

Clitherall Lake Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2025
Approved

President Scott Early called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Board members present were Eric Pierskalla, Mike Lipke, Harley Anderson, Alan Storry, Beth Franklin, Tom Frank, Scott Early, Steve Adams, and Bret Sorensen. Absent were Chris Deitz and Jeff Lindholm.

Scott Early stated that the May BOD minutes had been already approved via email.

REPORTS:

Treasurer:

Alan Storry presented the June report. Membership dues and donations from 14 members were received since the May meeting. 94 paid memberships have been received year-to-date compared to 96 at the same time last year.

Expenditures consisted of the purchase of 2 metal signs printed with the Wake Safe Map, as well as signs to announce the annual meeting.

Alan then presented a couple of options for handling a 12-month CD that is maturing in July. He pointed out that a 7-month CD is currently paying a higher interest rate than a 12-month. Tom Frank made a motion to invest the entire balance into a 7-month CD, Bret Sorensen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Environmental:

In Chris Deitz's absence, Scott reported that the Secchi Disk reading for June was 13 feet. He noted that a strong storm that occurred shortly before the reading date likely affected the water clarity.

Fishing:

Tom reported that on several occasions this spring he came across people who were fishing very close to loon platforms and nests. On one occasion they had actually gotten their fishing tackle hooked on the nesting platform. He said that the DNR have no objections to placing signs near the nesting areas informing people to keep away. Mike Lipke made a motion to approve up to \$300 for signs and posts, Beth Franklin seconded, motion carried.

Tom also said that he has had conversations with Luke Schalekamp, who is taking over Jim Wolters' position as the MN DNR Fisheries Fergus Falls area supervisor. They discussed test netting and stocking done in Clitherall, West Battle, and Lida. The walleye lift count during the last test netting in Clitherall Lake improved to 5 fish per lift, but this number is still low. The next test netting survey for Clitherall is scheduled for 2028. The DNR must approve any stocking that the CLA does, but so far has been very open to the stocking levels that the CLA has done to augment DNR stocking. In 2023 the CLA stocked 400 lbs. of fingerlings; in 2024 500 lbs. of fingerlings were stocked at a cost of roughly \$10,000. Mike made a motion to allocate \$15,000 for walleye stocking this fall, Steve Adams seconded, motion carried.

Public Relations/Membership:

Eric Pierskalla said that he reviewed a list given to him by Alan of address changes and returned letters from the spring membership mailing and emailing. He updated the Gmail contact list entries as needed and re-mailed a few members.

Fundraising:

Beth Franklin said that an additional 36 coffee mugs have been received and will be for sale at the annual meeting along with hooded and crewneck sweatshirts, and long & short sleeved T shirts.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Meeting:

Since Alan will not be able to make the meeting, Mike agreed to present the Treasurer's Report. Eric will handle the membership check-ins and payments with Tom assisting. Harley Anderson is handling the organization of the after-meeting luncheon. Luncheon responsibilities of board members were reviewed.

Swimmer's Itch:

A proposal created by a Swimmer's Itch Task Force formed by the Pelican Group of Lakes Improvement District was reviewed and discussed. They have submitted a research permit request to the MN DNR and USFWS to relocate Mergansers. The result of that request is not known currently.

The board has decided that it will continue to monitor this situation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lake Steward Symposium:

Scott reported that he and Jeff Stabnow had attended the Lake Property Owner Stewardship Symposium at Thumper Pond on May 31. Major topics of discussion included vacation rental homes and septic systems.

Wake Boating Map:

Eric displayed a new website page containing the recommended wake boat area map along with additional information about wake boating to the board. It was agreed to publish this on the website and add a link to it from our Facebook page. Mike suggested printing out paper copies of the map to have available to hand out at the annual meeting. It was agreed to do this and also have the second large metal sign on display at the meeting.

OTHER:**I-LIDS:**

Scott said that Spencer McGrew, AIS Specialist for Otter Tail County, reported that our I-LIDS system was finally installed at the Clitherall Lake public access on June 2, and that there are now 16 such systems installed in the county.

Cleaning Station:

Scott also said that McGrew will be sending a “cleaning station” containing brushes and other cleaning tools to the CLA to be placed at the public access. These tools can then be used by boaters to help clean their boats when using the access.

Harley made a motion to adjourn, Mike seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Submitted by Eric Pierskalla