

Crystal Lake & Watershed Association  
Annual Meeting  
Saturday, July 18, 2015  
Community Building, Congregational Summer Assembly  
Pilgrim, MI

MINUTES

**Attendance: 169 proxies submitted; 92 additional members registered in person; total of 261 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 2014 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. With the boat wash at the Mollineaux Road access site, which is being staffed by two paid attendants, the organization now has more hard assets. Regular water quality testing continues. Last summer the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality cut its budget for E. coli testing at the two Crystal Lake public beaches (Beulah and Bellows/Frankfort) and the CLWA provided the funds to maintain regular testing. The automated lake level monitoring system at the Crystal Lake Outlet is operating. The search for effective swimmer's itch control continues to be a major focus of attention: CLWA is expanding its support for research and monitoring the programs taking place on Higgins Lake. Buzzell stressed the importance of the swimmer's itch data being collected at the Congregational Assembly beach. The Crystal Lake/Betsie River Watershed Management Plan is almost complete: this report will help guide future directions for the CLWA and other bodies, and will help leverage grant funding for its priorities.

Buzzell 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.

**Treasurer's report:**

The financial Statement for 2014 was distributed. Treasurer David Appleford reported that the Association's finances are strong and that its fiscal house is in order. Its assets and payroll are

expanding. The main source of the CLWA's income is membership dues and donations. He encouraged non-members to join, and encouraged all to volunteer in support of the various projects – everyone's help is needed.

**Committee reports:**

Development – Joel Buzzell reported that swimmer's itch research and control will be the main purpose of upcoming fund raising.

Education and Communication – Chair Ellen Herscher described the role of the committee as educating the public about the special qualities of Crystal Lake and communicating what the CLWA is doing to protect and preserve those qualities. She encouraged everyone to stop by the CLWA booth during local art fairs and provide feedback on their concerns and interests. Ideas for the newsletter are welcome, and CLWA can provide speakers for groups.

Water Quality – Chair Hugh Walton thanked his active committee members, especially Jim Hamp working on invasive species and Ted Fisher on swimmer's itch. New initiatives are remediation of the erosion problem at Bellows Beach and other road ends around Crystal Lake. Mike Jones continues the water quality testing program, which provides data going back into the 1960s and thus enables long term monitoring of the state of the lake.

Zoning and Land Use – Chair Ed Hoogterp noted that everything they do is related to water quality as well, which is affected by land use such as pavement, erosion, and fertilizer. They are collaborating with the Michigan Shoreland Stewardship program, which is currently working on a website for educating and evaluating personal land use.

All the committee chairs encouraged interested volunteers to join them. Written copies of committee descriptions were available at the meeting.

**Nominating committee report and election of officers and board members:**

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

Officers for two-year terms (to 2017):

Vice President – James Hamp (for reelection)

Treasurer – David Appleford (for reelection)

At-large board members for three-year terms (to 2018):

Catherine Boshier

Susan Brown (reelection)

Alan Marble (reelection)

Michael Musgrave  
David Wynne

At-large board member for one-year term (to 2016):  
Stacy L. Daniels (reelection)

The nominations were seconded by Steve Stephens; there were no nominations from the floor. The slate was elected.

**Adjournment:**

There being no other business, the business meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

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**INFORMATIONAL PROGRAM:**

***Swimmer's itch update on current research and programs***

Moderator Joel Buzzell introduced a panel consisting of: Ted Fisher, Chair, Crystal Lake Swimmer's Itch Partnership; Madelyn Messner, M.S. candidate in Biology, Oakland University, who has been carrying out research on swimmer's itch this summer on Crystal Lake and seven other lakes; Alan Flory, DVM, MS, Univ. of Minnesota, who has conducted testing of swimmer's itch repellent products; and Ed Hoogterp, co-author, Betsie River/Crystal Lake Watershed Management Plan. Mr. Buzzell also recognized Leslie Ritter, waterfront director at the Congregational Summer Assembly, for her dedicated work in collecting invaluable data at that beach.

Mr. Buzzell took questions from the floor which were answered by various panel members.

Despite the fact that SI has been widespread for over fifty years, little research has been done. The one method commonly used for control – using copper sulfate to kill the snails – has highly detrimental side effects: CLWA's approach is to find a solution that preserves the lake habitat. Glen Lake has over a decade of experience with trying to decrease the number of nesting mergansers, both by trapping and removal and pyrotechnic harassment, and this has succeeded in reducing the numbers, although SI is still present. Shooting mergansers is limited by the legal hunting season and tends to target the transient birds, not those who will nest. Part of Ms. Messner's research is aimed at better understanding the parasite's biology and behavior: it is believed to be affected by season, temperature and time of day.

Ms. Messner emphasized the importance of finding effective methods for protecting human swimmers from being infected, such as barrier products applied to the skin. Once the cercariae have entered through the skin, nothing prevents the allergic reaction in sensitive individuals. Some cercariae burrow into the skin immediately, so showering or toweling off after swimming has no effect on those. The brochure prepared by the CLSIP, available for free throughout the area, lists various products that have been used: these results are mainly anecdotal, since very

little scientific testing has been done. Such testing and statistical analysis is extremely expensive. Use of antihistamines has had good results on the Congregational Assembly waterfront.

Mr. Fisher described the newly formed Michigan Swimmer's Itch Partnership, which has brought together thirteen lake associations. By working together, this larger group will have more influence on governmental entities and expand the amount of research that can be done. For example, Higgins Lake is carrying out a large-scale project this summer that includes removing snails, trapping mergansers, and testing other bird species: their results will be helpful to all lakes.

Audience members praised the work that the CLWA is doing to combat swimmer's itch. Panelists urged swimmers and property owners to follow the suggestions in the brochure (not feeding mergansers, etc.), and to volunteer to participate in the spring pyrotechnic program. Volunteers will be needed for future product testing as well.

The informational program concluded at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellen Herscher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Ellen Herscher, Secretary

**(Minutes approved July 23, 2016)**