

LAKE CARLOS AREA ASSOCIATION

REVIEW OF ANNUAL MEETING

(June 23, 2011)

Call to Order

The 2011 Annual Meeting for the Lake Carlos Area Association was held at Luther Crest on Lake Carlos on June 23, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by LCAA President Steve Eisele. The following LCAA board members were introduced:

Region 1:

Dave Butler
Al Grundei
Steve Eisele

Region 2:

Paul McCarten
Stan Pickett (unable to attend)
Bill Verschaetse

Region 3:

Derek Trosvig
Dave Holtz
Jon Halvorson

Secretary's Report

Association Secretary Paul McCarten reviewed the 2010 Annual Meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Association Treasurer Derek Trosvig reviewed the finances of the association and its membership. He reported that the association is in a good financial position and that membership is anticipated at approximately the same level number in the previous years, approximately 225 members. Membership applications and dues notice will again be sent after the annual meeting.

Board Activity Reports

1. Walleye Stocking

Derek Trosvig reported that LCAA had again participated with a significant contribution to the Alexandria Viking Sportsmen Club to assist in DNR walleye

stocking of the lake in 2010. Reports suggest that the stocking has been successful in Lake Carlos. Additional revenue sources for walleye stocking were discussed including city lodging tax contribution and other fundraising efforts carried on by the Viking Sportsmen Club. The walleye stocking is now being expanded to an area wide project. LCAA will again consider a contribution for 2011. Members were invited to make additional designated contributions in addition to their dues if they so choose.

2. Worm Spraying

Bill Verschaetse reported that neighborhood groups around the lakes had again taken on the tent caterpillar with aerial spraying. The problem was reportedly lake wide in 2011. LCAA will encourage neighbor participation. The lake association does not carry on a lake wide spraying operation in lieu of the neighborhood participation. LCAA will again make and secure permit applications to help facilitate neighborhood aerial spraying.

3. Zebra Mussels

Steve Eisele reported that the Douglas County Lake Association (DCLA) is involved with county and state efforts to control zebra mussels. Lake Carlos and the lakes on the Chain have zebra mussels. It is LCAA's policy to encourage responsible boating and lake users are asked to clean their boats when entering or leaving the lake so as to avoid spreading any aquatic invasive species (AIS). More extravagant efforts to control this pest were discussed including the installation of boat wash stations at public accesses; the use of chemicals and biological agents proposed to be put into the chain; and newly adopted state law restrictions.

LCAA will advise membership of new regulations to control the spread of AIS's (including draining boats and live-wells, and emptying minnow buckets when leaving the lake). The board will also maintain active involvement in dealing with the zebra mussel issues.

Members were reminded that zebra mussels can plug water in-takes for lawn watering, and the shells may cause problems for barefoot swimmers. The good news, zebra mussels filter and clean water. Lake Carlos is clean with exceptional water quality and as a result, it has fewer pests.

4. Public Access Monitoring

Al Grundei reported that lake access monitoring on Lake Carlos has been a challenge. Volunteers can monitor boats entering and leaving the lake but they have no enforcement authority. Lake Carlos has at least four access points including the state park and the west side boat landing. Lake Le Homme Dieu has public access points and Darling one private access. Again, LCAA is encouraging

responsible boating to clean and inspect boats as they enter the lakes and leave them.

5. Water Quality Monitoring

Dave Butler reported that he will continue the lake monitoring program that includes clarity readings and other technical measures shared with DNR for statistical review. He reported that Lake Carlos is in very “excellent” condition. Lake Carlos water quality clarity depth is at 13.5 feet. This reading has maintained over the years.

Dave also reported that Lake Carlos is one of twenty lakes in the state that is undergoing a more detailed study referred to the **Sentinel Lake Assessment Report**. (The initial draft of the report will be published at lakecarlos.org.)

The Sentinel Lake study concludes that Lake Carlos has exceptional water quality and is healthy. The only issues of concern involved road salt runoff and sewer plant discharge issues upstream. The lake has a wide variety of fish including significant populations of largemouth bass and northern pike. Breeding opportunities for walleyes and other fish have been impacted by development and the reduction of reed beds and natural habitat.

6. ALASD Update

Paul McCarten gave an update on the Alexandria Lakes Area Sewer District (ALASD). The continued discharge into Lake Winona remains a concern. The water runs downstream through Lakes Agnes, Henry, Le Homme Dieu, and Carlos on its way to the Long Prairie River on our north end. (It has been determined that Lake Winona is an impaired body of water.)

The lake associations and the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) are working on this issue with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to encourage and enforce environmental regulations.

LCAA will continue to work with the Le Homme Dieu Association to encourage alternative methods to reduce direct lake discharge. Alternative methods for sewage treatment discharge should be considered.

7. County Road Project

Bill Verschaetse reported that Phase III of the County Road 42/11/34 project will start after July 4th at the intersection of County Road 11 and 34 (west of the Carlos/Darling bridge). The intersection and bridge will be completely closed to traffic until the project is completed. LCAA will monitor runoff issues in regard to the road project.

Bill also discussed two points of runoff concern on the west side of the lake. LCAA is working with the county and others to address these runoff issues.

8. Boat Parade

The 4th of July Boat Parade was discussed. This is not a LCAA sanctioned event. It is a gathering of boaters from around the community. Homeowners on the southeast side of the lake have reported being worn out with judging the event. Reportedly, Lake Carlos Villas and the Carrington House have expressed interest in more active involvement in the parade. The Echo Press will publish updates on the parade. Boaters will be encouraged not to throw water balloons or use spray guns because of safety and pollution concerns.

9. New Business

Annual Meeting Schedule:

A question was raised as to whether the LCAA annual meeting could be held on the weekend rather than on a Thursday evening so as to allow more non-resident participation. The Board will take this matter under consideration. It was discussed that in the past LCAA had weekend meetings (attendance was similar on Thursdays or Saturdays) and that tying up a weekend was a challenge for some.

Le Homme Dieu Porta-Pottie(s):

A concern was raised in regard to the new placement of the porta-potties at Rotary Beach boat landing and on the sidewalk between Lakes Le Homme Dieu and Carlos. LCAA pays half of the cost of the placement of the porta-potties sharing the expense with the Le Homme Dieu Association. Both associations have raised the issue with the county asking that the porta-pottie(s) be placed in a more inconspicuous area as has been done in the past. Douglas County parks are reviewing this matter.

LCAA Board Elections

LCAA Bylaws specify that one of the Three Regions on the lake stand for election every year. Region 3 was up for elections in 2011. Board member Jon Halvorson announced his retirement after three years. Robb Steinbring volunteered to run for election and the incumbents stood re-election. The slate was proposed and the three members elected unanimously.

Region 3 Election:

Dave Holtz

Derek Trosvig

Robb Steinbring

Member Door Prizes

Drawing: LCAA thanks the following businesses for their contributions:

Ace Hardware

Eddy's Interlachen Inn

Bug-A-Boo Bay

Arrowwood

Gas Mart at Carlos Corners

Eight lucky meeting attendees went home with prizes.

Meeting Adjourned

Steve thanked all for attending and encouraged visits to the LCAA website **lake carlos.org** for information of concern. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Paul McCarten, Board Secretary