

Crystal Lake & Watershed Association
Annual Meeting
Saturday, July 19, 2014
Community Building, Congregational Summer Assembly
Pilgrim, MI

MINUTES

Attendance: 118 proxies submitted; 74 additional members registered in person; total of 192 eligible votes. (Additional non-members in attendance and members present in person who had previously submitted proxies were not counted.)

Call to order:

President Joel Buzzell called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. He announced that a quorum of members (including proxies) was present. He thanked the Congregational Summer Assembly for the use of its meeting space.

Minutes:

The minutes from the 2013 annual meeting have been reviewed and have been posted on the CLWA website. The formal actions taken were the election of new board members and officers. Reading of the minutes was waived without objection, and they were approved.

President's report:

President Buzzell introduced the members of the board of directors who were present. He reported that the CLWA is in good shape, with various active projects. He expressed appreciation for the financial support that makes this work possible, and urged all non-members present to join the organization and to encourage others to do so. A big concern this year has been the high lake levels, which has prompted the Association to take action in this area.

Treasurer's report:

Treasurer David Appleford reported that the Association's finances are strong and that it is operating on budget. The endowment has increased by \$25,000 this year. Revenue last year increased by \$45,000, most of which was spent on construction and installation of the boat washing station at the new DNR boating access site. He stressed that the CLWA depends on available revenue to accomplish its work.

Committee reports:

Development – Joel Buzzell reported that funds have recently been raised to install an automated lake level monitoring system at the Outlet. Continual results are electronically displayed so that needed adjustments can be made by the County Drain Commissioner in a timely fashion.

Education and Communication – Chair Alan Marble recognized retiring Chair Stacy L. Daniels, who has overseen the work of this committee for many years. Marble gave an overview of the committee's work and noted that it is always looking for new members.

Water Quality – Chair Hugh Walton reported that the committee has recently been restructured and has an active group of members. One of their goals is to expand boat washing facilities to other locations around the lake. They are currently supporting regular testing for *E. coli* at the Beulah and Frankfort (Bellows Park) beaches.

Zoning and Land Use – Chair Ed Hoogterp described their work on the Betsie River/Crystal Lake Watershed Management Plan, which is about halfway toward completion. This plan will help identify problems early that need addressing. Main components include: (1) a random sample survey of 1,000 property owners; (2) seeking long-term solutions for the contamination and sedimentation at the east end of Crystal Lake; (3) a complete (22 miles) visual shoreline survey of Crystal Lake.

Nominating committee report and election of officers and board members:

President Buzzell expressed appreciation to the at-large board members who are retiring: Bill Beck and Jana Way.

The nominating committee, chaired by Alan Marble, presented the following slate and had distributed brief résumés of the nominees. Nominees present were introduced.

Officers for two-year terms (to 2016):

- President – Joel Buzzell (for reelection)
- Secretary – Ellen Herscher (for reelection)

At-large board members for three-year terms (to 2017):

- Richard Cassard (reelection)
- Rick Cosaro (reelection)
- Charles H. (Chuck) King IV
- Tom Kucera
- Ann Pepper

At-large board member for two-year term (to 2016):

- Wanda Shreiner (reelection)

At-large board member for one-year term (to 2015):

- Susan Brown

The nominations were seconded by Bob Appleford; there were no nominations from the floor. The slate was elected.

New Business: Presentation of Crystal Circle Award

President Buzzell presented this year's Crystal Circle Award to Bob and Susan Schmidt. In making the award, he stressed that an organization like the CLWA needs good volunteers to be successful and its financial health needs to be solid. Mr. Schmidt, who served as CLWA Treasurer for many years, played an important role in this, while Mrs. Schmidt helped the organization in numerous ways. Mr. Schmidt responded that working with the CLWA has been one of his most rewarding experiences.

Adjournment:

The business meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Informational program:***What is the CLWA doing to reduce swimmer's itch?***

Ted Fisher, Chair of the Crystal Lake Swimmer's Itch Partnership, explained the cycle of infestation that causes swimmer's itch, an interdependent chain among humans, snails, and waterfowl (on Crystal Lake, primarily common mergansers). He stressed the negative financial impact that this parasite has on a community, discouraging recreation and tourism. The CLSIP program consists of five components: hunting mergansers during the fall season, lake-wide pyrotechnics to discourage merganser nesting in the spring, lakebed raking to disrupt snails, repellent product testing, and public education through signs, pamphlets and media. He thanked the Congregational Assembly for the support they have provided on their beach, which has become a prime "laboratory" for collecting invaluable data. Volunteers are always welcome to participate in these activities.

Al Flory described the Partnership's study of Swimmer's Itch Guard, a product applied to the skin to interrupt the human element of the cycle. A double-blind test conducted in the summer of 2012 found that the product did reduce the incidence of SI, but by less than 50% rather than the "100% effectiveness" claimed by the manufacturer. Longer time spent in the water and more in shallow water were variables that increased the severity of the reaction. Additional data was collected in 2013 at the Congregational Summer Assembly beach, which revealed no differences between time of day or temperature of the water, but found greater incidence when wind was high and from the northeast (onshore). The CSA is continuing to collect data in 2014. The Partnership hopes to conduct similar testing with new products in 2015.

Lois M. Verbrugge, Professor Emeritus, University of Michigan, summarized the extensive literature research she has conducted on worldwide experiences with swimmer's itch. Most work has been done on the snail element of the cycle (easier to capture than waterfowl), and little on the human aspect. Virtually nothing has been done on prevention. Most research has been done in Europe, where SI has apparently existed for centuries, although its incidence may be increasing (due to climate change?) Unfortunately this disease is a low priority on the public

health agenda, not considered a serious problem. The greater concern is with tourism and economic effects. There is a major need for serious scientific study of SI risk factors and prevention strategies.

The informational program concluded at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellen Herscher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ellen Herscher, Secretary

(Minutes approved July 18, 2015)