

## **CLPO, Inc. General Meeting Minutes – August 21, 2021**

**Meeting Called to Order by President Denise DeJuliannie.**

**CLPO, Inc. Board Members Present:** Ron Graham, Denise DeJuliannie, Joe Kuechle, Jim Wirz, Rick Thoman, Rob Swanson

**CLPO, Inc. Board Members Absent:** Amy Ertl

**Multiple CLPO, Inc. members/property owners present.**

**Introductions:** Denise DeJuliannie introduced the board members who were present. All CLPO, Inc. members/property owners who were present at the meeting introduced themselves.

### **Secretary Report –**

- Denise DeJuliannie asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes from August 24, 2019. There were none.
- Motion to approve meeting minutes from August 24, 2019, was made by Ron Harff, seconded by Nancy Thoman. Vote was taken and motion carried/passed with no negative votes.

### **Treasurer Report – Rob Swanson**

- General Fund Balance/Regular Fund Balance - \$3990.40.
- Improvement Fund Balance – \$5840.43 for a total for \$9810.83 plus interest of \$4.51.
- CD's Balances - \$10,877.23
  - Total for both - \$21754.46
- Clear Lake Improvement Project Balance - \$1,877.23 plus \$.21 interest
  - Grand total for all – \$33,422.91
    - Motion to approve treasurer report was made by Joyce Baumgartner, seconded by Patti Boser. Vote was taken and motion carried/passed with no negative votes.

### **Membership & Communications – Denise DeJuliannie**

- Of the 139 properties on the lake, 93 are paid members for 2021.
- 68 members have paid \$99 for the project: Project \$99...My Weeds, Our Weeds.
- Denise requested email addresses be updated on the CLPO website.
- Meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of April for the spring meeting and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of August for the general meeting.
- Watkin's Sportsmen's Park Picnic – Sunday, September 4, 2021, from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Spring General Membership Meeting – Saturday, April 16, 2022, at 11 a.m. at the Watkins Old City Hall.
- Annual Parade of Boats – Saturday, July 2, 2022, at 1 p.m. beginning at County Park.
- Annual General Membership Meeting & Luncheon – Saturday, August 20, 2022 at noon.
- Old photos were requested for both the website (ClearLakeWatkins.org) and to aid in the environmental history of Clear Lake.

### **Secchi Disk Reading Project – Rob Swanson**

- Water was very clear at the beginning of the season with reading of 17 feet.
- Last reading was two weeks ago with a reading of 3 feet.

### **Projects Report**

- **SCSU project** – Matt Julius, Professor of Biological Sciences.
  - Each year, a class is adopted by a lake association. One of the goals of the project is to build 150-200 years of environmental history of the lake. In order to accurately access the history, a core of lake bottom will be drawn and studied. The core materials will be taken on approximately September 11. The Lake Association should be receiving monthly updates on the progress of the study. Matt thinks the report should be finalized between Thanksgiving and Christmas.
    - Couple of interesting facts: Lake should have 20 times more nitrogen than phosphorus. Clear Lake has an estimated 10 – 12 times more nitrogen than phosphorus.
    - Shallow lakes are easier to process because the water moves more quickly ... but it still takes years for changes to be made.
    - Wild rice sucks up phosphorus.
    - 250,000 pounds of weeds were removed from Clear Lake this summer. They will be fed into an anaerobic digester. Bacteria will be added to create methane gas which can be burned for power.
- **North end Watershed District Project** – Ron Graham
  - Ron is working with the watershed district to do something at the north end of the lake. A grand for \$246,000 has been requested. The watershed could do a levy to get the funds. There are several entities from whom permission is needed to move forward with the project, including the DNR. Feeling is that since Clear Lake is at the beginning of the watershed, it is the most important lake.
- **Eco Harvester Project** – Rick Thoman and Joe Kuechle
  - The goal is to remove as many weeds as possible and to create pathways to docks and keep boat ramps open.
  - Curly Leaf pondweed grew massively and early. Harvesting started as soon as the permit arrived from the DNR.
  - 216,000 pounds of curly leaf pondweed were removed the Clear Lake.
  - Eurasian Milfoil started dying back on its own. 24,000 pounds of milfoil was removed.
- **Operation of the Harvester** – Rick Thoman and Joe Kuechle
  - The harvester was down at times due to the wire harness, electrical problems and the pump. Hope is to keep it on the water more next year.
  - Volunteers are needed to assist with harvesting. If you wish to volunteer, please go onto the website and let board know what you would like to do and what hours you may be available.
- **Little Mud Lake** – Rick Thoman and Joe Kuechle
  - Harvesting of milfoil will be starting this week.

### **President's Report** – Denise DeJuliannie

- At the spring meeting, bylaw to change Term of Service to three years was approved. Members may not serve more than two terms. Ron Graham's final term will be up in 2022. Terms for president and vice president will be staggered as will terms for secretary and treasurer.
- There are no signs of zebra mussels in the lake.

- Thanks to Citizen's Bank of Minnesota in Watkins for sponsoring our picnic today.

#### **Questions and Answers**

- DNR allows for 77 acres of the 216 acres of curly leaf pondweed to be harvested. It is difficult to quantify acres vs. pounds. Harvesting goal is to hit as many acres/areas as possible.
- Harvester could possibly harvest 77 acres in a season if everything worked well and there was enough help.
- Rick Thoman and Joe Kuechle are trying to work out a track system for next year to be able to track where they've been harvesting in the lake.
- It takes 30 – 40 minutes to get from one end of the lake to the other in the harvester.
- The belt on the harvester stops working when the load gets too heavy.
- Harvesting could not start earlier because the DNR permit was received late. There is really nothing that can be done to speed this up.
- The harvester cannot get closer to shore than 150 feet.
- Clarke was late this year. Lake Association is looking for another provider. Property owners are welcome to call whomever they wish to remove weeds. They can do it themselves if they choose to.
- Brian talked about his experience with the \$99 project. He used the cutter, roller, and rake. Said they were effective but hard on the back.
- Ron Graham talked about DNR limitations. DNR is much more receptive to mechanical means to remove weeds than chemical. Biggest drawback is reliability of machine and operators.
- Brian had a question about baby bullheads. Suggested scooping them up and leaving them on dry land.
- Joyce talked to the DNR when they came to check the DNR fish nets. She was wondering if there is a report. Denise will check with a contact to see if she can get a report.
- Brian wondered what to do with the weeds he removed from the lake. There is nowhere to put them currently. Suggestion was made to let them dry out. They will disintegrate over time.

Motion was made by Rick Boser and seconded by Rob Swanson to adjourn meeting. Vote was taken and motion carried/passed with no negative votes. Meeting was adjourned by Denise DeJuliannie at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Jayne Harff