

CLPLPOA Annual Spring Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2024

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, Laura Dietrich, Rick Applegate, Rob Shier, Jim Carr and Diane Ostrosky.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Two new members were introduced and welcomed to the lake: Don and Karen Wasil who purchased Gary Cooper's home.

First order of business was to approve the minutes for the October 7, 2023 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 a previous meeting. The minutes were approved with a motion by Ann LaPointe and second by Chuck Hopkins.

3) President's Report

The eagles are back on the nest and active on the lake. They are a welcome sight and we look forward to watching new eaglets grow.

Condolences were expressed to Carolyn Driscoll (who was present) on the passing of her husband, Gary Driscoll. Gary and Carolyn were married for 57 years and have owned their Crystal Lake cottage for 27 years. His smiling and positive presence on the lake will be missed.

The Restorative Lake Science (RLS) 98-page report is posted to our website for review. RLS was unable to attend our spring meeting but will be requested for our summer meeting. In summary, our lakes are in good shape, we are doing a good job of managing the invasive weeds. Starry stonewort is relatively new on both our lakes with no quick fix. Thanks to Bob Conn, Dave VanDerworp and Wayne Snyder for their efforts to keep our lakes healthy.

We continue to review the recommendations from the RLS report and look for ways to implement.

We are 3 years into our 5-year SAD (Special Assessment District). We are beginning the process with the Township to renew the SAD after the 5 years have elapsed. This program has been successful at helping us maintain the proper funding to do an effective job managing our most precious assets, Perch and Crystal Lakes, and protecting our property values.

4) Treasurer's Report

Diane Ostrosky spoke to the current status of our budget. She has finished collecting our administrative and road dues for the 2023/2024 fiscal year. We have received payment from all members that owe road dues, except for one owner on Perch Lake, which has, and will remain to have, a lien on their property for unpaid dues. Six property owners that pay only administrative dues have not paid.

The Planned Budget was for \$43,900 and the amount collected is \$43,723 with a \$177 variance. We grossed \$2260 from our calendar sales. As far as expenses, we have spent about \$31,993 on road management, administrative and parties/meetings. Our current checking account balance is \$19,004 and savings account balance \$45,844. We have a certificate of deposit for \$15,000 which yields greater interest than our saving account and is a better way to invest our money. Our by-laws call for a \$50,000 reserve which we have when you include the CD at \$15,000. Diane mentioned that administrative fees help with items such as insurance, office supplies, taxes, postage and web expenses. A handout was available and will be posted as an attachment to the draft minutes on the website.

5) Secretary's Report:

Thea thanked members for their cooperation in using the email distribution for association business. A reminder was given to provide updated contact information so that members can receive communications from the association or updates about coming events. We will have decals for your boats again at our summer meeting to make sure we recognize all watercraft on the lake.

6) Vice President's Report

Patty provided a brief update on activities since the fall meeting.

In addition, to working directly with the Board on governance and operational issues – She has continued her main focus: working on new content for our Crystal & Perch Lakes POA website, and to a much lesser extent the lake history project.

As you may recall from the fall meeting, they took a more leisurely approach to the work but with the fall months kicked into high gear and made great progress. She is pleased to report that a full draft of the new content for the Website was delivered just before the December (2023) holidays. Please note:

- A personal thank you to Elizabeth LaPorte for her invaluable help in writing, reviewing and editing the website. Her expertise and commitment to this phase of the project was incredible.

- By mid-January, 2024 all of the Board members completed their review of the material and provided comments to us.

- Final edits were then made and uploaded on January 19, 2024 for the website developer team which is being led by POA member Ryan Carmody.

- The (two person) volunteer development team (Ryan and Marshal) has broken ground on the new site and they are targeting its launch in a few more months. It is a substantial amount of work.

There will be more news shared at the annual summer meeting, if not sooner.

- Also, as part of this process, we have developed three possible designs for a new logo for the Association website. These were developed by a professional graphic designer based on input from the Board. A vote for the 3 logos was completed at the meeting with all members present eligible to vote. The winning logo was number 1 and will be posted to the website for viewing.

Given the amount of time and focus it has taken to develop the website material, we will only have an abbreviated section on the lake history when the new site launches. The intention is to expand this area over time. However, she will be seeking more help with this project (or happily turn it over to someone else)!

A question was asked about the return of materials given to the committee and Patty indicated all would be copied and safely returned. A suggestion was also made to look for the materials from Karl Kakaley's residence which Patty will follow up.

7) Roads Report

Roads Status: (Rob Shier)

- We are currently on track with our Budget.
- Grader is running well and we just changed cutter blade which will help.
- Grading and Dust Control will be scheduled for the first 2 weeks in May. (weather permitting) Tentatively the week of May 7th for the South and May 14th for the North. We are moving to a new supplier with a larger truck so we will monitor the first application for improvements. Some areas are harder and need less spray. Also, instead of constantly applying excessive amounts to our roads following the speed limit of 15mph can help as well.
- Our snow removal cost was down so we will add more gravel and replace worn grader parts and hydraulic hoses.
- Grading- We raked gravel and picked up leaves from the road edge during winter clean up. As you do your winter and leaf clean up, please remove leaves from the road edges.

There are several areas that require members' support:

A sign will be posted in the compost area and we ask members to dump past the sign to help us keep volunteer time and cost down.

Please remember the compost area is for small yard waste only- To avoid filling our compost area please have tree removal sub-contractors haul away debris as part of the job. Utilizing tree chippers for home owners would also be helpful.

Improvements: We have identified the following Road Crew Initiatives:

- Grader- Document Maintenance schedule and create pre/post checklists. Get bi-annual external maintenance service set-up and supported to help sustain current performance and to identify/repair minor hose and seal leaks.
- Road- There are a couple of areas that require additional gravel and drainage strategy which Road Crew Team is evaluating for July/August timing.
- Storm Emergency Plan- Develop Storm emergency plans and contingencies for unplanned equipment outages.

We are looking to get additional volunteers for storm clean up to mitigate large volunteer time demand for a few individuals as well as to improve response for timely clean up.

We are putting together a list of Association members that are willing to be contacted to help move/clean up debris from the roads to ensure our members have an egress route as quickly as possible.

*Sign-up sheet for Storm Emergency Plans was provided and shared at the meeting.

Roads Report- Rick Applegate acknowledged the contribution Rob will make to the board.

Rick requested donations to the fish stocking fund which can be given to him or Dave VanDerworp. A sign-up sheet for donations was provided. A question was asked about the amount of money needed for the plan with Rick answering around \$4000. The plans for fish stocking include: 1,000 walleyes in Crystal and stocking to Perch to be determined.

Walleyes don't spawn or reproduce so they need to periodically be replenished. Bob Conn has arranged the stocking of 66,000 fathead minnows (2/3 in Crystal and 1/3 in Perch) which is an organic way to help with algae.

The carp will be spawning around the first of June and they are not good for our lake. Remove them if you have the means. We are going to implement a program to monitor our spawning areas to check for fish reproduction, impact of invasives etc.

Thanks to Chuck Hopkins who did the road for over 10 years. Also, to Terry Yamarino, Frank Dietrich, Tim Ostrosky, Chuck Fifield and Dick Johnson. It would be appreciated if you take a moment to thank them if you see them on the roads. Our association is receiving a premium job utilizing volunteers and a purchased grader.

Rob Shier spoke briefly to the formation of an Emergency Plan that would assist members. If a storm came in, there are people who need to get out perhaps with medical needs. So we want an emergency plan with additional contacts to assist if the need arises and we need to respond quickly, as well as a contingency plan for the grader.

8) Lakes Report

Jim Carr (Ad hoc Lakes) sat in for Bob Conn who was unable to attend. Jim indicated much of what he had to discuss had already been mentioned. The RLS report that Kevin referenced will guide some of the decisions that we make about lake management.

The Lake committee borrowed \$6000 from the Association with \$3000 having been reimbursed from the Foundation. There are plans to finish the reimbursements this year. All lakes permits have been paid and the SAD fund is healthy.

The Foundation is hoping to sponsor some E.coli testing this year. Again, please try to stay off the fishing beds. All kayaks, boats, canoes, pontoons etc. need to be marked with lot numbers. Also, please be conscious of the impact your septic tanks can have on the health of the lake. Finally, Bob and Jim are working in tandem until July, when Jim will be the official board member with member voting approval.

The goal of lake leadership is to balance the interests of three major groups on the lake: fishing, boating and swimming. Sometimes those interests lead to diametrically opposed viewpoints on what needs to be done and when, but that will be the challenge to meet. We need your input regarding these needs. Jim attended the online Michigan State University Lakes Education and plans to attend future learning opportunities.

Kevin mentioned the measurements that are being taken weekly to maintain our water quality.

9) Foundation Report

Dave VanDerworp stated we have two things that we pay for in a fiscal year. One is training for Wayne Snyder related to water quality monitoring, paid for by the Stan Kirkwood Memorial Fund and the second is reimbursement to the association for the RLS assessment. Coming up, we expect to pay for the fish stocking program and a septic initiative with more information to come.

Potential projects: E.coli testing around the lake to determine if any problems exist, we may also utilize RLS services (with board approval) to continue with lake management. We can fund a kid's fishing event if someone steps forward to plan it – we have volunteers be no coordinator. It was also suggested that we pay for the MLSA membership for the board (Jim Carr) but he got a complimentary membership for this year when he took the online course.

Our current funds are around \$16,000- General purpose funds are at \$8,127, fish stocking at \$6,190 and the Stan Kirkwood Memorial Fund \$1,680.

All donations can be sent to the Foundation at CLPL Foundation, PO Box 193, Somerset Center, MI 49282.

The Foundation also has a new email: crystallakeperchlakefoundation@gmail.com

We need more people on our foundation particularly representation from Perch.

Finally, we are conducting a survey regarding septic tanks because of the impact they can have on the lake. A general estimate is, if this is your full-time residence with lots of activity, you should clean the tank every 3-5 years; If you are part-time, you could go as long as 7. It is important that it be done periodically. Even septic systems without problems can have a negative impact on the lake. You might not be aware that you have a problem until it is too late for the lake. Please complete the survey and 10 qualifying people will receive \$100 off their service while others may be entered in a raffle.

Annamarie Snyder spoke about the Michigan Shoreline program for which she has just completed Ambassador training. Her own shoreline was a trial-and-error approach and she has learned a lot through the training. There are small things that people can do and large projects to keep the lakes healthy. She will provide individual assistance to members or conduct group information sessions as needed. There was a sign-up sheet provided for interested members or you can send an email to the Foundation.

Kevin suggested that Annamarie present some of the findings at our summer meeting. He also mentioned that the RLS report noted high levels of nutrients in our waters and there could be septic tanks that are impacting this. When RLS did this survey on Lake Leeann, they found that 10% had septic issues.

10) Special Projects

We were very pleased with the level of participation that we had in our events last year. The flotillas started out slowly but gained momentum with each one (6, 8 and 14 boats). Flotillas will be held again this summer on:

Saturday, June 22

Saturday, July 27

Saturday, August 24

These dates will be on the website and we will send out a reminder that week. Please note that you need to have bumpers on your boat and a means of attaching your boat to the group. BYOB and if you are on Perch you can contact a friend on Crystal to join or contact me (la54dietrich@gmail.com or text 502-905-1235) and I will help you find a boat with space.

The Summer picnic will be held at the Somerset Township Hall directly following the Annual Summer CLPLPOA meeting on July 13th. It will be an Italian theme and Barb Yamarino will be assisting with that. We will be looking for additional volunteers as well.

The Chili Cook-off was very successful and will be held again directly after the Fall Lake meeting on October 5th.

Calendars have become a bit of a tradition, however, people mentioned that they are moving away from paper calendars so we want to gauge the interest of members first. We ask people who are interested in purchasing a calendar sign-up as a show of interest. If there are enough people we will move forward with a 2025 calendar with photos of wildlife on the lake. If you were not present at the meeting, please contact Laura Dietrich (la54dietrich@gmail.com or text 502-905-1235) to indicate your interest.

We are determining interest for a golf outing this summer - please let us know if you are interested in participating. Mike Smith has volunteered to coordinate.

A Euchre tournament is another activity we are considering for anyone interested.

Sign-up forms are at the tables in the back so please sign, not as a commitment but to show interest. - contact info: Laura Dietrich (la54dietrich@gmail.com or text 502-905-1235)

11)New and Old Business

Kevin commended the current board and the work they are doing. He noted that there are several positions that are turning over and we are in need of members who would be willing to serve in some capacity. Our goal is to stick with the 3 year terms and then have new faces and idea. Please consider a role to serve your community.

Thea Kirkwood is one of the members whose 3 years conclude in July. Fortunately, Amy Kochendoerfer volunteered to step into that role and we will ask for voting approval by the membership at our July meeting. Amy will be retiring from her Bedford assistant principal job in June and beginning a professorship at University of Findlay in the fall.

A member asked if we could address 'blight' in our neighborhoods. Do our bylaws cover this or can they? Even if something was in our bylaws, there is no way to enforce it if there isn't an ordinance. The township has been contacted multiple times regarding branches on rooves that impacted electrical service. Multiple properties are eyesores.

Patty Maher stated that research had been done on this issue and the understanding is that if something encroaches on your property, you have the right to remove it. As an association we have been careful to not dictate how people choose to live on their property. If there are safety issues, it must be taken to the township to resolve.

Kevin is meeting with Mike Bennet and he will bring the issue to his attention.

12)Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 11:30am was made by Denise Schlotz with a second by Patty Maher.

Respectfully,
Thea Kirkwood
CLPL Secretary