

COLA Board Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2015

Mark Laustrup was not at the Board meeting so Kevin Horrocks agreed to record Minutes.

Minutes from the August 2015 Board meeting were approved – Paul Ekerline moved and Steve Umland seconded, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Steve Lillyblad. There will be some additional expenses still this year and the Foundation may have to help cover some, but not until as late in the year as possible.

We are way behind in time in kind and all need to get all their hours recorded and submitted to Steve Lillyblad.

Motion to accept the Report was made by Umland and seconded by Ekerline and carried.

Annual Picnic

Allan and Barb Hoeft are not going to run the picnic in 2016. They will help as they can, but someone else will have to do the planning and running of it. Barb and Allan also provided a written description of aspects of the picnic to assist whoever picks up the task.

Allan emphasized that right after the first of the year someone must contact Erika of Bass Lake to sign up and reserve the picnic grounds for the Picnic.

Also, for beer to be served at the picnic a liquor permit must be arranged. Tom Burgess has helped with this in the past and Allan thought he'd probably do it again....but he'll need to be asked.

Whoever is going to cater the event...Lynn's for nearly the entire food effort or Chuck Aubert for pork and others to make up the corn and other side dishes the caterer must be contacted early and signed up as they get very busy.

Raffle items are difficult and time consuming to gather. Barb and Allan used to buy items, for example, at the Humane Society fund raisers and then donate these to COLA for the picnic at their expense. All normal contributors like bars and restaurants are approached by every other group for donations so this takes time.

Barb would often buy plates and tableware etc at Sam's Club to get a good price...and learned tricks like buying hot dogs right after Memorial Day when they would go on sale. Allan said they often had donations of "one gift certificate for free if he bought a second", etc. There are materials Barb will turn over to the new person or people such as cooking utensils, a corn cooker etc.

COLA must find new volunteers and people to take this over. Kris suggested putting it on the agenda for the next meeting so figure out how to handle all this.

LCOFI Fund raising and funds –

John Berg was unable to attend meeting but **will present this at the next COLA Board meeting.** The Foundation wants to keep a minimum amount as emergency back up and not dip into it. The money is not “bottomless.”

Gary pointed out that during the next 6 months will need spending to finish some of the critical efforts which have been ongoing and may have to go into the reserve or else the previous work will be lost.

Shoreland Zoning Authority

Plum Lake in Vilas County is leading a legal challenge to the State pulling authority from the counties to regulate their lakes’ shorelines. COLA had agreed to send money to their effort and will try to encourage others to join in. Question was raised as to whether Wisconsin Lakes was joining in but due to the State defunding this organization they may not even be relevant or functional.

AIS Grant Update

COLA is approaching the end of the money available through our grant. There is a CLP outbreak in Musky Bay which is not supposed to be part of the plant’s life cycle. **Wisconsin DNR denied Stantec request to treat the CLP since WDNR does not acknowledge its existence.**

COLA needs to apply for a grant to treat this. Also, in the Spring permit application COLA will need to add into the permit the option of an autumn treatment.

Steve Umland is to get samples of the CLP and if necessary take it to Alex Smith to show DNR it is growing and then **get DNR to come to Musky Bay and observe first hand** so that the phenomenon is acknowledged by the DNR so we can deal with it. **This has to be done quickly, before this batch of CLP runs its course and falls to the bottom.**

Dan Tyrolt pointed out that the AIS grant and money limit is “per lake” and that COLA should look into applying for a grant for Little Courte Oreilles due to its CLP and Eurasian Milfoil.

Question was raised as to whether COLA could apply for a grant for Musky Bay since the DNR has declared it a separate body of water.

Also, COLA can apply for an additional extension of the old grant.

Once Alex and DNR see the CLP and confirm it is CLP COLA should talk to DNR about how to apply for a Research Grant for studying this situation of autumn CLP.

Dan summarized:

- *Apply for a full grant for Little LCO.**
- *Get an extension for grant on Big LCO.**
- *Apply for a grant for CLP Research on Big LCO. If we can get this Stantec should be well suited to assist with getting the grant and should be kept involved.**

SSC Update:

Gary said we should have the SSC Draft in our hands Monday, and would need 2 weeks to massage it.

1. Determine how to interact with the Tribe to submit it to the WDNR about October 1 – probably October 15. Set up a joint submission or separate? Dan and Gary and Brett to help sort this out.

*Need to get Alf's opinion on the legal strategy of who is submitting this.

Strategy had been to give DNR 60 days to accept...sooner is rather than later.

2. If WDNR proceeds with rule making we will need some assistance from Limnotech for them to help the WDNR in writing the regulations. On the other hand, IF WDNR won't proceed Limnotech might have to testify, qualify the science etc. if it has to go to court.

We are almost out of money with Limnotech and cannot stop the forward motion, so more money is likely needed.

9 Key Element Plan Draft

Due shortly after the SSC.

Began working on directing phosphorus reductions. There is a retired forestry professor (name ?) who may spearhead engaging the forestry section in regards to phosphorus introduction to the lake: Are they cutting too much wood? The right or wrong type of wood? Are best management practices being followed on public and private land? Are these the right practices anyway...is there a larger strategy of forest management, what are forests being managed for?

No one really checking whether best management practices are being followed, especially with lower funding and personnel reductions in DNR.

Education will be part of the key to this area.

Paul volunteered to set up a forestry/logging visit at actual logging operation as an educational opportunity for COLA.

Shoreland Buffer

Two restorations have been completed. Two more are in the works. Maybe a fifth one. We need more participation next year...more shoreland owners doing restoration work on their properties so COLA can work with, maybe as many as 25.

*Need a campaign starting in January to reach the 350 shoreline owners who have poor buffers to get 25 to agree to restoration in 2016.

Susan Hedman, EPA Regional Administrator visit:

Susan Hedman met with the Tribe and talked issues. She is retiring in a year or so and she wants to see through the SSC Water Quality Standards working with the Tribe as a state.

This was the first time she has visited here and this is an important event. She was taken to Musky Bay for a tour and informed of some of the problems with the WDNR such as them getting a gag order to not communicate with COLA, the tailwater holding ponds working on the East bog, COLA offering to meet and help fund additional holding ponds and being met with idiotic demands from the cranberry industry, Jonjak canals as an ongoing source of pollution and re-introduction of CLP, etc.

She sees the State is not helping and that sees the importance of the Tribe getting the authority and right to manage the water quality. COLA may have to develop a PR strategy including the Sawyer County Record, etc.

Freedom of Information Request:

The FOI request for followup to the State's position on the 15 ppb standard for the lake makes the State look pretty stupid as they have a weak, ignorant response for not accepting the standard.

PR Update:

There are a number of PR items ready to go (Susan Kendrick has some ready and can pull together other topics once COLA is ready) but it is up to the Board to say when we are ready to release articles on specific projects.

For example: right now COLA could release information regarding the WDNR declaring Musky Bay as a separate body of water and how ridiculous and political and influenced by lobby efforts this all is. However, this would be falling out of the sky and not be seen in any kind of context. However, once the Site Specific Criteria is ready to be released this would provide an umbrella of issues and context and numerous other issues can be talked about with a consistent reference back to SSC. Then, for example, the success stories of restored shoreline buffers (before and after photos, work done etc.) can be related back to the larger water and lake and shoreline protection and COLA positioned as helping solve problems and not just seen as complaining and blaming everything on the cranberry farmers.

Plum Lake and LCO can be shown to be leading the way to find services and take actions to protect many public waters. It was suggested that Susan put together a start of a list of other options and ideas we could develop...Board can add other items to this list as a resource. Shoreline restoration is a good starting place.

Whitefish Kill in LCO:

Max Wolters encountered a number of dead whitefish in LCO near Winter Point. (Kevin also found one @ 8-9 inches dead by his dock). We need to learn more about this and what it means.

Loon Call:

Kevin has information from John Berg and Jim Coors. Kevin and Gary have talked about a few updates and pieces to edit for inclusion. Hoefts provided the requested picnic information.

However, from the list of suggestions sent out previously a lot of information/articles need to be provided to put together the appropriate issue. Goal had been to have submissions by September 19....so the issue will be late...how late depends on when Kevin gets enough articles to put an issue together.

Bass Lake Township Reserve Strip Ordinance:

Gary and Kevin and Mark will put together suggestions to the Town for consideration.

SWIMS Data Base

Motion to pay Linda Pulford \$20 per hour to get information entered was made and approved.

Durphee Lake paleo core study:

Cost would be about \$6500 to do it. Individual contacted to do the work has other obligations before being able to do this. Decision about proceeding to be made later. The idea is to compare phosphorus 'spike' in Durphee and match timing to Jonjak operation and to Zawitowski operations/timing in other bogs as proof of sources of maximum pollution.

Brett had passed on to Gary that he's seeing the highest readings he's ever seen for the West Basin of phosphorus.