

# GARFIELD LAKE ASSOCIATION

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PO Box 31, Laporte, MN 56461

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES – JANUARY 9, 2019 (Draft)

Location & Time: Bill Karsten's home, 980 Central Avenue North, 6:30 – 8:30

In attendance: Bill Karsten, Ron Ray, Mark Warisch, Deb Vogeltanz, Joe Rubash, Stacey Ahern, Charlie Clark (via phone)

Absent: Jeanne Mehlhop

Minutes taken and prepared by: Bill Karsten

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Ron Ray
2. The minutes from the November 15, 2018 board meeting were reviewed and approved as written.
3. Bill Karsten distributed financial reports for the year ending December 31, 2018 and reviewed by Mark Warisch, the dues revenue for the year was \$1,325, expenses \$627 leaving a surplus of \$698, which is the bank balance. Expenses consisted of \$368 for water quality testing, \$164 for HC COLA dues and \$95 for PO Box rental and other expenses. The financial results were approved by the Board. In addition, a listing of membership was distributed listing the 44 members.
4. Mark, Ron and Bill reviewed the boat launch AIS Inspection program and efforts they have made to find supplemental funding for additional inspection hours since our last meeting. The following summarizes the inspection hours and result of efforts to find supplemental funding:
  - a. The Boat Launch AIS Inspection program is run by the DNR in coordination with Hubbard County and with the help of HC COLA and member lake associations. The state allocates money to counties to fund the program, the county allocates and manages staff within the county. The inspection time is measured in hours. Lake associations can and do fund supplemental inspection hours.
  - b. In 2018, Garfield Lake was allocated 160 hours. In addition, due to our zebra mussel discovery, the county provided a one-time funding of 296 supplemental hours for a total of 456 inspection hours.
  - c. For 2019, Garfield Lake has been allocated 288 hours. There will not be any funding by the county. A gift from Garfield Lake Ice Racers Club of \$1,000 will fund 48 supplemental hours, leaving a shortage of 120 hours from the 2018 inspection hours.
  - d. The GLA board realized and recognized this past fall and discussed at the November 15, 2018 board meeting, that we need to seek local sources if we want to sustain and support the inspection program beyond what is allocated by the state. As a result, we initiated a program to seek support from the three government entities surrounding the lake and look at other fund raising or donation options. In planning we targeted 2019 and 2020 funding. Funding for 2019 must be done by 1/31/2019 which didn't leave much time to address 2019.
  - e. Ron, Mark and Bill developed a plan to request financial support to fund 238 supplemental hours in 2020 (cost \$21 per hour or \$5,000) requesting \$1,250 from each entity and match that with GLA fund raising and scheduled time on the monthly meetings of City of Laporte, Hart Lake Township and Lakeport Township during December and January. At this point we do not know what hours will be funded by the state and we estimated at target of the 238 hours.
  - f. Ron, Mark and Bill met with City of Laporte on December 11, 2018 and made the request in addition to proposals to help with boat landing repairs, trash collection and add signage. The city council was supportive of our efforts, but did not have 2019 budgets to support us, but agreed to include request in their 2020 budget process that will occur in September 2019. They also were positive on our other proposals.

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- g. Ron, Mark and Bill met with Hart Lake Township on December 18, 2018 and made the request. The township board was positive on our request, but under township rules they have to have the township citizens vote to accept the expense and they agreed to include our request for 2020 during their March 12, 2019 annual meeting. Mark, who is a township citizen will attend the meeting on our behalf. Township board member Tom Lindahl suggested we also approach the Garfield Lake Ice Racers Club to request a grant.
  - h. Ron and Mark met with Lakeport Township on January 8, 2019 and made the request. The township board was positive on our request, but under township rules they have to have the township citizens vote to accept the expense and they agreed to include our request for 2020 during their March 1, 2019 annual meeting. Ron, who is a township citizen will attend the meeting on our behalf.
  - i. Bill met with Garfield Lake Ice Racers Club board meeting on January 8, 2019 and made a request to help fund inspection hours in 2019 as they make grants immediately if approved. This organization manages pull tab gambling in local bars and must donate proceeds to local non-profit and charitable causes. The organization granted us \$1,000 to the 2019 AIS Inspection program on our behalf. GLA is very grateful to the Ice Racers for their support.
  - j. Ron has also pursued HC COLA to see if it can provide any 2019 support and will attend it's next meeting with this request.
  - k. We discussed fund raising alternatives during 2019 to support our commitment to the city/townships proposal. We are currently looking at creating GLA t-shirts and hats which we can sell at the annual meeting and at the Laporte Independence Day event.
5. We discussed seeking members who would volunteer to help with AIS Inspections to supplement the 2019 hours. This requires a two-hour training class run by the DNR and passing a background check. Ron will include this in the next update seeking volunteers.
6. Bill reported that he made 23 additional Zebra Mussel Testing Tubes that we hope to distribute to members and expand our testing from our current 9 tubes. We discussed labelling the tubes with our name and number and track the distribution and reporting on the tubes. We plan to distribute tubes during the annual meeting along with instructions. Bill submitted an expense reimbursement of \$38 for materials.
7. Ron, Mark and Bill reported on the results of our proposal to help with boat landing improvements to the City of Laporte on December 11, 2018.
- a. We proposed the following to the council:
    - i. GLA member has offered his time and equipment to make repairs to the boat landing including resetting the cement planks, dig/remove the 'hump' that has been created and remove this excess material, if the city will pay for the trailer rental to move his backhoe to and from the landing, at an estimated cost of \$600 to \$1,000.
    - ii. Walker Sanitary offered to provide large garbage can and perform weekly trash pickup for free to the city, offer obtained by Ron in talking to the business owner.
    - iii. GLA to provide and install additional signage at the landing at its cost.
  - b. We found that Council has been working on plans to repair the boat landing and was very receptive to our offer for volunteer help to repair the landing. The council stated they must do additional work and receive multiple bids to proceed but will allow us to partner with them. Ron is leading this effort with the city.

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- c. Ron contacted the local DNR Trails and Parks director and found there is potential for the DNR to supply cement piers to the city.
  - d. Ron discussed potential for find other lake residents to help with input on repair work and will pursue.
  - e. The city was grateful for Walker Sanitary offer and accepted this, GLA will work with this business to implement.
  - f. The city agreed to allow us to provide additional signage and asked we review our detail plans before installing.
    - i. Ron is leading the effort to develop the signage,
    - ii. Bill has found a sign company that can donate some of the signs.
    - iii. Ron is checking with the Laporte School to see if there is any involvement in the signage project.
    - iv. Ron discussed adding sign acknowledge support and contributions to landing improvements such as Ice Racers, local business, school, etc.
8. We discussed what can be done to improve the Walleye fishing on the lake, Charlie and Mark lead the discussion with a review of his research and discussion with DNR last summer. The DNR currently and for a long time, have stocked our lake with 500,000 fry every other year, as it does with other lakes our size, in the area and that the DNR feels this is the most effective approach. It was noted that one issue on our lake is our large population of Northern Pike which feed on the fry.
9. We discussed the water level history of our lake and the effect on the wild rice growth. Mark noted in his discussions with Calub, a DNR fisheries specialist who if monitoring our lake, that the water level history on our lake over the past 10 or 20 years has not varied more than 12 inches. Also, it was noted the will rice growth expansion is not necessarily due to changes in water level, but is sensitive to disturbances in the lake, such as boating and when disturbed doesn't grow as well.
10. Ron discussed interest in implementing HC COLA "Eyes on the Water" program, which Joe suggested to be called 'Pulse of the Lake' for our program. The intent of the program is to develop a group of volunteers GLA members to make regular observations of the vegetation along their or designated lengths of lake shore to monitor changes or identify invasive species. The board agreed there is merit in such a program. Ron agreed to propose a more specific plan of how to perform or implement the program.
11. Bill reported he was approached by Dwight Powell regarding the local 'Take A Kid Fishing Program' to discuss if GLA could help. This is a statewide DNR sponsored program and local organizers have run a very successful program on Garfield Lake for several years, Dwight is one of the organizers. Bill noted from his experience with the program, it is very well funded and well-run program. Bill is meeting with Dwight on January 10, 2019 and will report on this.
  - a. Bill reported that he believes Dwight is seeking more adult fishing 'guides' willing to host a kid or two.
  - b. The event takes place in mid-June
  - c. The board consensus was that we will help with this program in ways that make sense.
12. Ron discussed the need to identify board member candidates for the 3 positions that will open at this year's GLA annual meeting. We asked expiring board members their intent on seeking re-election and if anyone is aware of others who might be interested.
  - a. We discussed candidates must be members in good standing with dues paid by or on the annual meeting date
13. We discussed planning for the annual meeting scheduled for Saturday, May 25, 2019. Deb noted the Trinity Lutheran Church in Laporte has been reserved. Bill agreed to develop a plan and task list and share with board

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so we can get assignments and start organizing the event. We discussed GLA presentations, since we now have had significant activity, we will need to report them during the meeting. It was suggested each board member find a topic they would like to report on.

14. Ron discussed his response from a leader at the Birch Lake Association in Hackensack which included efforts in improving the boat landing and how they have involved the local community and business. Ron suggested we look at expanding our membership definition and look at business membership or sponsorships. Bill noted such changes will require Bylaws amendments which must be approved by the membership. Ron, Mark and Stacey are going to seek to meet with this person and research potential changes and make proposals to the board in future meeting.
15. Ron scheduled the next GLA board meeting on Wednesday February 13, 2019 at 6:30 pm to be held at his house.
16. A motion was made to adjourn at 8:30 pm and accepted.