

Clitherall Lake Association  
Annual Membership Meeting Minutes  
July 13, 2024

President Scott Early called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Scott introduced the current board members: Jeff Lindholm, Tom Frank, Alan Storry, Eric Pierskalla, Mike Lipke, Steve Adams, Harley Anderson, Bret Sorensen, and Jeff Stabnow. He stated that Alan Storry and Steve Adams were at the end of their 3-year term and are running for another term. Jeff Stabnow was at the end of his 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive 3-year term and would not be running per the association's bylaws. Scott then introduced the new board nominees, Beth Franklin and Chris Dietz.

Treasurer Alan Storry gave a summary of the finances of the association and thanked the members for their support via dues and donations. The total of all funds is just over \$60,000, with much of that invested in CDs to maximize return. Liquid assets in checking and savings are \$19,500. The balance in the fish stocking fund is low due to the cost of the stocking that was done last fall.

Tom Frank gave the fisheries report. He said that MN DNR fish stocking had fallen off the last few years on many lakes, including Clitherall, and they are now trying to rebuild the walleye fishery. Last fall, the DNR stocked 870 lbs. of walleye fingerlings, equal to about 4000 fish. In October the lake association also stocked 400 lbs. at a cost of \$7000. This spring the DNR returned and stocked an additional 648 lbs. of larger walleye. The DNR will not do a fall stocking, and at this point the lake association does not plan to stock either. Tom also reported that the MN DNR will perform a lake survey in the coming week, so people may notice nets on the lake. These surveys are done every 4 years.

Jeff Stabnow gave the environmental report. He said that the June Secchi disk reading, which measures water transparency, was 26.5 feet. This is the deepest ever recorded for the lake. He said that a major contributor to the water transparency is the presence of zebra mussels, which filter out and consume phytoplankton in the water. He said that there is concern about how this change in the "bottom" of the food chain will affect the rest of the lake biology.

Scott Early then recognized Jeff Stabnow on his receiving a "Lake Steward" award last fall from Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates for the shoreline restoration work done on his property.

Scott also announced that David and Dawn Arnevik have volunteered to organize and lead the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> boat parade, and thanked Roger Wold for the many years that he has done this.

Dan Gronso spoke on behalf of the Battle Lake Pickleball Club, a group that is raising money to build pickleball courts in Battle Lake. This is being done through the Battle Lake Area Community Fund, which is part of the West Central Initiative, a 501(c)(3) organization. He said that the city of Battle Lake has donated the land for the project, and the group is attempting to raise \$170,000 for the cost of the courts.

Scott Early then turned the floor back to Jeff Stabnow as the guest speaker. Jeff is on the Board of Directors of the Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations. The OTC COLA was founded in 1992 and incorporated in 2001. 51 lake associations representing 63 lakes are members of the coalition. These 63 lakes represent 70% of the total acreage of the 1048 lakes in the county. Some of the main activities of the COLA are coordinating and compiling results of water quality testing of the member lake associations, generating 10 years trend analyses, educational meetings, and an AIS committee. It was pointed out that in 2019 the CLA purchased an I-LIDS monitoring system at a cost of \$8000 to monitor the public access and report possible AIS violations. Someone recommend that since the system does not prevent a boater from launching a craft that could be contaminated, only fining them after the fact, the presence of the I-LIDS monitoring system should be publicized so that boaters are aware and will take steps to clean their equipment before arriving and launching.

During the Q&A session afterwards, Kurt Maethner was recognized and thanked for providing a location for the water samples for lake associations in this area to be staged for transport to RMB Labs, and Mike Allman for transporting the water samples every month. Members voiced questions and concerns about zebra mussels, wake boats, and swimmers itch. Jeff replied that MLRA has funded wake boat studies and is working on strategies to address wake boating impacts. He also noted that zebra mussels have decimated the native mussel and snail populations. MAISRC (Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Council) is working on possible ways to control the population. Chris Dietz summarized the lifecycle of the parasite that causes swimmers itch, and possible ways that the lifecycle could be broken.

Mike Lipke announced the results of the voting. Alan Storry and Steve Adams were re-elected to another term, Beth Franklin and Chris Dietz were elected as new members of the board.

Lois Ringquist made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Pat Didier seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:30.

Submitted by Eric Pierskalla