



Meeting Minutes – March 17, 2021

The Garfield Lake Association held a Board of Directors meeting via Zoom on Wednesday, March 17, 2021. Those in attendance were Mark Warisch, Bill Karsten, Dan Fitch, Jeanne Mehlhop, Darryl Jarombek, Charlie Clark, Marylou Hofer and Ron Ray. Tom Miller was absent.

The Minutes for the February 17, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved.

The GLA Financial Statements for the period ending March 14, 2021 were reviewed and approved as submitted.

Marcel Noyes, Commissioner Hubbard County Soil and Water was in attendance to discuss efforts to reduce the E. coli presence in the Kabekona River. Studies have shown this is due to cattle crossing area upstream. Marcel outlined the SWCD's work on finding and organizing efforts to control this cattle waste and asked if the GLA would consider helping to fund these efforts. The Board listened to Mr. Noyes and then spoke in conference about our ability to help. It was agreed that while we are in support of this effort, the GLA is not in the financial position to help and it is also outside the scope of our Mission Statement. We therefore declined.

Mr. Noyes also represented the Laporte Lions club and told us that there will be a Laporte Days this July and we will be able to get a booth spot for the GLA. This effort is a great "fund raiser" for the GLA which goes to support increased AIS monitoring on Garfield.

Mr. Noyes also said the Lions Club is organizing a fishing event during this time and asked if we wanted to join in this effort. AJ, the principle at Laporte School is leading this effort and Darryl agreed to contact AJ and find our more specifics. Perhaps this is where we can encourage fishermen to take more small northern pike out of Garfield. Darryl will get back with us after he talks to AJ.

We briefly discussed the Stewards of the Lake Programs and agreed to publish specific articles on Keeping Your Septic Tank Healthy 3 times per year along with information about the proper use of fertilizers. We need to pick those 3 dates to publish the article. Tom is working on ways to create a Laporte Mailbox to provide non-GLA members information on septic tank maintenance and other information on how to keep Garfield Healthy.

There was an excellent article in the Minneapolis Tribune about Northern Central Lakes Get Murkier. It is shown both below and on the GLA web site.

<http://e.startribune.com/Olive/ODN/StarTribune/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=MST%2F2021%2F02%2F21&entity=Ar01700&sk=1E40DFF1&mode=text>

We will continue to study and research why our lake gets so green in the fall. Is there a common source? Is it getting worse? And is there anything we can do about it?

It appears that Garfield Lake will be chosen as one of the lakes to have a reduced sunfish limit starting in 2020. We believe the DNR will post this notice at the boat launch this spring, asking for the publics input in 2021 for implementation in 2022.

Ron reported that the Lakeport Township has approved the AIS boat landing funding for 2022 in the amount of \$2,000. We need to recognize and thank the township leaders for this.

The Hart Lake meeting on this issue will not be until March and Mark will attend.

Ron is still working on how to get more people to use the GLA website and will ask a Laporte art teacher to help us design a logo that might encourage people to go try it out.

We will be launching 3 loon nests this year and all have been upgraded with the new nesting material that Tom provided, and, thanks to Mark, the 3 buoys ready to go. Mark was asked to pick the 3 locations on the lake where we will put them.

We continue to work on ways to inform Garfield Lake fishermen about the hazards of using lead tackle on the lake as well as the possibility of getting "the kids" some new "free tackle" to encourage getting rid of the old.

We continue to have discussion on how to reduce the number of small northern in Garfield Lake. We expect the data from the 2020 Fish Survey to show a continued increase in this number. The report should be published by the DNR sometime in early spring. Along with a possible fishing event with the Lions Club is there value in both having a Garfield Lake Fish Fry using "freshly caught northerns" cleaned by 2 or 3 skilled small fish cleaners? And or is there value in making a short video on how to clean a small northern pike and sharing that with our members? The small northern pike eat the fry of all the other fish which reduces the population of the other fish and increases the population of the northerns. Also, small fish breed small fish.

We discussed the Annual Meeting and decided to have it Saturday, June 5 at 10:00am. It will be both an "in person meeting" as we did several years ago and arrange for a "virtual meeting" via ZOOM. Ron will talk to the new owner of The Woodshed bar & grill and see if we can use their "back room" and do both from there.

Sometime in late March, Bill will send out notice that the 2021 dues, \$30, are due and a notice of the date and location of the 2021 Annual meeting. Ron will also write to Garfield property owners who are not in the GLA and see if they would be interested in joining us at the meeting as well as GLA membership.

Bill, Jeanne and Charlie are all up for re-election this year.

The next Board meeting will be held Wednesday, April 21 at 6:30 central. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Ron Ray

President