



## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2020

Ron Ray, President, called the meeting to order at 6:30pm, Wednesday, July 22, 2020. The meeting was held via internet conferencing software ZOOM. Along with Ron, present at the meeting were Mark Warisch, Darryl Jarombek, Marylou Hofer, Jeanne Mehlhop, Charlie Clark, Bill Karsten, Tom Miller and Dan Fitch.

The June 24, 2020 board meeting minutes were reviewed and a motion was made to accept; seconded and approved.

Bill gave the GLA financial report which was accepted and approved.

Discussion regarding the GLA members showed one new member since last meeting. Ron said the new property owners on the north side of the lake could potentially be 5 new members. The total membership is over 50% of the total Garfield lake property owners. Mark mentioned that other lake associations have just over 30% of owners.

Charlie gave us an update on the zebra mussel sampling tubes. He will follow up with those that have the tubes on a routine basis and check in with them making sure the tube is in the water and any updates on their observation. The group wondered if the tubes are supposed to be checked on at a certain frequency. Charlie will find out and report to the board. Closer to Labor Day, Charlie will email those that have the tubes to remind them to take out the tubes and return to Charlie.

Daryl discussed the lake water quality and ZMV testing. He suggested that we keep some information about water testing and ZMV history on the GLA website. This would include the history of the water depth and a summary of the testing that is done by RMB who is contracted by COLA to do the testing.

Bill reported on what he found out about getting data on the frequency of visits to the GLA website. Included already in the website cost is information on the number of visits – hits the site gets. We could pay more money to find out what people looked at as they used the website. After discussion, the group agreed that what we get for free is enough information for now.

There was further discussion about how to increase frequency of the use of the GLA website. We all felt that this was a good place where our members could see and hear about what is going on around the lake including the history of AIS testing, water quality data and other data that various groups collect on Garfield. Tom discussed having links to videos on how to clean Northern Pike. He would also like to include recipes for Northerns. We all thought a story a month would be good to have on the site. This will remain an agenda topic each month in hopes to generate a story idea. It was also suggested that we link our GLA website to Facebook where we can let those users know of any GLA updates or new stories. Mark suggested Bill post his pictures of the loons and show how the babies have grown. There are 3 pairs with babies, all had twins but sadly one baby was lost early on. Mark agreed to write an article on this. We also encourage all of our members to submit a story or topic to share with other about Garfield.

Mark discussed the sunfish catch reduction project and told us how the Hubbard County COLA president has written a letter to the DNR showing support for Garfield to be selected for this program. The lakes to be selected by the DNR for this program have already been made for 2021. Our efforts are to get Garfield one of the lakes selected for 2022. We think this will be done sometime in the early winter of 2021. We discussed ways to get more people to go the DNR

website and ask for this program to be on Garfield Lake. Ron will work on a letter to Ice Racers and other associations in the Laporte area encouraging them to get their members to the DNR website and take the survey. That website is: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fish/sunfish/index.html> .

We discussed the recent DNR fish survey that took place in July. This was an event where the DNR places different nets around the lake for the purpose of “netting the local fish” and then identifying them by species, weight and length and then age. We were all very impressed by the number of fish caught of a variety of different species. We hope to get initial results of this fish survey and compare it to the one taken in 2015 and every 5 years prior to that. It is a very “science based approach” to determine how the fish population on a lake is changing. We hope to report more on this at the next meeting and will try to get it into the GLA website.

On the issue of getting a Conservation Officer assigned to Garfield, Bill has contacted CO Captain Pat Znajda in Bemidji and Garfield is on track to get a Conservation officer at the end of the year.

We discussed the AIS launch monitoring hours and what the 2021 budget might be. Ron is hearing that due to the Corona Virus all AIS monitoring could decrease by 20%. For the year 2020 the state provided 192 hours and GLA+city+2 townships financed another 250 hours for a total of 442 hours. It is a concern that 2021 will be decreased. We view this as a problem as it has been shown that AIS boat launch monitoring is the best program to reduce the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species for a lake. Any reduction to that effort increases the risk of AIS spread.

All loon nests have been pulled from the water. Requests were made to Mark to map where the loons actually nested in 2020 which should help place the nests next year. The group all agreed to put out 3 nests in 2021. Ron will rebuild the old wooden one we got from Mantrap Lake.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July boat parade was a big success, with other 20 boats participating. It was fun to see all the decorated boats and people waving from their docks. Excellent pictures are posted on the GLA website by Bill.

Daryl reported on his research on getting a GLA windsock. He has been working with Ziggy at Cool Threads. A windsock is not available so he is now pricing flags. A 14 X 20 flag is \$15. He will look at other local suppliers and try to get samples or a concept drawing.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 19, at 6:30. We adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully, Marylou Hofer, Secretary