

Clitherall Lake Association  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
August 22, 2024  
Approved

President Scott Early called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

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

Scott Early noted that the minutes from the 7/13/2024 meeting had already been approved via emails and posted to the website.

**REPORTS:**

**Treasurer:**

Alan Storry reported that total receipts for the month were \$6655.56. A \$25,000 certificate of deposit that matured in July earned \$550.25 in interest. The principal and interest were reinvested into another 12-month certificate earning 4.79%.

Most of the remaining income came from membership dues and donations. Member donations directed to the Fish Stocking fund combined with the free will donations given at the pulled pork luncheon totaled \$1,955.

The total number of memberships to date is 168, which is 22 fewer than the same time in 2023. The drop in membership is believed to be a result of email problems that will be discussed later in the meeting. To date this year the average amount of voluntary donations above and beyond membership dues is \$48.

Mike Lipke pointed out that our total assets are now very adequate and suggested that we are now in a position to more aggressively stock walleye fingerlings. The DNR has changed their guidelines on stocking, and members would be pleased if we stocked more often. It was decided that we would keep this in mind when discussing the DNR fish survey results and swimmer's itch – both meeting agenda items.

Tom Frank made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Harley Anderson seconded, motion carried.

**Environmental:**

Harley Anderson reported that he had talked with Jeff Stabnow who performed the July Secchi disk reading and gathered the sample for water testing. The Secchi disk reading was 18 feet. Board members hypothesized that the lower number was probably a combination of pollen and algae in the warming water.

Scott asked for a board member to volunteer to take over as the Environmental Director, since Jeff is now retired from the board.

### **Fisheries:**

Tom Frank received information about the walleye-targeted survey performed by the DNR in July. They captured 5.2 fish per lift, compared to 3.7 fish per lift on the previous survey done in 2020. He said that while these numbers are low, it still represents a 40% increase over that period. He also said that 50% of the fish were under 12" in size, which is another indication that the fish stocking is working

He said that the DNR admits that they had let stocking slip over the years and are now trying to recover from that. They will continue to stock walleye every year, and in addition they would approve additional stocking by the CLA to help build the fishery back up. We would not be limited to stocking every third year as was the case in the past.

The survey also showed that the northern pike numbers were down, which may help the walleye situation.

### **Membership:**

Eric Pierskalla described how mistakes made in the initial membership emailing done in the spring has likely caused [ClitherallLakeAssociationMN@gmail.com](mailto:ClitherallLakeAssociationMN@gmail.com) to be put on a blocked senders list by the email providers for many of our members. It is believed that many members who paid dues in prior years did not renew this year simply because they were not contacted.

Possible solutions to the problem include contacting these members by phone, mail, or in person to explain the situation and describe the steps they need to take to unblock our emails; another option would be to set up a new email address for the CLA to use.

Harley reported that the attendance at this year's annual meeting was down 15 people from last year, and that most of them stayed for the luncheon afterwards. Scott said that by a show of hands, a majority of the people attending the meeting preferred the later date.

### **Fundraising:**

Beth Franklin requested input on the direction to take on fundraising merchandise for next year. Recommendations included "sizeless" items like beach towels, door mats, blankets, and stationery note cards. For clothing, T-shirts seemed to be the most popular.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Buoys:**

Mike Lipke reported that he has constructed 10 new post mounted buoys. The material costs were \$195. They are being stored at Bonnie Beach Resort for use next year. The existing "floater" buoys will need some refurbishing or replacement before next year.

Scott and Beth brought up the fact that there are rocks in the shallow water on the east side of Thompson Point that should also be marked with a buoy.

### **Swimmers Itch:**

Chris Deitz stated that many property owners on Bay Lake near Deerwood MN have been trying to battle swimmer's itch for quite some time. Property owners on the lake have applied for, and the DNR has granted, permits to apply copper sulfate, which kills snails (and unfortunately many other organisms) to combat the problem. The treatments have reduced occurrences of swimmer's itch somewhat but has not eliminated the problem.

The Bay Lake Improvement Association has retained the services of a Michigan company that specializes in solutions for swimmer's itch. They are proposing to address the problem by relocating common mergansers off of the lake, however this has not yet been approved by the DNR.

It was recommended that we monitor the situation at Bay Lake to learn from it.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Fish Stocking:**

Tom said that fish stock is normally contracted in the spring of the year, but he recently contacted Klug's Fish Farm and they do have stock available for us to purchase this fall at the same price as last year, which is \$20/lb. Harley and Tom said that a good walleye lake in Minnesota generally has a survey count of 12-15 fish per net lift, and right now Clitherall is at just over 5 fish per lift.

Mike made a motion to stock 500 lbs. of fish this fall at a cost of \$10,000. Harley seconded; motion carried.

Tom will write a summary of the survey and stocking news that will be posted on the website and Facebook page.

The board will be evaluating the association's cash flow to determine if stocking every year is a workable option.

#### **Committee Assignment:**

Scott reminded board members to consider volunteering to take over the Environmental Director position.

#### **Membership:**

Alan and Scott distributed a list of 58 CLA members who paid dues last year but have not yet renewed for 2024. Since we believe this is likely due to our email problems, board members volunteered to contact them; either in person, by phone, or mail; to explain the situation and hopefully correct it.

Tom made a motion to adjourn, Steve seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:02.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9/26/24

Submitted by Eric Pierskalla