

CLPLPOA Annual Spring Meeting Minutes  
April 22, 2023

**1) Call to Order**

President, Kevin McMaster, called the meeting to order at 10:00am and board members were introduced: Present were Kevin McMaster, Patty Maher, Thea Kirkwood, Barb Yamarino, Bob Conn, Rick Applegate, and Diane Ostrosky.

**2) Pledge of Allegiance**

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Two new members were introduced: Joe Henderson (Andrea) purchased Jane Archambeau's home. Joe spent summers here in his youth because his family owned a cottage here. He is happy to be back. Terry Sliwa (Michael) purchased a vacant lot with plans to build and move here from their Houghton Lake residence.

First order of business was to approve the minutes for the October 8, 2022 Fall Meeting. Minutes were emailed to members when completed and posted to the website where they are available under the association tab. 15 copies were made available at the meeting per a request from the fall meeting. A correction to the minutes was made by Dick Johnson to change the number of boxes of historical records to 6. The change will be noted and minutes were approved with a motion by Lois Plantefaber and second by Dick Johnson

**3) President's Report**

The eagles are back on the nest and active on the lake. Kevin recognized the road crew and all the additional people who stepped forward to assist with the cleanup. A photo is currently on the front page of the website showing some of the volunteers. He requested additional support for the crew because clean-up continues particularly on the west side. A wood chipper will be rented again on May 16th and help will be needed. Please contact Rick Applegate at [rapplegate248@gmail.com](mailto:rapplegate248@gmail.com) if you can assist.

**4) Treasurer's Report**

Diane Ostrosky spoke to the current status of our budget. We have received road dues from all but one member and 24 out of 28 members for administration dues for this fiscal year. We have one property lien which remains in effect and 3 partial payments due to discrepancies on the amount owed for road dues because of the passing of the new by-laws. The new format for distributing the road dues invoices seems to be working well. The Planned Budget was for \$41,025 and the amount collected is \$40,742 with a \$283 variance. A graph/handout was available and will be posted as an attachment to the draft minutes on the website. Our current checking account balance is \$24,305 and savings account balance \$55,835. Kevin added that we have met the by-law recommendation of \$50,000 in emergency reserve funds.

**5) Secretary's Report:**

Thea thanked members for their cooperation in using the email distribution for association business. Residents can notify the secretary to locate missing watercraft. Members were reminded to decal their water craft with their lot number to help return missing vessels to their owners. Rick Applegate has vinyl numbers and will bring to the summer meeting. Several members made requests to utilize our email distribution list to share helpful information i.e., a link to our website to increase traffic there, a list of volunteers needed and contact information if someone is interested, potential road closures or interruptions to services, etc.

## 6) Vice President's Report

A new ad hoc working committee was formed to renew content on our Crystal/Perch website and to document/share the history of our lake community

The goal for the website is to “engage POA members with diverse and relevant content.” To that end, we are attempting to use some common web design principles such as keeping content current, using language that is accessible to all, making it visually appealing with links to available resources or additional content, etc.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Thank you to volunteers on the committee...with hopes for more to participate:

Mike King – working on the history side

Elizabeth LaPorte – author/website content writer and reviewer

Gedy Love – copy editor, and help with the history

Alison Neff – author/content writer and reviewer

Lois Plantefaber – sorting through the 6-8 boxes of historical documents that Dick Johnson so generously stored for the Association Board

Dave VanDerworp / Lake Foundation Board – content writer, summarizing the mission/ role of Lake Foundation and news notes.

Cindy Applegate – New Neighborhood Binder with a goal to add content to website.

Ryan Carmody – Our webmaster; who will be setting up the new site and adding any new adding features we may need.

Libby Pike– who will be populating the new content onto the website

CLPL Board – reviewing pertinent content for the website

If you have history of your home or the lake we welcome any additions. You can send the content to Patty Maher in any format you like (email address is: [clplveep@gmail.com](mailto:clplveep@gmail.com)). We hope to have most of the updates created, reviewed and posted by the summer meeting (at least in draft form) depending on the availability of the committee members and extent of updates. The historical piece will continue throughout the summer.

## 7) Roads Report

Rick addressed the problem of carp in our lake and others. Members are encouraged to remove them via harpoons, spears, bows etc. A local lake had a fish kill 2 years ago and 700 carp had to be removed from the water.

6 years ago, Rick became involved but will be leaving the board after the summer meeting. He will continue to assist and help with the transition of a new member in the Road Leadership Role. We also have a sign-up sheet in the back for those who can offer any amount of assistance. Terry Yamarino, who has been a critical member of the road crew, recently suffered a stroke and, while he is expected to make a full recovery, is rehabbing at home. His absence is greatly felt and support from others needed. Typically, the time investment is about 2 hours a week, although many weeks there is nothing and other times require more such as after the recent storm. A question was posed about being available only in the summer; that works as well. During the winter we hire an outside source to plow the roads. We do request that he go as deep as he can so that we are not left with a sheet of ice. Homeowners are still responsible for their driveways and any small berm that may be created in front of their property from the plowing.

Rick discussed photos from the past that he placed on the back table for members to enjoy.

### Lakes' Report

Bob revisited a few items for the benefit of new members. He discussed the SAD that was created for our lake management and a separate SAD from the county for the weir. The weir SAD is in its third year and is only to manage the culvert -not the vegetation that is

beginning to encapsulate the weir area. We have lake volunteers who manage the area and have screened the weir to prevent more carp from entering our lake. There are also beavers in that area and they are protected.

We had a mild winter which means our weed growth will probably be excessive. Also, the cleaner our lake is, the more sun can penetrate and facilitate greater weed growth. If you have the opportunity to clean your shallow water area, particularly in relation to the invasive plant starry stone wart, you will help create an area for the fish to spawn.

We have a few new invasive species that are working their way into the lake. They are red swamp crayfish and rusty crayfish. We are also aware that zebra mussels are a problem on most of the lakes around us. Please check your watercraft and clean your boats if used in any other body of water.

Bob reminded people that we are the only state that does not have laws regarding the maintenance of septic tanks. Septic tanks need to be pumped routinely to prevent leakage into the lake.

Electric watercraft are becoming more prevalent with greater speed capacity. Be aware of the township ordinance that addresses the creation of wakes from watercraft. Also, be sure to have your boat registration current as we are due for a visit from the DNR. Bob reminded people that Michigan waterways require boaters to navigate in a counterclockwise pattern on all lakes. You are also required to have life jackets on your watercraft, as well as a tow rope for emergencies.

A question was asked about how close boats can be to the shore with Bob indicating the 100 foot guideline refers to motorized boats that create large wakes.

In the fall meeting we discussed a proposal for a mapping of the ecosystems of both lakes to determine the overall health of the lakes, the water quality, and watershed issues that we may not be aware of. This would create a new baseline to help guide decisions that are made for lake treatment and management. A baseline was done in 1946 and one (for which we have the data) was done in 1970. There is also data from a 1992 water quality assessment. Since those assessments, we have been bombarded by invasive plant issues that were not a consideration then.

Note: Dave VanDerworp spoke to this process during his Foundation report clarifying how this initiative began. His research along with that of Wayne and Annamarie Snyder led to the presentation of a Lake Management proposal from RLS to the board. The goal was to jointly review the information and generate a response on behalf of our membership.

The board was open to the idea but wanted to have additional proposals generated for consideration with reference checks and a comparison of costs and services offered. Three separate companies (RLS-Restorative Lake Sciences, K&A- Kieser & Associates, and Progressive AE) offered proposals for review including cost analysis. This would create a baseline for both lakes with the anticipation that recommendations would differ according to the needs of each lake. A sonar scan is a part of the process to give us a sediment level report for all depths.

After review, the board is recommending that we hire RLS due to the extensive nature of the analysis that would be generated and its role in helping maintain our most valuable assets- our lakes. The costs of the proposals ranged from \$10,000 to \$19,000 with RLS at approximately \$16,000. The Foundation has already committed \$7000 to the project with several other funding options available through additional reserve funds in the Foundation and/or our annual budget. It is likely that we would consider a variety of fund-raising opportunities to further the initiative.

PLM has been servicing our lake for 12 year and they have quite a bit of information but no physical map of our lakes other than perhaps older versions. Kevin and Wayne toured the lakes with PLM to gain greater understanding of our needs. PLM does a water quality check every spring and fall that we use to compare but there are no sediment measures, true aerials, or watersheds. PLM will still be our treatment /chemical distribution company but will utilize the data from the analysis to determine appropriate chemicals and treatment. The lake survey project is also a proactive response knowing that Bob will be leaving one day and his expertise will no longer be on the board.

A question was asked if there could be recommendations for a specific homeowner property (regarding the connecting lake) to which Bob responded yes. For example, at the boat launch we treat that area and there may be an impact to Dave VanDerworp's property. We can't speak specifically to each property but we believe problem areas, wherever they exist, may be addressed.

A question was asked about the frequency of a survey this extensive. While we don't know, currently it has been done every 30 years. The timeline would include a spring, summer and fall collection period (approximately 4 months) and then a presentation to the board of their findings including recommendations. This information would be presented to our membership in either a special meeting or potentially at the fall meeting. This is contingent on beginning the project this spring.

Bob also indicated the reality of the greater needs that exist on Perch which may result in higher payments needed for Perch to maintain functionality on the lake particularly when the next SAD is considered. This project would allow decisions for Perch and Crystal to be made using scientific data.

A question was asked regarding spraying of individual lots by PLM and Bob will check with them for the flyer. He did specify that the type of spraying they do is different depending on the target plant, i.e., topical (for stone shield) and submersible sprays (milfoil). Some people chose to dig out lily-pads which takes 3 years of removal to get rid of the tubers.

A question was asked if the lake management project would be put to a vote of the membership given that money would be spent. The Foundation will fund a significant portion and the board, through our by-laws, has the authority to pursue the project.

## **8) Foundation Report**

Dave VanDerworp spoke to the process of recommending the lake management project. It began a year ago when he went to the MLSA (Michigan Lakes and Streams Association) and spoke with other people who were using PLM for their lake management, looking for an objective view of their services. The response was positive but they also had another entity overseeing the work of PLM. Bob has done a great job but he won't always be in that role. Dave presented the idea to the Foundation and the members, particularly Wayne and Annamarie Snyder pursued it as an initiative. They made the inquiries for proposals and contacted references along with board members. The Foundation is committed to funding a bulk of the project along with the board and fund-raising activities. The companies also offer a yearly check up to follow progress and make updated recommendations.

The Foundation is also interested in advocating for best practices with our Septic Systems. A brochure is available on the table giving ideas for maintenance. Approximately 1/3 of septic tanks experience a leak. Given that Michigan is the only state without laws governing upkeep, it is important that individuals take the task on themselves. Along with this, the foundation will continue to educate regarding shoreline practices that enhance the property and preserve the lakes.

Wayne has been gathering water quality data on Crystal Lake but we need someone on Perch Lake to volunteer to do water transparency checks plus phosphorous a few times a year. The data is a double check on PLM data. You can look on our website for a link showing all the data we have collected. You would be required to take a one-day MICORP training. Please contact Dave VanDerworp at [vanscamp@wowway.com](mailto:vanscamp@wowway.com) if you live on Perch and can assist with this task.

## **9) Special Projects**

Barb thanked members for cards and prayers for Terry and reiterated that she believes we are a 'tribe' who support each other. Given her circumstances, she will be resigning her role as project chair after the summer meeting. Laura Dietrich, who is currently assisting her, will serve as an ad-hoc member to be voted upon at the annual meeting. They are organizing our summer picnic for July 8<sup>th</sup> (following our annual meeting) with a Mexican theme. The food will be prepared as it was this past year – specific members making assigned dishes for reimbursement. There is a sign-up sheet for the picnic at the back table.

Our calendar for next year will feature prints of Chuck Fifield's artwork for each month. The prints will be frameable and the cost will be raised to \$25 with profits benefiting the lake management project. Our goal is to have them available at the fall meeting to buy.

We also have a sign-up sheet to survey interest in lake activities such as a monthly flotilla where members can meet with their boats on the lake, a chili cook-off, 50/50 raffle etc.

A suggestion was made for a Poker Boat Run (similar to one held on Lake Leeann) where people go from dock to dock collecting cards with prizes for the best hand at the end. Pam Gauci will get the details.

## **10)New and Old Business**

A recommendation was made to send a group email listing the requests for help that were mentioned at this meeting indicating the various needs and contact information for each project.

Please remind residents who are having contractors work on their homes to keep the roadways clear. Equipment and vehicles have been blocking the roads for lake residents. During the last ice storm, there were several elderly residents who utilize oxygen and the power outage compromised them. Is there a way to support these individuals during emergencies? Bob Conn indicated that residents can contact the Somerset Fire Department to respond to these kinds of requests. Similarly, if you are going to be gone for an extended time, you can contact the Police Station and they will do extra patrols in your area.

A request was made to add one more speed sign exiting Crystal Lake Dr. towards South Jackson.

Kevin will check the progress of the cable lines being installed on the roads and any information these services will provide.

## **11)Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn at 11:32am was made by Gordon Gauss with a second by Denise Schlotz.

Respectfully,  
Thea Kirkwood  
CLPL Secretary