

GARFIELD LAKE ASSOCIATION

PO Box 31, Laporte, MN 56461

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

September 13, 2018

The Garfield Lake Association Board of Directors meeting was held Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 6:30pm. Those in attendance were Charlie Clark, Joe Rubash, Mark Warisch, Stacy Ahcan and Ron Ray. The meeting was called to order by Ron Ray.

Current membership is 41 members with several people who have expressed membership interest but have not paid their annual dues. We have assigned a couple of Board members to contact those individuals. Stacy, Charlie and Ron will review the list and contact these individuals as well as a couple of business in town.

Mark informed us that Hubbard County gave \$1,300 to Hubbard County COLA to be shared by the 17 individual Lake Associations who do AIS testing on their lakes. These funds were used to help pay for each lakes AIS testing and amounted to approximately \$70 per lake.

The Board discussed the benefits of belonging to the Hubbard County COLA which would include the following:

1. HC COLA provided over 400 man hours of boat inspection at the Laporte public launch during both 2017 and 2018.
2. HC COLA has and we believe will continue to provide equipment to do our lake testing. This includes large nets to collect the ZMV and spiny water flea samples and water sampling pick up tube which collect water samples up to 10 feet.
3. HC COLA provides a good framework where its members are trained on how to help keep your lake healthy.

Ron reminded the Board that this Sunday is Water Quality #5 for all Hubbard County lakes. We discussed how Mark has done the Secchi Testing for 13 years. We will find, organize and share this data, kept by the MPCA with our membership. It would be interesting to see how the water clarity has changed in that time. Ron will get this data and we will send it out to our GLA members.

We had 9 Zebra Mussel "dock tubes" in the lake this summer. Several members have collected them and found no presence of any adult Zebra mussels. Charlie will collect the rest; clean them and keep them over the winter. It was discussed that we should make more tubes and have them available for our 2019 GLA annual meeting.

Mark reviewed his observations and conversation he had with DNR official, Charub, while they took another Zooplankton and Phytoplankton sampling. The purpose of this study is for the DNR to understand the how the algae in the lake changes as the presence of adult zebra mussels grows or does not grow. It will be a multi-year study done by the DNR and they are sharing their knowledge with us.

During this sampling Mark discussed with the DNR official the possibility of stocking the lake with fingerlings. Mark has written up that discussion and it is attached to this monthly GLA message. We think our membership will find it very interesting.

Charlie reported on his conversation and writings with local DNR officials regarding the increasing vegetation on the lake. We have attached DNR officials Doug Kingsley memo to Charlie but in summary their belief is this increase is the

result of increasing air and water temperature and longer growing seasons. We know this is of major concern of many of our GLA members.

We had a discussion on what the Hubbard County regulations were on how many feet of vegetation can be cleared from a homeowner's property. We thought that would be important to know. We will find out and discuss at the next Board meeting.

We had discussion on how we might make people more aware of the loons on our lake. We have seen other lake launch sites use DNR signs to make boaters aware of loons on the lake. Joe thought that we might contact the Laporte School and see if they might enjoy an opportunity to design and make such signs focusing on Loon Awareness. He will contact the school to see if they are interested.

Mark has written a brief outline on the migration patterns of loons and it is attached to this message for your information.

Ron asked for feedback on the article we sent to our GLA members on Septic Tank Do's and Don'ts and all seemed very favorable. Several Board members have had their septic system pumped because of that awareness. We decided to put publish this article again in the spring and bring it up at the 2019 Annual Meeting.

Ron reported he has not been able to work on issues with the Laporte launch this month. He and other Board members will continue to work on this during the fall and winter. Issues would include the cement piers themselves have dislodged and allow trailer tires to fall in between the piers; the significant "hole" that was created at the bottom of the piers and "hump" that occurs right before it; ways to improve the signage at the launch warnings to Clean Drain Dry Dispose (CDDD); no or very poor trash disposal sites at the launch.

Charlie raised the fact that this fall, when homeowners pull their docks, lifts and boats, is a great time to inspect for zebra mussels. We agreed to send a separate message to all GLA homeowners asking them to do so and include in that message photos of what to look for. We can also help the homeowner inspect if they are uncertain of what to look for.

We also discussed a plan for 2019 to form a sub group called PULSE OF OUR LAKE whose purpose would be to monitor various areas and sections of Garfield Lake, looking for specific AIS species. We know this group could be trained by qualified DNR officials in identifying the top 5 "at risk" AIS species and then routinely look in the water at various points around the lake starting with areas of greater risk. We will put these plans together this winter and bring the details to 2019 annual meeting looking for volunteers.

It was agreed to have the next Board meeting on Thursday, Nov. 15, 6:30 at Ron's

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.