul Eckerline and seconded by Jim Coors. The vote was unanimous.

**Fall CLP/WDNR Response:** Steve Umland stated that WDNR will not talk to COLA about finding CLP in the fall even though they admit it exists in Lake Chetek, lakes near Rheinlander, and in LCO. Stantec will complete a survey. WDNR is not returning calls. Steve suggested that the cost of future treatments will not go down as earlier suggested and that COLA will need to budget for treatment. It will be difficult to budget for 2016 until COLA understands the WDNR grant status for 2016. The 2016 AIS grant submittal deadline is February 1, 2016. Gary Pulford asked whether COLA should go out for bids for future work.

**Cranberry Harvest:** Gary Pulford said that Zawatowski Cranberries has taken a different approach to harvest this year. In the east beds, they flooded the southerly beds and once harvested, pumped that water to adjacent dry beds and the process repeated. He's pretty sure no water was returned to the lake. They used a similar approach on the west bog but used tractor pumps to flood the beds. They used less water this year than they used in the past.

**SSC Update:** Gary Pulford said that the revision will be submitted on or about November 1. The model shows that a reduction of 1600 lbs./yr. will increase cold water habitat by 10-15%. The Tribe and COLA will argue for protection of the fishery. Once submitted, a press release will go out and at the same time, the SSC and hydrodynamic model will be posted to the COLA website.

**Logging Tour:** Paul Eckerline has been talking to Butch Johnson and we will meet at Johnson Timber. First background and then to the field. This will happen within the next couple of weeks and the trip will last half a day.

**Communications/PR Update:** Jim Coors said that COLA has been featured in the last couple of editions of the Sawyer County Record. He mentioned that he was in contact with Voices of America Media but the money and national scale took it beyond our target audience. Susan Kendrick mentioned that the piece on shoreland restoration was ready to be released. The topics can be tailored to reflect immediate needs. Jim Coors suggested that some articles could go out as informational without the COLA tag.

**Whitefish Kill on LCO:** Gary Pulford sent out pictures of the fish that were found near Thoroughfare Road. Kevin Horrocks said he found dead whitefish at his dock to the east. Frank Pratt stated that whitefish habitat requirements are much more demanding than cisco.

**Loon Call:** Kevin Horrocks reminded everyone to get their information in to him asap.

**2015 Buffer Grant Wrap-up:** Kris Sivertson said that two projects have been completed, two are in the works, and two will commence in the spring.