



Clear Lake Association Newsletter

April 2015

Greetings from your Association Board of Directors!

Rick Hults – President	David Paulson – Vice President
Gretchen Paulson – Treasurer	Robert McElrath – Secretary
Bill Feyo – Member at Large	Nancy Emmans – Member at Large

- ✓ **Mark your calendars** for our Spring Membership meeting 9am on Saturday May 23th 2015 at the Mille Lacs Trail Snowmobile Club located one mile north of Malmo.
- ✓ **Mail in your 2015 membership dues** or bring a check to the Spring Membership meeting.
- ✓ **Winter ice was not kind to many shorelines.** Scott Fitzgerald(Conservation Officer) has asked that we remind lake lot owners that a county permit is required before you do shoreline repair. Also recommended that you take several photos of the conditions before repair work is started. If you have any questions you can contact Scott Fitzgerald or Bill Feyo since Scott communicated this to Bill. You can reach Bill at: 320-684-2011.
- ✓ **Website** – The old website is still accessible however we're not able to make edits to it since it's no longer supported. The new website is under construction and not available. We hope to have it available by the Spring Membership meeting.

Fall Membership meeting (8/30/14) SUMMARY:

Secretary Report:

Bob McElrath read the minutes from the Spring Clear Lake Association meeting that was held on Saturday May 24th 2014. Motion to approve the Spring 2014 CLA meeting minutes as submitted was made and motion passed.

Treasurers Report:

Bob Miller presented the financial condition of the CLA for the period from May 24th, 2014 to August 30th, 2014. Total 2014 membership paid was 64 over this period.

Total CLA expenses incurred during this same period were outlined and an update of the current CLA checking account was disclosed.

Motion to approve the Treasurers Report was made and motion was approved.



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Other Reports and Discussion Topics

- **Election of New Board Members:** Rick Hults discussed the need to elect new CLA Board members due to the upcoming vacancies from the mandatory two-term expiration of Bob Miller, the open term from Curt Carlson (who assumed the remaining term of previously elected Duane Douglas), and the request of Ed Peterson to step down from the Board.
- **Lake Report/Invasive Species:** Bill Feyo reported that the CLA received a thank you note from the River and Lakes Fair Planning committee for the CLA donation that was used to purchase three youth life jackets and used as door prizes at the 2014 River and Lakes Fair.
 - **Water Depth:** State DNR readings taken from May 24th 2014 to August 30th 2014 period indicated at least one reading was 0.4' from the recorded all-time high water level from a 1966 reading. Also several unofficial readings over this time period actually surpassed the all-time recorded high water level mark of 1966.
 - **Lake Drainage:** Feyo displayed for membership a lake drainage diagram indicating where two drainage outlets on the NW corner of the lake adjacent to State Highway 47 (draining into Rabbit Creek) and the SW corner of the lake (which drains west into Ripple Creek/River). North drainage outlet is functional, however south outlet is congested with debris impeding normal water flow. To correct this situation the MN DNR Dept. of Waters has to do an engineering study before any corrective action can be commenced. Once completed CLA has to apply for a permit for any action. Feyo asked for anyone interested in providing him with assistance to pursue this project with the DNR.
 - **Water testing:** Was done during the first week of August (2014) at three different Lake sites checking for phosphates and nitrates that monitor leaking septic systems. Samples were submitted to Central Lakes Water Testing. Phosphates and nitrate levels continue to go down and were at lower levels than when tests were last done in August of 2012 which is a desirable trend.
 - **Invasive Species:** Feyo reported that the State of MN has established a fund to provide Lake Associations like CLA with grant monies to prevent and/or manage invasive species threats. He sits on a 9 person committee for Aitkin County that has \$400,000 available under this program initiative. \$277,000 is available for expenditure for 2014 lake association requests. An additional \$132,000 is available for 2015. So far Aitkin County is projected to purchase a mobile boat wash unit for



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\$20,000 (plus an additional \$20,000 for paying staff to operate it during the course of the Summer months) for approximately 30 county lake accesses, which Clear Lake would be on the schedule. Other monies will be used for training, additional inspection personnel, and some emergency response chemical treatments if invasive species are detected. 2015 is the expected full deployment of this initiative.

- Curt Carlson reported that Zequanox has been tested on Christmas Lake boat launch area in the Twin Cities as a treatment for zebra mussels. It is a non-chemical control (dead bacteria) that is put into the water with no adverse effects. This is a U of M test project. He also stressed the diligence of monitoring equipment that is transferred from one lake to another and the required washing and 21 day dry quarantine period.
- Bob McErath reported that a simple and low cost deterrent to monitor proper boat cleaning etiquette at the Clear Lake boat landing would be for the CLA to purchase and mount an encased motion-activated wild life camera and post signage that the site is being electronically monitored. This concept was given preliminary approval by the DNR and Aitkin County Sheriff's office pending proper notification and permitting protocol for mounting on public property. Estimated cost was reviewed. Also mentioned that Rabbit Lake has already done this.
- Rick Hults reported the ongoing threat and concern that all Clear Lake property owners should have concerning invasive species affecting Clear Lake. He indicated that the CLA had applied for a DNR grant for monitoring boater lake access. Unfortunately the grant was denied due to lack of funds and lower boat traffic at our lake access relative to other lakes in consideration. Also mentioned when DNR boat inspection training sessions were being offered. Training needs to currently be done annually, with a criminal background consent added to the requirements. He also encouraged members to go to the various DNR links on invasive species to learn more.
- **4th of July Parade and Boat Parade:** Rick Hults reported that the 4th of July land parade was very successful as usual with over 80 float units participating.
 - He also reported another low turn-out for the boat parade and the winner was Donnis Larson.
- **Loon Watch Report:** Bill Foyo provided Dave Akin's report that Clear Lake has confirmed no new loon offspring born to Clear Lake in 2014, and currently we have three confirmed sittings of nesting pairs of loons. Please contact Dave Akin for CLA members to report loon activity or census counts. (akindm57@aol.com or cell phone 651-341-8957).



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- **ACALRA Report:** Dave Kohanek (CLA Representative) reported that ACALRA is made up of 20 Aitkin County lake associations. The group is trying to identify seven “indicator” lakes to be deemed as a high-water trigger lakes. Sugar would be one at 5” over the ordinary high water mark in order to get county law enforcement/county board involved in issuing high water restrictions.
- **Website:** Bob Miller and Rick Hults reported the CLA website arrangement has changed where we’re now required to pay an annual fee for the website hosting and a membership fee to Conservation Minnesota since this is required to have the website hosted.
- **New Welcoming committee will be created in 2015** and chaired by Bob McElrath.
- **Annual Dues:** Board has recommended that CLA annual dues be maintained at the \$20 per year level per property address. Motion to maintain 2015 annual CLA dues at \$20.00 was made and the motion passed.
- **Election of New Board Members:** (two needed)
 - Dave Paulson volunteered as a candidate for the CLA Board
 - Gretchen Paulson volunteered as a candidate for the CLA Board
 - Nancy Emmans nominated as a candidate for the CLA Board
 - Sue Sellnow nominated as a candidate for the CLA Board
- Board slate motioned for acceptance and motion carried to elect all four nominees.
- **Aitkin County Environmental Services:** Bill Feyo communicated a request for student scholarships to this camp for underprivileged Aitkin students in the 6th to 9th grade to be able to participate in a summer conservation-oriented camp. Motion for CLA to contribute \$100.00 was made for this program and the motion carried.
- **Door Prizes:** Rick Hults awarded, by drawing, door prizes to Kay Pierce and Deb Donohue.

2014-2015 CLA OFFICER ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING held immediately following the Fall Membership meeting.

Elected Officers:

President: Rick Hults

Vice President: David Paulson

Secretary: Bob McElrath

Treasurer: Gretchen Paulson

Directors at Large: Bill Feyo & Nancy Emmans



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Please fill out the Membership Dues form for 2015 listed below. We'd like to see an even higher level of participation in 2015 so please ask your neighbors if they are a member. If not members, invite them to our membership meeting, share some of the things we do and explain the importance of the membership in protecting our lake. With the invasive species in Mille Lacs Lake and other nearby lakes it's important that we do everything possible to protect Clear Lake.

Thank you

Rick Hults, President

Clear Lake Association

-----Please Detach-----

2015 Membership Dues

Clear Lake Membership Application (for new and present members)

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Make check for \$20 payable to: Clear Lake Association

Mail check & application to: Gretchen Paulson

27051 Thomas Ave.

Elko, MN. 55020