

LAKE CARLOS AREA ASSOCIATION

REVIEW OF ANNUAL MEETING OF JUNE 27, 2019

Call to Order

The 2019 annual meeting was held on June 27, 2018, at Luther Crest Camp. The meeting was called to order by Paul McCarten at 7:00 p.m. Lake Association Board members were introduced.

Board of Directors:

Region 1:

Alan Grundei
Dave Butler
Janet Eisele

Region 2:

Paul McCarten
Stan Pickett
Matt Sveen

Region 3:

Derek Trosvig
Dave Holtz
Robb Steinbring

Also in attendance and introduced was Douglas County Commissioner Jerry Rapp.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 2018 annual meeting had been posted on the website and were accepted as presented.

It was reported that LCAA had joined Lakes Darling, Le Homme Dieu, Geneva, and Victoria to publish the first annual **Chain of Lakes Newsletter**. News regarding Lake Carlos was included as part of the publication that was sent to all lake residents. It was explained that this cooperation between the lakes is important because we all have the same or similar challenges. Attendees were also reminded that almost all of the water from Douglas County ends up in Lake Carlos, flowing in from Lakes Darling and Le

Homme Dieu to the Long Prairie River on the north end of Lake Carlos. It was explained that this joint newsletter will be published annually and Lake Carlos will continue to publish its own separate newsletters during the course of the year.

The LCAA website (www.lakecarlos.org) was referenced as being kept up to date and changed on a regular basis. All lake residents were encouraged to use the website for information on Lake Carlos, as well as for easy and convenient dues-paying options.

Treasurer's Report

- a. Association Treasurer Derek Trosvig had provided current financials showing that LCAA is in good financial condition. Balances were similar to those of the previous year(s) and income was adequate to cover expenses incurred, including channel dredging; channel signage; porta-potties on the west side of the lake, and the one under shared expense at Rotary Beach on the Le Homme Dieu - Carlos channel; contribution to milfoil eradication on Lake Le Homme Dieu; cost of the newsletter publications; dues; and contributions. It was also noted that the other lakes on the Chain had participated financially in the cooperative efforts to complete lake projects.
- b. Membership is solid at 240 members.

Water Quality & Testing and Current DNR Concerns

Board member Dave Butler discussed lake testing that he coordinates on behalf of LCAA. Testing points, methods, and reporting were all discussed. Dave also explained that annual testing for the Sentinel Lakes Study Project conducted by the DNR were also collected.

Dave reported that water clarity continues to be remarkably clear and perhaps affected by the presence of zebra mussels. However, weed growth is changing because of water clarity and the resulting increase in sunshine, which affects fish and depth of their habitat.

It was further noted that Lake Carlos is one of three lakes in the Sentinel Lakes Study coordinated by the DNR and overseen by MPCA. The impact of Zebra Mussels is being studied as part of the Sentinel Lakes Study, which was begun to determine global warming impacts on the lake. Study findings will be shared with the lake when the study is completed.

Water Level Monitoring

Board member Alan Grundei reported that the lake level has remained unchanged over the last couple of weeks from when it was initially reported in the Chain Newsletter. A major rain on the day of the meeting (reported to be approximately two inches) will raise the lake level again and Al pointed out that if summer rains match the 2018 rain levels, 2019 will yield nearly a record water level. Consequently, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners has implemented a **no wake zone on nineteen county lakes, including the Chain of Lakes**. This ruling limits any wake producing travel to a distance beyond 300 yards from a shoreline. Restrictions will remain in place until the water level drops to a predesignated level identified by D.C. Land and Resource Management.

Al also reported on the Long Prairie River Dam on the north side of Lake Carlos. A study is now being conducted regarding whether to replace the dam. When dam replacement is completed, water levels will remain at the current level. A fish ladder will be included to allow fish to swim upstream if water levels are below dam level. An additional fishing area will also be developed at the dam.

Cabin Rental Regulations

Alan Grundei reported that the cabin rental regulations adopted by Douglas County in 2018 are now in full force. The county allowed rentals to adjust to the new regulations during 2018, but now all rentals must comply with the regulations. Vigorous enforcement will take place starting in July, 2019. Information regarding cabin rentals can be found on the Douglas County website or by way of link on the LCAA website.

Other Business

- a. **Worm Spraying:** For some years, tent caterpillar spraying was done on a routine basis, but is now discouraged by LCAA. Although there are recognized hot spots on the northwest side of Lake Carlos, most areas of our lakeshore receive only periodic infestations. If heavy infestations occur, LCAA will help neighborhood groups coordinate spraying. However, LCAA does not recommend or encourage spraying unless there is a heavy infestation. The spray adversely affects not only tent caterpillars but also other worms, butterflies, and even hummingbirds.
- b. **Zebra Mussels:** Lake access boat inspection is now coordinated by the county and the state. Lake Carlos, and other lakes on the Chain, have zebra mussels. The control of zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species remains a major concern. Studies to eradicate zebra mussels are continuing at many levels.

- c. **Walleye stocking:** LCAA continues to support stocking and will coordinate a fall, 2019, stocking. If stocking is recommended by the DNR, LCAA will fund walleye stocking.
- d. **Carlos/Darling Bridge:** Subsurface structural issues have been identified by the county and are being studied to determine the best course of action. Channel dredging will be completed with the participation of the lake associations when it becomes needed.

Also, the bridge poses safety concerns with the clearance levels at each lake entry being at a different height. This becomes of even greater concern with high water. Douglas County is aware of these concerns. Hopefully, the safety issue will be addressed, although it is understood that it will be a major project for the county Public Works department. In the meantime, the lake associations have marked the bridge with warning signs cautioning boaters to “duck” when going under the bridge.

- e. **West-side Public Access:** LCAA is working with the DNR to determine if the parking lot island/grass can be removed to allow more efficient entry and removal of boats.

Guest Speaker

Lake Le Homme Dieu Lake Board and current DCLA member and president, Steve Henry, discussed DCLA activities in behalf of all the lakes in Douglas County. Steve was joined by Gene Rose from the Miltona Association and DCLA boards. They presented discussion of particular interest to Lake Carlos regarding a recent meeting with the Alexandria Lakes Area Sanitary District (ALASD). DCLA is working with ALASD to consider the reduction of in-water discharge issues adversely affecting water quality in Lakes LeHommeDieu and Carlos. This was welcome news. The new ALASD director has been well received by DCLA.

DCLA is also working on grants to assist lakes with specific projects. One of the projects, a long-standing runoff issue from agricultural land on the west side of County Road 11, was discussed. Culvert and runoff flow pollute Lake Carlos. DCLA and Douglas County are working with the DNR and Water and Soil Conservation to come up with a solution to stop the runoff. The land parcel that generates the runoff has been proposed for development and other action is now being considered to stop this pollution source.

LCAA is a contributing member to DCLA and Steve and Gene were thanked for their presentation and for their ongoing work with DCLA.

Board Elections

Region 3 Directors including Dave Holtz, Derek Trosvig, and Robb Steinbring were nominated and re-elected.

Member Comments

Commissioner Jerry Rapp was thanked for his concern regarding the lakes and for his ongoing participation and support of LCAA. Dave Holtz, LCAA member and Director of Luther Crest Bible Camp was thanked for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments.

Raffle Drawings

The following businesses were thanked for their contributions providing drawing gifts for members in attendance. Contributors included:

- Ace Hardware
- The Lure
- Zorbas
- Butler Chiropractic (gift certificate to Doolittles Grill)
- Arrowwood

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Paul McCarten, Board Secretary