



Board Meeting Minutes August 14, 2019

The meeting, held at Dan Fitch's home, was called to order at 6:40 p.m. Present were Ron Ray, Mark Warisch, Jeanne Mehlhop, Darryl Jarombek, and Dan Fitch. Ron presided as president in the absence of Bill Karsten.

Motion was made by Dan, seconded by Mark and passed to accept last meeting's minutes.

Financial Summary was reviewed. It was noted that Garfield Lake Association appears to have a higher percentage of lakeshore owners as members than most lake associations. (51.4%) Dan made a motion to accept the financial report, seconded by Jeanne, and was passed.

It was noted that Peggy Jarombek has offered to help with administrative tasks and will meet with Bill Karsten to discuss further.

We still need a president elect or a co-president. This item is tabled to next meeting. Ron will get some more information on how this might work.

Ron will prepare a summary of feedback from Laporte Days volunteers as a guide for next year. It was suggested we try a new method to present AIS information. Ideas were a game where festival goers can interact while learning about AIS, and placing a quick-read notice about AIS in customers' shopping bags.

We have GLA shirts in stock that have not yet sold. A request will be made get a current inventory, both old and new style, as well as orders placed for new shirts, to be shared with the Board. Also, we need an update on orders taken since Laporte Days and how to handle requests for additional shirts during the year.

The board discussed holding a member social event. Should it be part of the Annual Meeting or is after the July 4th Boat Parade a possibility? This will be brought up at the next meeting, and someone will be assigned to look into it, including sending out a questionnaire to our membership.

Mark presented a great update on lake monitoring status. Water quality will be tested two more times this year, in August and September. The water is very clear this year; in spring the disc could be seen down 20 feet. This time of year, the water is usually less clear, but the disc is still visible 12 feet down.

Both of the tests for Zebra Mussels came back negative this year. Ron will find out how many tests need to be negative before Garfield Lake can be taken off the "Zebra Mussel List."

Next COLA meeting is August 29.

Loon surveys in Hubbard County are no longer being done by the DNR. COLA and Hubbard County are continuing to use the DNR's procedures to count Loons.

Mark is monitoring the water level of Garfield Lake, using measuring tools provided by the DNR. The water level varied less than a foot throughout the year thus far, which is consistent with prior years.

A letter from the Ice Racers about pan fish in Lake Garfield prompted a lot of discussion. There have been reports of people taking double or even triple their limits of pan fish out of Garfield Lake, especially in the

winter. Presently, there is no Conservation Officer assigned to Garfield Lake, Lake George, Lake Benedict, nor Kabakona Lake. The question became, "How do we prevent abuse of the fishing regulations and Garfield Lake, if there is no one to enforce the regulations?" It was decided that we need to learn how we can influence, perhaps with the help of neighboring lake associations and Garfield lakeshore owners, to encourage the DNR to assign a Conservation Office to our area. Ron & Mark will meet with other area lake associations and COLA about this issue and give us an update at the next meeting.

The boat landing is completed, and the signage has been installed. It has been well received, with lots of positive feedback. We have a great number of people to thank for this including: DREC who supplied the huge track hoe; skid loader, dump truck and 4+ days of time. Corey Horner and Tom Lindahl were fantastic in helping bring and remove the panels, rocks and dirt. They, too, spent many, many hours getting this done. These men both represent themselves, as well as 3rd Base and the Garfield Lake Ice Racers, who paid for all the rock and fuel used by the heavy equipment. Our community should be very proud we have these individuals supporting us as they do.

The board believes it is very important to give recognition to everyone involved in improving the boat landing. It was decided to hold an appreciation gathering at 3rd Base, with details and dates to be decided via email before the next meeting.

Mark reminded the board members that the GLA needs to make sure we attend the next Laporte City Council meeting regarding help with AIS funding for 2020. We believe it is the 2nd Tuesday of September.

There being no further business, a motion was made and passed to adjourn the meeting at 8:10.

The next meeting will be held September 11.