

CLPO, Inc. Spring Full Membership Meeting Minutes 4/26/25

Location: Watkins Village Hall

Board Members Present: Joe Kuechle, Rob Swanson, Jim Wirz, Anne Hall, Fred Rose, Amy Ertl

Board Members Absent: Rick Thoman, Kelly Kramer, Laura Mueller

Meeting called to order by President Joe Kuechle at 11:10 AM.

Board and member introductions.

Secretary's Report: Amy Ertl

- CLPO members present at the meeting were given a copy of the 4/20/24 CLPO spring full membership meeting minutes. Rom Harff made a motion to approve the minutes. Sandra (Sandy) Klein seconded the motion. No discussion. A vote was taken and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Rob Swanson

- The CLPO fund contains \$25,682.19. Tori Law made a motion to approve today's treasurer's report. Vic Geislinger seconded the motion. No discussion. A vote was taken and motion carried.

Membership & Communications Report: Joe Kuechle gave this report as Kelly Kramer was not able to be here today.

- Membership update
 - There are 139 property owners.
 - There are about 48 paid CLPO members so far for 2025.
 - Current dues are \$35.00 annually.
 - Please add name and emails to our sign-up sheet today.
 - Please direct new neighbors to the CLPO website.
 - Website address is ClearLakeWatkins.org.
 - Continue to share pictures/stories/history of the lake
 - If you are not receiving emails, please let us know so that we can update our records.
 - We are also on Facebook.
- CLPO Apparel
 - Available for purchase here today (limited inventory).

2025 Projects Report: Anne Hall reported as Bruce Hall is absent today.

- CRWD Project Update
 - We are expecting a late fall 2025 install of the north tributary filters (2 sand iron filters on either side of the existing V-notch weir). These filters are designed to filter out soluble phosphates. With lower soluble phosphates entering the lake, we hope to decrease algae blooms and increase lake oxygen levels.

- General lake updates: Pelicans are back. Loons are back. Looks like we will have three pairs of nesting trumpeter swans. Lots of migrating waterfowl were noticed this spring.
- Harvester operation in 2024 removed approximately sixty thousand pounds of Curly Leaf Pondweed and six hundred thousand pounds of Eurasian watermilfoil out of Clear Lake. There were less than usual Curly Leaf Pondweed seed pods dropped in 2024. We are hopeful with ongoing harvester operations that we can decrease those seed pods from dropping to the bottom of the lake (and growing). With less AIS growth we are hopeful that we will have better growth of the native weeds.
- DNR fisheries discussion: Walleye fry will be stocked every other year in Clear Lake. Little Mud Lake is also stocked.

2025 Grants Update: Anne Hall

- DNR AIS control grant
 - The 2024 DNR AIS control grant final report is due in June 2025. We should still receive about \$3300 from this grant yet. We spent almost \$10,000 in 2024 for harvester operation/maintenance.
 - We were awarded the \$12,500 2025 DNR AIS control grant. We have begun 2025 spending already.
 - We may not have funding available for the 2026 DNR AIS control grant. Time will tell.
- Meeker County AIS control grant
 - The 2024 Meeker County AIS control grant report was submitted in October 2024. We ended up receiving \$6600. The labor for operating the harvester was paid for with this grant funding.
 - We received a preliminary 2025 Meeker County AIS control grant award of \$12,500 (\$4000 for Curly Leaf Pondweed control and \$8500 for Eurasian watermilfoil control).
- MCAL grant (Meeker County Association of Lakes grant)
 - The maximum grant award is \$4000 (this is preliminary).
 - Last year we received authorization from CLPO membership to do emergent vegetation plantings near the south access (Meeker County Park) to protect from erosion. The plantings will take place west of the beach. MN Native Landscapes will get us prices on plant plugs. We will need something in place to protect the plugs from wave action. We will need volunteers for this project. Please add your name to the volunteer sign-up sheet today at this meeting. CLPO will need to pay for the costs of the material up-front. If we have enough volunteer hours we will get back what we spent. We will need to send in a report to MCAL and then they will compensate us for what we have spent. We will need at least 160 volunteer hours. Each volunteer is assessed at \$25 per hour. Some volunteer hours have already been accounted for. Anne is asking for approval of this project. Abe Hofmeister made a motion to move forward with this project. Jeff Babbitt seconded the motion. No discussion. A vote was taken and motion carried.
- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** In order to maximize all grant funding, we need to utilize volunteer hours. Volunteers who are interested in operating the harvester for AIS control can get in touch with Bruce Hall and/or Fred Rose.

- Anne Hall also brings up that there is a grant available for water testing (up to \$600). Later this spring we will collect water samples to get a baseline prior to the north filters being installed so that we can compare future readings.

Lake Quality/Clarity: Rob Swanson

- Rob has not completed any lake quality checks yet. He plans to soon.

Sewer & Water report (Forest Prairie Township Sewer Maintenance and Operations Account): Vic Geislinger

- Tom Ertl provided the treasurer's report for this group.
- Vic reports that the rates will be raised per the city of Watkins
- Vic reports that we are in good financial shape.

Shoreline Treatment: Joe Kuechle

- Individual CLPO members can pursue shoreline chemical vegetation treatment independently (and privately pay).
 - Contact:
 - Lake Restoration, Inc., Phone: 763-428-9777, Email: serviceforms@lakerestoration.com
 - Aquatic Solutions of MN, Phone: 763-463-0365, Email: jim@aquaticsolutionsmn.com (Jim Strohmeier, a Watkins native, is involved with this company)

President's Report: Joe Kuechle

- So far no **Zebra Mussel's** have been found in Clear Lake. Please continue to check throughout the year and inform the CLPO Board if anything is found. Both boat landings will be monitored.
- **Bog Permit is available** (CLPO pays for this permit). If you have a bog that comes into your shoreline, please do not push it back out. Contact the CLPO Board and we can try to find someone to remove it (at owner's expense). Joe Kuechle: 320-980-2999.
- The **Harvester Treatment** will continue this summer. We have two employees who will operate the harvester. They will start after school is out. We also have volunteers to operate the harvester.
 - AIS removal permits are in place.

Other business/questions/concerns:

- Joyce Baumgartner requests that the meeting minutes be added to the website and/or emailed out to the CLPO members. The CLPO board will work on this.
- There is CLPO apparel here to purchase if anyone is interested.

Upcoming Events: Joe Kuechle

- **Fourth of July Boat Parade:** Saturday, 7/5/25 at 1 PM. Begins at Meeker County Park on the south end.
 - Please no water balloons. This will help keep our wildlife safe.
 - Please stay moving along the route.
- **Fall Picnic/Fall Full CLPO Membership Meeting:** Saturday, 8/16/25 at noon at the Watkins Sportsman's Park. Lunch will be provided.
- Reminder that our spring and fall CLPO full membership meetings are the third Saturday of the month in April and August.

50/50 Raffle Drawing

- CLPO member Reneen Babbitt drew the raffle tickets
- \$500 winners were: Reneen Babbitt, Tom Law, Ron Kramer, and Tracy Theis
- \$3000 (grand prize) winner was: Nick Meierhofer

Adjournment of meeting:

- Reneen Babbitt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Don Kadelbach seconded the motion. No discussion. A vote was taken and motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted by CLPO Board, Inc. secretary, Amy Ertl.