

GARFIELD LAKE ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting
June 7, 2018

The Garfield Lake Association Board of Directors meeting was held at the home of Bill Karsten. All nine board members, Stacey Alcan, Charlie Clark, Deron Eilertson, Bill Karsten, Jeanne Mehlhop, Ron Ray, Joe Rubash, Debra Vogeltantz, and Mark Warisch were in attendance.

President Ron Ray called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes of the May 26, 2018, Board of Directors Meeting were reviewed and approved.

Minutes of the May 26, 2018, Membership Meeting were reviewed and approved.

A thank you card to Burney Fischer was signed by board members thanking him for his presentation about invasive species at the Membership Meeting. Ron Ray will mail it to him.

The board members had discussion to determine when to hold membership meetings and vote in open board of director seats. Charlie Clark made a motion to hold one membership meeting per year, in the spring. The motion was seconded by Debra Vogeltantz and passed.

Establishing an initial annual budget was the next item on the agenda. Bill Karsten provided a budget worksheet to use as a guideline. Board members had a long discussion about items to be included in the budget, including AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) prevention information posted on kiosks at the boat landing; improvements to the boat landing; cost, advantages and disadvantages to joining COLA (Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations); website development; costs of communicating with Garfield Lake Association members; meeting expenses; whether or not to hold Garfield Lake social events. With costs adding up, board members referred back to the Garfield Lake Association Mission Statement to help determine what is actually doable this first year.

Because we have no evidence that posting AIS information at the boat landing will actually improve DNR compliance enough to justify the costs, it was decided to delay establishing a kiosk at the boat landing. Ron Ray volunteered to seek data regarding the effectiveness of posting information at boat access areas. We will also need permission from the city council of Laporte since the boat landing is located within city limits.

Board members had a lengthy discussion regarding Garfield Lake Association becoming a member of COLA. Hubbard County provides funding for COLA, which in turn provides services such as boat inspections at boat landings, grants to lake associations, educational materials, and some water testing equipment. COLA

provided the equipment and instruction needed to do water testing last year. It also installed a temporary counter at the boat landing to determine the best times for inspectors to be posted at the boat landing. This year COLA will provide 440 hours of boat inspections at Garfield Lake's boat landing. Cost to join COLA is only \$4.00 per member. Mention was made that some home owners have not had positive experiences with some COLA members. Ron Ray made a motion that Garfield Lake Association will join COLA, seconded by Mark Warisch. The motion passed.

It was decided that money should not be spent on social events. If social events are held, they will be cost-free, such as potluck.

A suggested guideline of annual expenditures for Garfield Lake Association was agreed upon:

\$500.00 Water Quality Testing, including RMB lab costs, testing equipment
\$250.00 AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Education & Prevention, boat access counter
\$130.00 Communications, including P.O. Box, mailings, website development
\$200.00 COLA Membership Dues
\$100.00 Annual Meeting Expenses
\$ 30.00 Misc. Expenditures.

The estimated total needed for the year comes to \$1210.00. The revenues for the budget were estimated at \$1,380 (\$30 @ 46 members), leaving a budget surplus of \$170. Jeanne Mehlhop made a motion to accept the proposed suggested expenses for the annual budget. Charlie Clark seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Bill Karsten made a motion to set annual dues at \$30.00 per member. Charlie Clark seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Annual dues per member were set at \$30.00 for one year.

Members of the Garfield Lake Association Organizational Team who incurred expenses last year agreed to waive repayment.

Bill Karsten will inform Garfield Lake property owners of dues. He has opened a Garfield Lake Association checking account at Bank Forward in Walker, MN. Mark Warisch is Treasurer; Ron Ray, President, and Mark Warisch, Treasurer, are authorized to write checks. Bill Karsten will serve as accountant.

Membership in Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Advocates was discussed, it was determined more information on the group and its activities needed to be researched before membership would be considered. Bill Karsten volunteered to research further.

Bill Karsten made a motion to approve the lake testing program by RMB Labs. Charlie Clark seconded the motion, and it passed.

Communications methods were determined. Bill Karsten has a complete contact list for Garfield lake properties. Most members will continue to receive information via emails; a few will receive information through postal mail. Ron Ray volunteered to send water testing and information emails. Board meeting minutes will be sent. Mark Warisch will provide information about Loons on Garfield Lake. Everyone, including those who have not submitted membership applications, will continue to receive information until all dues have been received. Then the board will address communicating with nonmembers.

Garfield Lake Association is on Facebook. Bill Karsten will work on creating a website.

Mark Warisch will coordinate lake water testing dates and times with other testers. Ron Ray will relay the testing information.

Board members agreed to meet May, June, July, August, September on the second Thursday of each month, places and times to be determined at each meeting. Additional meetings will be called as needed. The next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 12, 2018, 6:30 p.m. at Ron Rays' home.

The board moved on to the comment cards submitted at the Annual Membership Meeting.

Discussion of GLA Bylaws Article III, Section 1 occurred, concern that current language may allow potential membership abuse that could impact control of the association by lake property owners. The board will consider revisions and potentially recommend alternatives to membership. Stacey Ahcan volunteered to draft alternative language for board consideration.

Ron Ray volunteered to research improvements to the boat landing, including talking to Laporte city officials.

Weed and rice growth in Garfield Lake is a concern mentioned on comment cards also. Mark Warisch has done tests for water clarity in addition to the DNR tests. He shared data with the board. Water clarity and water levels remain mostly unchanged year after year. Water levels in Garfield Lake are controlled by a culvert on the southern end of the lake and may be contributing to the growth of wild rice. Charlie Clark volunteered to work on the weeds, wild rice issue.

In response to a comment card, Charlie Clark will check with fisheries at DNR to learn more about DNR net findings, fish stocking, and what can be done to improve Walleye fishing on Lake Garfield. Discussion was also held regarding fishermen taking their limits of pan fish and returning to do so again day after day.

The board members expressed gratitude for the comments and suggestions that were submitted at the Annual Membership Meeting in May and want to encourage more member input.

In new business, a discussion about the Association's role in concerns about loud music or fireworks occurred. It was agreed it is not the role of the association to 'police' such activity, and it was the responsibility of individuals to address these types of issues with appropriate law enforcement.

Charlie Clark informed us that a citizen of Laporte told him town residents are excited that a lake association is being formed. Ron Ray suggested that next fall we meet with various Laporte organizations to inform them of what has been accomplished.

Ron Ray will be the liaison to COLA. He reminded board members that COLA meets monthly and anyone can attend. He will provide information about the meetings and information he obtains at the meetings. He will also find a sub to go to the meetings if he cannot attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Nine Zebra Mussels traps were distributed to board members. Charlie Clark will place one on the city dock.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Jeanne Mehlhop, secretary.

