

Fall 2018

Crow Wing Lake Association

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Autumn Greetings from Adam Fjeld, CWLA President

Well, the summer season is winding down and things are getting quieter around the lake except for the cicadas singing in the trees. This can only mean soon the docks and lifts will be out of the lake, the jet stream will shift south from Canada and before we know it, fall will be upon us.

As I write this in mid-July, I can't help but think back on what 2018 has served us up to this point. We have seen the secondary inlet that sits dormant almost every summer, run continuously since snowmelt. We experienced a tie for the second latest "ice out" since 1972. Weeds, weeds, weeds, sago pondweed so thick that our little lake looks like a bowl of ramen noodles. And, what's the deal with the deer flies this year?

Now the happy stuff: the goose population is down from previous years. We had a great group of volunteers who showed up to clean out the outlet on the west side of the lake. We had successful Earth Day clean-up effort provided by youth from around the lake. Minimal cases of swimmers' itch were reported (perhaps due to the goose population). I assume that the up-coming lake wide garage sale will be profitable for all.

I look forward to seeing you all at the fall meeting on August 25th at the St. Mathias Community Center. My son refers to this as the "Egg Bake Meeting". I encourage you to come, enjoy breakfast, get to know your lake neighbors and thank our volunteers.

Join us Saturday August 25 at the St. Mathias Community Center for the Fall Meeting. Breakfast at 9:00. LID Meeting at 9:30. CWLA Meeting at 9:50. Catch up on news and activities around the lake.

CWLA Options for Getting News Out by Jeanne Lindholm, CWLA Treasurer

Over the years, the CWLA has come up with several options for getting important information out to lake property owners.

- The Newsletter is published twice a year in time for the Spring and Fall meetings.
- CWLA has a wonderful website, crowwinglake.org. This website posts newsletters, information from the LID and forms needed for swimmer's itch and weed control. In order to check for the weed treatment forms, click on the news tab on the left-hand side of the main page. There is also information on events scheduled for the summer...check it out!
- CWLA has a Facebook page called Crow Wing Lake Community. I recommend signing up for this page as any important notices will be posted there. Forms can be printed from the website or the Facebook page.
- CWLA sends out newsletters and important notices via email or snail mail. Snail mail will be sent to anyone who has not provided an email address or has specifically requested snail mail. If we do not receive a bounce back indicating a bad email or a returned letter from our snail mailing, we assume that notices have been received by the members. We do our best to maintain current email and physical address listings but can only work with information you provided to us. If you have a change of address or email, contact your lake shore rep or send a written notice to CWLA at PO Box 136, Brainerd MN 56401.
- **There's still time to pay this year's Association dues at either the snail mail address or on-line.**
- Please keep in mind that this is all done by volunteers who do their best to make sure our communications do not miss anyone. That being said, it may be a good idea to make a note to check the website mid-April if you have not received the authorization form for weed treatment or contact your area rep.

Fall 2018 LID Report by LID President Mike Valentine

This has been a year for expanding our volunteer base and finding new ways to work cooperatively with local and regional government. It was most gratifying to see the great turnout to clean up the outlet on the west side of the lake. In just a couple of hours, the crew vastly improved water flow out of the lake. Many hands do make light work!

This spring, at a statewide water conference, I listened to a presentation by a representative of another lake association/LID (<https://pelicanlakemn.org/> and <http://pgolid.org/>) Due to the size of the lake association and LID, they are active in many areas of lake improvement that are currently beyond our reach. But, we could select one or two new projects (e.g., dead sago pondweed cleanup) if we can find one or two volunteers to champion a project. I believe our current volunteer leaders are at or near their capacity in terms of time and energy. So bring your ideas and your energy to the fall meeting! We are ready to find a way to make it happen!

Now back to our annual water quality monitoring project for a moment. This summer, we have recruited several property owners (contact me if you would like to help...dates are still available!) to assist a student intern from CLC in Brainerd who is collecting samples according to a plan developed this spring by the MPCA and the Crow Wing SWCD. I think all of our volunteers have enjoyed their brief time on this project. (Let's face it, how bad can it be to spend an hour or two on the lake in the morning sunshine collecting water samples?) You can find some great pictures skillfully taken by Jeanne Lindholm and Pat Altrichter on our Facebook page and the Crow Wing County SWCD Facebook page. The work that is being done on this project is intended to bring us one step closer to developing a nutrient management plan for the watershed and Crow Wing Lake.

One final note. There has been some discussion in the last year or so by property owners about the amount of the annual LID assessment. A few years ago, at a fall LID meeting, property owners voted to raise the LID assessment from \$200 to \$210. After accepting the increased assessment amount for a couple of years, the County decided that assessment increases need to be approved by a super majority (60%) of all property owners. As a result, the assessment amount has been cut back to \$200 by the County. Given our current budget and the LID reserve held by the County, we should be able to fund our current project commitments for now. Should circumstances change, we will make sure there is ample opportunity for discussion prior to circulating a petition to approve changing the assessment.

The following minutes are for informational purposes. They are not considered final until they are approved at the next meeting. Hence they are "Draft".

Draft

**Crow Wing Lake Association
Minutes of Annual Spring Meeting
June 2, 2018**

Board Members Present: Jeff Lewis, President; Adam Fjeld, Vice President; Jeanne Lindholm, Treasurer; Judy Swanson, Secretary

Also attending were Rick Pederson, LID and Mike Valentine, LID and Jeanette Austin, VP elect.

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Lewis. After the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, Jeff shared news of the deaths of long-time lake residents Eileen Olson and Anita Gibeau.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Jeanne Lindholm:

Checking Account Balance as of May 31, 2018	\$10,079.55
This includes \$.08 interest	
CD Milfoil Account Balance as of May 31, 2018	\$ 2954.20
This includes \$.73 interest	
CD #2 Balance as of May 31, 2018	\$ 7090.14

\$2.06 interest will be paid at maturity.

Expenses since last report:

Fall Brunch	73.00
Fall Brunch	16.31
St. Mathias Rental	100.00
PO Box	76.00
Water Conference	340.00
LARA	50.00

A motion was made to approve the report as presented. Motion was seconded and approved.

Lake Improvement Report:

- LID President Mike Valentine and Rick Pederson, LID Secretary Treasurer reported on the upcoming lake improvement monitoring and weed control for Summer 2018.
- Ron Duy outlined the weed treatment plan in detail, expanding on the various life cycles of specific weeds in the lake.
- Melissa Barrick, Crow Wing County SWCD, gave a presentation on the lake monitoring partnership between CWL LID and the MPCA.

Activities Committee Report:

- The walk, run and bike around the lake will be at 8:30 on July 4th.
- King's Ransom will again be playing at 3:00 on the point. Donations are appreciated. It was stressed that this is not a CWLA sponsored event.
- The lake wide garage sale will be for one-day on Saturday, August 11.
- The next meeting of the lake association will be August 25 at the St. Mathias Community Center. Brunch will be served
- There are Crow Wing Lake Association member signs available for purchase for \$10. Thank you, Matt Worms.

New Business:

- The Association is open to suggestions for usage of CWLA funds that would help support the mission of the association.
- Adam Fjeld shared that the Association having two Facebook pages is confusing. The CWLA page is public and open to anyone. The CWL Community page is a closed page, open only to CWL property owners and others closely associated with the lake. It was agreed that the open CWL Facebook page will be dissolved. We also have a CWLA website. It was recommended that the Association renew the website domain name (cost \$20).
- The Association is in need of new garage sale signs. It was suggested that we buy them. Motion was made and seconded to buy new signs.
- Camp Ripley will have a full-service emergency response team that is available to residents between Little Falls and Brainerd. When calling 911, ask for the Camp Ripley service.
- Dead fish have been washing up on our shores. A reminder was made to catch and release properly.
- Jim Becker requested that the Association look into clearing the vegetation from the outlet on the west end of the lake. Ron Duy, Central MN Aquatics, said that he would look into applying for a DNR permit for non-mechanical removal of the plants and debris. Volunteers will be needed.

Election of Officers

Adam Fjeld was nominated for President. Jeannette Austin was nominated for Vice President. Judy Swanburg will continue as Secretary and Jeanne Lindholm will continue as Treasurer. Motion was made and accepted to close nominations. A unanimous ballot was cast.

A key holder sign was presented to Jeff Lewis in appreciation for his work as president.

Drawings were held for door prizes. Thank you to Ron and Michelle Duy and family and Rick Pederson for donated door prizes.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:55.

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**Crow Wing Lake Improvement District Meeting Minutes
Saturday, August 26, 2017**

Lake Improvement District (LID) president Mike Valentine welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. There were 37 property owners attending. Mike thanked everyone who helped prepare and serve breakfast.

Minutes: Because the minutes of the August 26, 2016 meeting were published and previously distributed, by general consent, the reading of the minutes was waived. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the minutes.

Rick Pederson presented a summary of the expenditures and revenues outlined anticipated expenses for the coming year. Rick reminded members that the LID is funded by an assessment in addition to property taxes.

2017 Financial Summary

January 1 Balance	\$31,947.08
Deposits	
Expenses	
Curly leaf treatment	14,900
DNR Permit	2,500
Swimmers' Itch	3,955
Sago Pond	7,654
TOTAL	\$29,005

The projected estimate for 2017 had been \$30,350. The total divided by 147 (the number of property owners around the lake) results in \$197.34 shared cost. The balance in the LID account is \$31,947.08.

Rick then proposed the following for 2018.

County Admin. Fee	250
MN County Ins. Trust	1,400
DNR Permit	2,500
Curly Leaf Treatment	15,000
Swimmers' Itch	4,000
Sego Pond	7,800
Total	\$30,950

The proposed total divided by the number of property owners around the lake (\$30,950 divided by 147) yields \$210.54 each. A motion was made, seconded and approved to maintain the assessment at \$210 per property owner.

Following discussion of the budget and expenses, there was discussion related to the effectiveness of the various treatment applications.

- The sago pond weed treatment has had a positive impact on fishing on the lake. The week before it was applied, the fishing was mediocre. Once it had been applied and allowed to work, fish were biting well.
- There was a question about the extra fee for the second application of swimmers' itch treatment. Rick explained that the LID covers the first application and that subsequent applications must be covered by the property owner. There was a question related to what percentage of owners do a second application. Ron Duy might know this and Rick will check with him. Mike commented that the swimmers' itch application lasts only a few days. It's suitable for a holiday weekend or when you'll have lots of swimming activity around your beach. You will have better luck if your neighbors apply it as well. To prevent swimmers itch, dry off after swimming.

Water Quality Report

Mike reported that a major goal of the LID is to develop a strategy to address the root causes of the issues that are impacting the health of the lake. Mike reported that the LID monitors both lake clarity (via Secchi disk readings), as well as water chemistry (via monthly lake chemistry analysis).

Mike reported that Jeanne Lindholm had once again been testing for veligers – the “baby stage” of zebra mussels and found again that the lake was again free of them.

Mike reported that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is developing target goals for phosphorous coming into the lake from the Lennox Road Creek (ditch). In the spring and after heavy rain, the stream dumps nutrients into the lake. Mike commented that the phosphorus in the lake, if the lake were healthy, would be about 2/3 of what it is now.

There is a need for a system upstream to “settle out” the nutrients and solids before they can get into the lake. The MPCA is likely to have a report completed in early 2018. This might be a topic for this discussion at the Spring Lake Association meeting.

Mike reminded property owners that material from the county describing steps individual homeowners can take to improve the lake were available.

Election of Officers

Ballots were distributed via newsletter with additional ballots available at the meeting. As a result of these ballots, the following LID officers were elected.

- Mike Valentine, President
- David Hermerding, Past CWLA President
- Kristine Altrichter, At Large
- Rick Pederson, Secretary/Treasurer
- Lyle Bourdon, At Large

Kristine Altrichter introduced herself to the members attending. She and her parents have been on the lake for approximately six years. She is working on her Masters’ Degree at NDSU in Natural Resources Management with a focus in wetland management. Her knowledge and perception will be valuable to the organization.

A brief ceremony was held to honor Pat Altrichter for her years of service to the LID. She was presented with a plaque created by Rick Peterson. A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn the Fall 2017 LID meeting.

