

Deer Lake Watershed Association

Board Meeting – Monday June 14, 2021

Virtual Meeting via Facebook™ connection

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Bill Cromell at 6:05 p.m. This is a virtual meeting via computer where all members can hear each other and had visuals of members present.

ATTENDEES: Board members participating: Bill Cromell, Gail Blackmer, Mark Smith, Val Cromell, Bruce Steege, Vaughn Duitsman, and alternate board member Jim Clarke.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL – Prior to this meeting, an agenda of topics to be discussed had been sent via email to all DLWA members who had a listed email address on file. Upon review, the agenda was approved, with the addition of discussion on algae bloom to be added to new business.

TREASURER REPORT: Treasurer Val Cromell reported fund balances as of June 14, 2021:

General Checking Account - \$7,355.46

Continuous Flow Fund (Savings account) - \$2,127.46

Water Protection Fund (Savings account) - \$567.18

Total=**\$10,050.10**

CCC Camp Historical Preservation Fund balance is **\$565.70**.

Val noted that since April 1, 2021, DLWA has received fundraising and donation totals of \$1,145, including \$485 raised from the informal ice-out contest, and \$660 in donations from member households. Further, the treasurer's report indicates that within the Continuous Flow savings account, \$1,440 is designated for obtaining and operating a surface drive motor in order to maintain creek flowage, and that the Beaver Control fund balance is at \$687.46 after payments to remove 78 nuisance beaver this spring.

Disbursements included :

ICOLA annual membership dues - \$50.00

Insurance Annual premium - \$902.00

Beaver control to individuals - \$1,950.00

The treasurer's written report with detailed donation and disbursement information was approved on a **motion** by Bruce, **seconded** by Bill, **motion carried**.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Secretary Gail Blackmer reviewed the minutes from the April 2021 meeting which had been distributed via email to board members. Val **moved**, Mark **seconded**, that the minutes of the April meeting be approved for filing and distribution to the membership. Motion **carried**. Gail will make available the prepared statement regarding last

year's information to general membership regarding the annual meeting being cancelled due to pandemic, but business was conducted via email voting on board seats and by laws.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

A. Continuous Outflow Committee

1. Outflow creek condition – Bill reviewed the status of beaver activity on creeks in the watershed. Spring trapping removed 78 beavers, and there is evidence of more moving in. Bill has been in contact with the area CO and our trappers have permission to trap nuisance beaver. Mark reported that he has developed a calendar of creek runs to check on conditions and is looking to start with a group of volunteers, using the boat and surface drive motor which is now available. This should be a good test to see if this boat performs better in the creek vegetation. The water level gauge is currently at 4.2, which is a lower than average reading at the bridge between Pickerel and Deer lakes.

B. Membership Committee – Val Cromell, committee chair, provided a report on membership activities. Currently, DLWA has 130 paid household memberships. 30 renewal reminders were sent out with 25 responses received. Introduction letters were sent out to 25 non-member households who own land within the watershed in an effort to recruit and inform residents about DLWA. Four business advertising members have paid for website advertising for this year. Val remarked that several of the renewals have included generous donations beyond the membership dues, and that they will receive a thank you note. The detailed membership report including donor names is filed for on-going recognition.

C. Events – Gail reported that the roadside clean up went well, with some new participants. The Fourth of July Flotilla will occur, with Val and Bill taking the lead boat. We also will follow up with a social time at Hide Away beach, serving some kind of ice cream treat, but there will not be a contest for boat decorating this year – everyone is a winner!

Annual meeting discussion – it was decided that holding a public meeting was possible with the restrictions on gatherings being mostly lifted. Bill will reserve the Carpenter Township Hall for Saturday, August 7, and we should be able to hold some social time with light refreshments and then carry out the business as required by the bylaws, including nominations and election of board members. The bylaws have been extensively revised and updated so do not need additional changes at this time. The board will plan details of holding the meeting, but it will likely not include pot luck food or speakers this year.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Newsletter – The board would like to be able to put out a newsletter again this Fall, depending to some extent on additional people learning the process to compile and publish on line. Sheila has offered to help train for the process, and Val is willing to learn how to do the computer set up. A coordinator is needed to do the job of getting articles assigned and reviewed if we are going to be able to continue creating a newsletter once or twice a year. Members seem to want the Association to have a newsletter, are favorable to receiving

newsletters electronically, and several are willing to pay postage for paper copies. We will continue to work on ideas and volunteers to help.

2. Water Quality Testing –Bruce and Bill have done one test on Five Island and Deer in May. A staff person from SWCD will perform the test sampling on Battle Lake along with Secchi disc reading. Thanks for our local volunteers who helped with supporting the SWCD staff and going out on the lakes to gather samples as well as delivering to the testing laboratory.

3. Website Update – Vaughn Duitsman is administering the website, adding meeting minutes and other updates on DLWA activities. He hopes to add a link to the MPCA, especially as there is concern in our area about algae issues and public health.

4. Other – Bill reminded the board that his agreement to serve as President when elected last year was to do so through this coming election cycle, therefore he will continue as a board member, but step down as President at the October meeting of the board. Many accomplishments have happened with Bill's leadership, and he believes we have an active and involved group of board members. Thanks to Bill for all his efforts at protecting and improving our natural resources! Two other seats on the board are up for election at the annual meeting. Val stated her intention to step down as board member but would stay active as alternate board member, volunteer membership coordinator and newsletter publisher.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Partner Memberships – We noted that DLWA pays dues to be members of Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations and Minnesota Lakes and Rivers. The county group is our local connection to AIS issues, local funding for projects, and networking with other lake associations facing the same issues as we are in Itasca County. MLR lobbies for legislative action for the benefit of lakeshore owners and clean water statewide.

B. Other – The DLWA sign on CR533 will be refurbished, and tall grass cut. Brief discussion held on concern over disruptive boats or jet ski actions, if this becomes an issue we should request a conservation officer to address any violations. Further, discussion held on being aware of the possibility of blue green algae forming in area lakes and how that can be dangerous to humans and pets. There are informative articles available for which we will send out links for our membership to learn more about this threat to health.

C. Adjourn - Val made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion **supported** by Bill, meeting was adjourned.

Annual Membership Meeting – August 7th, Carpenter Town Hall 5:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gail Blackmer, Secretary.