



August 2019

Crow Wing Lake Association

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Coming Events

Fall Meeting

Crow Wing Lake Improvement District (LID) and Crow Wing Lake Association (CWLA)

August 24 at St. Mathias Town Hall

9:00 Breakfast/9:30 Meeting

Spring 2020 Meeting

Crow Wing Lake Association and Crow Wing Lake Improvement District

May 30, 2020 at Fort Ripley Town Hall

9:00 Donuts and Coffee/9:30 Meeting

Election of CWLA Officers

LID Update, Mike Valentine, LID President

The summer of 2019 has been a very busy time for your LID. Lake water quality has been top of mind for many of the residents around Crow Wing Lake. I don't know if our sago pond weed infestation was the worst ever, but it had to rank right up there near the top in the last several years. In anticipation of the heavy weed growth, CWLA attendees at the spring meeting asked the LID to research the feasibility and practicality of adding mechanical weed harvesting to our weed eradication tool box. As I prepare this update, we are continuing our research. We are learning that mechanical weed harvesting can be expensive and a potentially large investment in labor. We'll talk more about it at the fall meeting.

At the same time, the MPCA has continued its work to establish a new Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Crow Wing Lake. This effort will establish a nutrient limit for the lake. Nutrient reduction strategies can then be developed to clean up the lake by attacking the root causes of the elevated nutrients. We expect a public meeting on the Crow Wing Lake TDML in the coming months. In the long run, solutions coming out of the TDML will be more effective than "mowing the weeds" a few times over the summer months.

I hope to see you all on August 24th at St. Mathias.

CWLA Update, Adam Fjeld, CWLA President

Salutations Lake community. It's always sad to get the email from Cindy asking us to get our articles prepared for the fall newsletter. It inevitably means that Fall is drawing near, even though it feels like summer just got here. This year, I'm taking my boat and lift out on Labor Day weekend. Last year, it sat in the water until there was almost ice on the lake and didn't get used once after Labor Day.

This summer has been a blur for my family. My daughter broke her collarbone on her way back from the 4.4 on the Fourth (Thanks to whomever gave her a ride home; Mr. Weiser, I think?) Camilla, our newborn, has us back changing diapers after a 12-year hiatus and the remodel/clean-up of our house on Lennox Road is consuming most of our free time.

Haven't had to spend too much time watering the garden and yard up until this point, and no weather severe enough that we had to utilize the neighbor's basement. The Lake has been navigable, except for a temporary sago pondweed take-over. Thanks to the LID and Ron Duy. The boat parade was a welcome addition to our 4th of July festivities (thanks Amy). Have you noticed the clarity of the lake? We normally average 2-3 feet of clarity, but this year, it's been up to eight feet. Pretty soon the lake will turn over for the season and we'll be able to enjoy a nice layer of green algae.

August 24th is the date of the Fall Meeting at the St. Mathias Community Center. There's a beautiful new playground, complete with a zipline. Bring the kids to the meeting. Breakfast will be served.

Crow Wing Lake Improvement District Annual Meeting August 25, 2019

The Following Annual Meeting Minutes are to be considered "draft" until approved by the membership at the Fall meeting.

Lake Improvement District (LID) President Mike Valentine called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Mike requested that Jeff Lewis lead the meeting attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was a motion to accept, without reading, the minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting. It was seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

LID Reports

Water Treatment – Mike invited Rick Pederson to provide a report on water treatments made to the lake over the summer. Mike kicked off the report with a comment that high temperatures and calm water had resulted in water temperatures 5-10 degrees higher than normal on average. While this makes for pleasant recreational use, it also encourages rapid weed and algae growth.

Curly leaf treatment was applied May 15. Consistent treatment over the last few years has resulted in less acreage of the lake needing to be treated.

Swimmers' Itch treatment was applied June 25 to be maximally effective for the 4th of July holiday.

Sago pond weed treatment must be applied following peak growth – this year it was applied July 9. Rick informed the group that growth of sago pond weed is cyclical and that the summer of 2018 was particularly active.

Rick indicated that the MN Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) regulations limit the acreage of a lake that can be treated with weed killer. No more than 15% of the littoral acreage (defined technically as the part of the lake where sunlight can reach the bottom of the lake) can be treated annually. The 15% refers to total acreage treated including treatment applied by private owners.

There was discussion about dates for sago pond weed treatment. The treatment is most effectively applied on calm, dry days. The applicator must provide the DNR with the proposed treatment date and to promote swimmer safety, it should be done during a quieter time of year (i.e., not over a holiday).

Owner authorization forms are required for treatment of lakeshore areas. Of the 148 property owners on the Lake, 111 authorized treatment. Staff from Central Aquatics rely on the placement of buckets showing authorization forms on the end of docks. Once treatment is done, the staff provide owners with information about the chemicals used in the treatment and precautions that should be taken for the next few days (no swimming or ingestion of water). There was discussion about how best to get the authorization forms to property owners and ultimately on the buckets.

There was a question about the impact of yard runoff on lake weeds. Mike commented that any fertilizer helps the weeds to grow. Mike mentioned the DNR's "Score Your Shore" program which helps property owners determine how they are doing to limit runoff from their property into the lake. Neither the LID nor the CWLA has undertaken this effort as an organization. County programs are also available to assist with landscaping projects that will lead to less runoff from shoreland into the lake.

There was another question related to septic system impact on the lake. Mike referred the question to Crow Wing County. They have a robust septic system conforming program and can answer property-specific questions.

Mike indicated that the DNR/MPCA are currently working to create a watershed management plan for the watershed that includes our lake. It is expected to be completed in the Spring 2019.

As a part of the plan, watershed and lake assessments are done to determine issues faced by the watershed and ultimately steps that can be taken to mitigate them. The water monitoring that was done this summer will contribute to creation of the management plan. Two times each month between May and September water samples were collected to measure the impact to water quality when surface water mixes with the sediment in the lake. Mike recognized Kyle Lin a student from Central Lakes College who conducted the sampling. He also thanked Pat Altrichter, Jeanne Lindholm, Lee Jordan and Jeff Lewis who transported the Kyle to the sampling location.

Mike also thanked the property owners who came together to clean out the outlet last spring. The permit for this work was obtained from the DNR. It is a recurring permit and can be used repeatedly as we need to do this cleaning.

Treasurer's Report

On January 1, 2018, the LID bank balance stood at \$64,312. The following is a tally of items and money spent in 2018 (year to date).

| | |
|----------|----------------------------|
| \$ 250 | County Administrative Fee |
| 1,230 | MN County Insurance Trust |
| 8,740 | Curly Leaf Treatment |
| 2,500 | DNR Permits/weed treatment |
| 35 | DNR Permit/outlet clean up |
| 4,720 | Swimmers' Itch Treatment |
| 9,450 | Sego Pond Weed Treatment |
| 228 | Water Testing |
| \$27,153 | Total |

Approximately \$183 per property.

The 2019 LID Budget reflecting continuation of current programs and a \$200.00 per property owner fee was passed by unanimous consent.

| | |
|----------|----------------------------|
| \$ 250 | County Administrative Fee |
| 1,230 | MN insurance Trust |
| 2,500 | DNR Permits/weed treatment |
| 400 | Water Testing |
| 9,000 | Curly Leaf Treatment |
| 5,000 | Swimmers' itch Treatment |
| 11,000 | Sego Pond Weed Treatment |
| \$29,380 | Total |

Approximately \$198.50 per property.

Mike and Rick discussed the County's new requirements to change the assessment for the LID. Previously, a vote could be taken at the annual meeting and if a majority of attendees approved, the assessment rate could be adjusted. Now, the LID would have to petition the County after securing the approval of 60% of the owners. For now, Rick and Mike recommended that the assessment remain at \$200 per owner per year. The motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn the meeting. It was adjourned at 10:19.

Crow Wing Lake Association Spring Meeting June 1, 2019

The following Spring Meeting Minutes are to be considered "draft" until approved by the membership at the Fall Meeting.

President Adam Fjeld opened the meeting. He asked Jeff Lewis to lead meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Fjeld then asked Mike Valentine, LID President to provide an update on LID activities.

Mike reported that LID activities in the coming months will shift from monitoring to working with Crow Wing County Soil and Water staff to manage the nutrients flowing into the lake from the surrounding watershed.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) staff have taken data collected by LID members and in combination with data from other sources, created the first cut of a report that will identify impacts to lake quality and what can be done to manage them.

Mike summarized information from a draft report that, among other things, identified sources of nutrients flowing into the lake. Developed properties (homes, etc.) contributed 18% of the total phosphorus coming into the lake; 18% is the result of internal loading (from decomposing weeds on the lake bottom, for example); 17% from adjacent wetlands and 28% from nearby croplands.

Mike said that the report still needs to be reviewed with an eye toward increased mitigation of phosphorus. Items such as shoreland management might be an area of focus. Mike highlighted a finding that only 1% of phosphorus comes from septic systems – a real success story.

Mike then asked Rick Peterson to provide the LID Treasurer's report.

Rick began by reminding attendees that the LID is funded by Crow Wing Lake property owners through a \$200 annual assessment paid with their county property tax. As of January 1, 2019, the LID had a reserve of \$66,412. During 2018, LID expenses averaged around \$189 per property owner.

Costs planned for 2019 included:

| | |
|----------|--|
| \$ 250 | County Administrative Fee |
| 830 | MN County Insurance Trust |
| 2,500 | DNR Permits |
| 1,400 | Survey prior to treatment application |
| 7,668 | Curly Leaf Treatment (done May 23, 2019) |
| 5,192 | Swimmers' Itch Treatment (before July 4) |
| 10,000 | Sego Pond Weed Treatment |
| \$27,925 | Estimated total expense |

Estimate total Revenue is as follows:

| | |
|--------|---------------------------|
| \$ 814 | Late tax payments |
| 214 | Insurance dividend rebate |
| 29,600 | Assessment |

\$30,646 Estimated total revenue.

Estimated total balance by the end of year \$69,000.

Rick reported that as of the day of the meeting, there seemed to be no need to mount an effort to unclog the outlet. He and others will monitor the flow to determine if another effort will be needed this year.

Ron Duy, the contractor who provides weed treatment for the lake, talked about the new approach to identifying properties where curly leaf and swimmers' itch treatment would be applied. This year, Area Reps will post the signs on the properties where owners have authorized (via form submission) that they want curly leaf treatment and the first, free swimmers' itch application. Following application, Ron will leave an orange sign indicating what has been applied to that area of the lake and what limitations as to lake use should remain in place.

Ron indicated that curly leaf treatment is showing signs of making a lasting difference in the lake. The percentage of the total lake area that needs treating has declined annually since 2002 and that 2019 might be the least treatment ever.

Ron discussed a new service option he is currently able to offer. This is mechanical harvesting of weeds on the lake. The process cuts and removes weeds from the lake, for deposit on nearby land. The process, like treatment application, is regulated by the DNR. After discussion, Jeff Lewis moved that the LID Board investigate weed harvesting as a mitigation strategy – up to a maximum cost of \$10,000 for a one-time pilot.

Adam thanked Mike for the LID update and returned to the Lake Association.

Adam asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the Fall, 2018 CWLA meeting. It was so moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Adam asked Jeanne Lindholm to present the Treasurer's Report. It was as follows as of May 30, 2019:

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| \$2,956 | 6-month CD |
| 7,096.32 | 7-month CD |
| 11,147.46 | Checking |

Checking account expenses since August 2018 report:

| | | |
|-----------------|--------|--|
| JoAnn Lewis | 17.04 | Fall brunch |
| Joyce Grant | 119.36 | Fall brunch |
| Mary Tougas | 100.00 | St. Mathias room rental |
| Jeanne Lindholm | 52.25 | Printing and postage for fall newsletter |
| USPS | 82.00 | Post office box rental |
| LARA | 50.00 | Membership (Crow Wing County Lakes and Rivers Alliance |

The Treasurer's report was approved as delivered.

Joyce Grant reported on activities planned for the 4th of July. These include a Fun Walk/Run once again coordinated by the Stadums on July 4th and Music on the Point by King's Ransom, scheduled for July 5. There was discussion about a Boat Parade on the 4th. Pat Altrichter challenged those in attendance that if there was interest, she would help coordinate the efforts.

Adam asked if there was any additional old business and hearing none, moved on to new business.

Adam reminded everyone one of the on-line bill payment application for Association dues available on the Lake Association webpage. He also called attention to the Crow Wing Community Facebook page. It's a great source of information – business and social – about activities around the lake.

Adam talked about a boat safety course to be offered on June 18 at the Fort Ripley Town Hall. The course is offered in cooperation with the Crow Wing County Sherriff. It will cover boating safety and regulations and will offer an on-the-water component. There is no charge for the class. As of the meeting, 22 young people had signed up.

There was discussion of waste bins that had suddenly appeared at the public access landing. There was confusion as to what the reason would have been to have them placed there and by whom. Some speculated it was for the ice fishing tournament on the lake in January or perhaps for the boat inspector who has been there this spring. There was, however, consensus that we ask Waste Management or remove them as they are an attractive nuisance.

Adam talked about the roles of Area Reps and solicited additional volunteers to take on these roles. Interested people can apply to the Lake Association email address. (crowwinglake@gmail.com)

There was discussion about the fix to Lennox Road by the creek. Not everyone thinks the work that was done actually solves the problem.

Adam then recognized Randy Bunny. Randy solicited interest in naming the creek that flows into Crow Wing lake from the north. He talked about the process required by the county and how members can participate. He is looking for people to work with him on this effort if there is interest.

There was a motion made to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned.

Volunteer Opportunities by Cindy Valentine

You can help the Lake Association and LID make a difference for our Lake. Volunteer to be an Area Rep by contacting crowwinglake@gmail.com. Area Reps are responsible for a portion of the lake near their home. They talk with neighbors about the work of the CWLA and LID, encourage them to come to meetings and occasionally, post material related to weed treatments on the lake. The effort requires a friendly smile and the ability to walk around your and your neighbor's yards.

Elections are coming up! Both the CWLA and LID have property owner officers and Board members. These roles require attendance at a few meetings throughout the year, as well as a willingness to follow up with other LIDs and Lake Associations to seek information about their efforts. LID officers also work with County staff to meet their requirements.

CWLA Officers are up for election at the Spring 2020 meeting. LID officers and Board are up for election at the Fall 2020 meeting. Ballots for each election will be included in the Newsletter sent out immediately prior to the meeting. To nominate yourself or willing volunteer, send an email to crowwinglake@gmail.com.

Shoreland Management Resources by Cindy Valentine

How we manage our shoreline can impact the quality of the water in our lake. Plants in your yard can absorb nutrients that leach out of the soil and would otherwise run into the lake. The nutrients help plants grow in your yard, but unfortunately also fertilize the aquatic plants that grow in the lake. Following are some on-line resources for you to explore if you would like to learn more.

Score your Shore – DNR provides a tool to help you evaluate the lakeshore habitat conditions on your lot.

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/scoreyourshore/index.html>

Crow Wing County provides support and guidance for lakeshore property owners who might want to help the lake with their approach to their shoreline. The following document provides a nice synopsis of their approach and programs. They might even help you pay for some of it!

<http://www.crowwing.us/DocumentCenter/View/14827/Small-Lake-Management?bidid=>

Pay your annual dues on-line at <http://www.crowwinglake.org>

See you August 24th in St. Mathias!

