

LAKE CARLOS AREA ASSOCIATION

REVIEW OF ANNUAL MEETING OF August 26, 2021

Call to Order

The LCAA annual meeting was called to order at Luther Crest at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 26, 2021. The Board of Directors included Al Grundei, Dave Butler, Mike Jost, Stan Pickett, Matt Sveen, Paul McCarten, Dave Holtz, Derek Trosvig, and Dave Schneiderhan who were introduced to attendees who then introduced themselves and identified where they were from on the lake. We were also joined by Douglas County Commissioner Jerry Rapp who has Lake Carlos as part of his district.

1. **Secretary's Report:** Paul McCarten gave the Secretary's Report and noted that because of Covid, we did not have an annual meeting in 2020. He reported that Board meetings had continued over the last two years and the Board oftentimes interacts by way of email and phone to accomplish the goals of the association.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Derek Trosvig reported that our treasury now stands at approximately \$20,000.00 and he anticipates by the time dues are fully collected for 2021, that we should be at approximately \$24,000.00, which is close to our working capital balance over the last several years. Membership has also held steady over the last few years at between 225 and 250. Derek anticipates that we will again be in that range when member registration is completed for 2021.

Our Newsletter has continued with Lake Carlos News and the Chain Newsletter. We anticipate two newsletters for 2021 with the second sent out in the fall. All lake residents receive the newsletters.

3. **Water Quality Testing and DNR Concerns:** Dave Butler reported that he completed the water quality testing measuring secchi dish depth, which is held at approximately seventeen feet of water clarity. In 2021, the clarity measurement has been consistent throughout the spring and summer. Dave also reported that water quality testing has been limited due to Covid and there has been a temporary suspension of the Sentinel Lake testing program by the DNR due to Covid restrictions. Lake Carlos is one of the few lakes in the state that are included in the Sentinel Lakes Study Program. It determines among other things climate and temperature changes on the lake environment.

- 4. Water Level Monitoring:** Stan Pickett reported that the water level on Lake Carlos is the lowest it has been in the last ten years. Testing was measured in July with very little rain since that time LCAA assumes that we are on pace for record-breaking low levels. Rain in the days following the meeting were encouraging. Stan explained that water level testing is completed at the mouth of the Long Prairie River as Lake Carlos enters into the river. This is giving us a consistent lake level reading. Reports of dock/lift and boat issues were reported due to low water conditions.

Stan also discussed the completion of the Long Prairie River Dam. The DNR and state park control the area where the dam is located. It's deterioration over the winter became of concern in that it impacts water level in Lake Carlos and on the entire Chain. Thanks to LCAA and other volunteer activity, the project was moved up and completed in February 2021. It was explained that the lake level is constant and was unchanged from its historic level determined by the DNR.

As part of Carlos State Park, visitors can see the dam including the new fish ladder where rocks were placed in the river to encourage fish spawning. The park like area around the dam site on the north end of Lake Carlos is worth a visit.

- 5. Lake Survey for Invasive Species (Milfoil):** Matt Sveen discussed milfoil findings that were first detected following a lake survey in 2020. LCAA coordinated treatment to eradicate the milfoil and in early summer of 2021, LCAA again contracted to complete a lake survey that determined that three areas that were treated in 2020 had completely removed the milfoil that had been earlier detected.

Three new locations were identified and treated in 2021 following the survey. The LCAA Board has discussed annual surveys and treatment as a method to control milfoil (and other invasive weed growth). Other lakes on the Chain have reported milfoil. Lake Le Homme Dieu in particular has had issues over the years with milfoil. We are also concerned about other invasive species including the curly-leaf pondweed found in Lake Darling. It has been treated there. It has not been discovered in Lake Carlos.

Zebra mussels were discussed and pointed out the zebra mussel population has plateaued. There have been few reports/complaints of zebra mussel issues in Lakes Carlos. However, residual issues caused by zebra mussels have not been fully determined though it was good news that the zebra mussel population has flattened. Other crustaceans have now been observed in the lake, which is a good sign.

- 6. Channel Markers and Bridge Lights:** Matt also discussed bridge and channel lighting. LCAA is working with the Douglas County Sheriff's Department to reconsider channel-marking lighting. For whatever reason, the red/green light channel marking authorized by Minnesota law was not followed this year. Red lights were not included in the channels. This has made nighttime navigation at the channels and at bay entrances including Little/Big Darling and Le Homme Dieu/Le Homme Dieu Bay difficult. LCAA will work with the Sheriff's Department in an attempt to resolve that issue for 2022.

Matt also reported that he had coordinated bridge lighting so that now both bridges on Lake Carlos have lighted frames. This framing allows for safer navigation in the channels and in particular under the bridges.

- 7. Constant Contact and other communication:** Dave Holtz reported that LCAA is active on Constant Contact so that all lake members can be contacted on a regular basis for so long as we have email addresses for each member. Dave also discussed the lake association website: lakecarlos.org which includes detailed information regarding lake association activity, lake study information, and other relevant information for all lake residents to be aware of what is happening on their lake. Dave reported that LCAA also has a Facebook page that includes information and photos of interest.

To communicate with LCAA, members, resident and others are encouraged to send an email to info@lakecarlos.org with questions or concerns. It was also pointed out that all residents on Lake Carlos receive correspondence from the lake association including newsletters and other notices.

In discussing dues paying members, those in attendance requested that LCAA publish a list of members posted on the website so that members can contact neighbors whose names do not appear on the active member list. We hope to increase membership, which now stands at approximately 50% of the residents on the lake.

- 8. White Security Lights:** LCAA for years has been encouraging lake residents to dim their white lights so as to avoid interrupting the enjoyment of the lake by others. Recently, lights were installed on the east side of the lake that had disrupted neighbors and residents on the west side of the lake. Bright white security lights destroy the serenity of the night sky. The property owners involved have been contacted and asked to shade or otherwise avoid causing disruption through light pollution. It was noted that some states have laws that require shading to avoid this light pollution issue. On a lake, the problem becomes even more troublesome in that residents around the lake are impacted by lights that are shining on the other side of the lake if the white lights are not otherwise shaded. (Utility companies including ALP and REA, can put in a light other than a white

security light. White security lights are commonly used in agricultural areas and barnyards. They do not fit in on a lake environment. All lake residents are asked to dim or shade your bright white lights.)

- 9. New Board Members & Board Elections:** Two new members on the Board of Directors were introduced. Mike Jost, owner of Carlos Marine on the north end of the lake, and Dave Schneiderhan on the southwest side both volunteered to become members of the Board. Both have particular interest in protecting the lake and the Board and membership welcomed their addition to the LCAA Board.

Elections followed whereby all of the current members on the Board and the two new members were elected. The Board includes the following:

East Side: Al Grundei, Dave Butler, Mike Jost
South End: Stan Pickett, Matt Sveen, Paul McCarten
West Side: Dave Holtz, Derek Trosvig, Dave Schneiderhan

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Paul McCarten, Board Secretary