



Board Meeting Minutes

November 13th, 2019

The Garfield Lake Association Board of Directors meeting, held at Bill and Cathy Karsten's home, was called to order at 6:35 p.m., Wednesday, November 13, 2019. Present were Bill Karsten, Cathy Karsten, Mark Warisch, Ron Ray, Darryl Jarombek, Jean Mehlhop and Dan Fitch. Marylou Hofer attended via call in. Charlie Clark was not present.

A motion was made by Ron to accept the minutes from the September 11, 2019 meeting and seconded by Jean. The vote to accept the minutes was unanimous.

Bill Karsten reviewed the Association's financials. There has been little financial activity and Bill reviewed the process setting up a Money Market account for excess funds at Bank Forward. The vote to accept the financials was unanimous.

There was discussion on how we should handle the open position of President-Elect. This position, elected by and from the Board of Directors will assume the Presidents role after the next membership meeting. This is important if the association is going to continue. As of this time, no Board member has volunteered to take this role. This might be possibly due to the perceived time commitment required. Ron suggested that we review the routine GLA activity functions (committees) versus the officer position responsibilities, to assure a future candidate can easily see the delineation of the responsibilities. We will send these documents to the board for further discussion at the next meeting. We agreed we need an action plan to address this issue at the next board meeting, in advance of the annual meeting.

The fundraising activity was discussed. Bill noted no new interest in shirts was received. Also, contact with Halo Salon by Charlie and Bill resulted in our items display in the salon, but no sales have occurred. We agreed to attempt a 'clearance sale' of remaining shirts via email and facebook, and Bill will handle this. Shirts not sold by the beginning of December will be donated to the 3rd Base and Popple bars for 'give aways' in bar games.

We discussed the details of the sign we plan to create to recognize the contributors to the boat landing improvement project. Bill shared a draft of the sign's layout. Changes to content of the sign were discussed and agreed to, and we assigned various board members to get 'sign off' for those who we have named on the sign and approval from the city to post this sign. The following were recognized on the sign and who will check with them: Frank Vogeltanz (Mark), Cory Honer (Bill), Garfield Lake Ice Racer's Club (Ron), Jonathon Carter (Mark/Ron), Warren Lochner (Bill), Tom Lindahl (Bill), Kari Townsdin (Ron) and Dan Ihrke (Ron). Bill agreed to contact the City of Laporte.

There was no update on methods of Business Membership/Sponsorship Marketing thoughts by Dan, so we tabled this for the next meeting.

A motion was made that Garfield Lake Association will donate \$1,250 for the supplemental AIS inspection fund for 2020 as committed. This motion was seconded and unanimously accepted by all present. This amount was proposed to the townships and city as a matching amount to their committed amounts.

Mark gave us a great update on Lake Monitoring with focus on AIS Boat Launch Inspection for 2020. Due to the effort of the Garfield Lake Association working with Lakeport Township, Hart Lake Township and the City of Laporte, we are pleased to let our GLA membership know that AIS Inspection hours will increase from 320 hours for 2019 to 508 hours for 2020. This is the result of the following contributions for 2020: Lakeport Township \$1,500, Hart Lake Township \$1,250, City of Laporte \$1,250 and GLA \$1,250. It was also pointed out that the 2019 hours were also increased due to the Garfield Lake Ice Racers contribution of \$1,000. The Board gave great recognition and thanks to all of these support groups. Mark will coordinate this process to make sure these committed funds will arrive at Hubbard County before January 31, 2020.

Mark also gave an outline of the presentation he and Ron heard at the November COLA meeting by Steve Henry, RMB Labs, outlining technical ways lakes within our area age and mature. A statement made by Steve at this COLA meeting was that because Garfield Lake has shown such historical clear water clarity levels, perhaps there are not enough nutrients in the water for Zebra Mussels to survive. If true, that is certainly great news. Studies continue via the DNR regarding this. [Park Rapids Enterprise article referenced](#)

Darryl asked how the staffing hours (inspector starting and quitting times) are determined. Mark explained how the GLA installed a "boat trailer counter" at our boat launch in 2018 which recorded the date and time of every boat launch. The Hubbard County AIS Coordinator used this data to establish the specific staffing times that fit within his financial budget for our lake.

The association has started an initiative on loon nests, led by Mark and Ron. They contacted Man Trap Lake Association regarding their program of artificial loon nests, and made a visit to view the actual man-made nests. Currently, Man Trap has made approximately 40 artificial loon nests and put out annually by their Lake Association. Mark pointed out that as the result of these man-made nest platforms, the normal "hatching success" for loon's eggs went from a 35% (without these man-made nests) to 83%. This improvement is due to significant coverings, attached to and above the floating loon platform. Our GLA is interested in learning more about how Garfield might be able to use such nests on our lake. In 2019, Mark's studies showed 3 pairs of loons on Garfield for a total of eight loons, including chicks. We may be able to consult with an DNR expert on this, but as of now we think the maximum number of loon pairs Garfield can support is 6. It was suggested that perhaps the Laporte School might be interested in working with us on this allowing students to participate in environmental studies, observations and actions. Attached to these GLA minutes are examples of what these loon nests look like. Other local resources discussed or suggested could include Eagle Scouts, Bemidji Tech School or Laporte School.

Bill brought up a meeting he had with Mike Jacobson, President of the Steamboat Lake Association. They discussed and shared various things each association has or is working on. One notable item was a speaker they had at their summer meeting, a biologist with the DNR specializing in loons and eagles based in Bemidji. Mike noted great interest in their presentation at their summer meeting.

These conversations led to a discussion on how Garfield, Steamboat and Kabekona Lake Associations may share meeting and speaker information with each other. This would possibly include invitation to each other's meetings, meeting minutes and guest speakers.

We also discussed the wonderful support the Garfield Lake Ice Racers gave us in the improvements made to Garfield's boat launch. The Ice Racer's charitable gambling program provides significant volunteer time and financial support to the local community. We will have further discussion on how we may be of benefit and support to each other organizations.

Mark brought up that a new DNR Conservation Officer (CO) will be starting in December, 2019 in the Lake George District. This includes Lake Garfield and surrounding lakes. This district has not had a permanent CO for many years and we believe this will be helpful to Garfield. We discussed setting up a meeting with the new CO along with others from Steamboat, Kabekona and the Ice Racers. Ron or Mark agreed to follow-up with Charlie to see if he can make contact with the CO and see what can be arranged.

The next board meeting for the GLA will be held, Saturday, January 4, 2020 at 10am. The location to be determined. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Attachments: Photo's of artificial loon nests noted in minutes

