

Crystal Lake & Watershed Association
Annual Meeting
Saturday, July 21, 2018
Community Building, Congregational Summer Assembly
Pilgrim, MI

MINUTES

Attendance: 168 proxies submitted; 135 additional members registered in person; total of 303 eligible votes. (Additional non-members in attendance and members present in person who had previously submitted proxies were not counted.)

Call to order:

President David Wynne called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Secretary Ellen Herscher announced that a quorum of members (including proxies) was present. Wynne thanked the Congregational Summer Assembly for the use of its meeting space and for its ongoing collaboration, especially on swimmer's itch projects.

Minutes:

The minutes from the 2017 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 Wynne introduced the board members in attendance, and thanked retiring board member Alan Marble for his years of service and expertise. Wynne reviewed the CLWA's primary initiatives, aside from swimmer's itch and aquatic plant survey that will be the topics of the main program. These projects include: invasive plant monitoring and control, operation of the boat washing station at the DNR Crystal Lake boating access site, water quality monitoring as part of the Michigan Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program, protection of shoreline through lake level monitoring, participation in educational events and outreach including the annual middle school Walkabout and the boat washing Landing Blitz. He urged members to renew their memberships and encourage new members to join in supporting this work which preserves Crystal Lake, this vital resource.

Treasurer's report:

The financial statement for 2017 was distributed. Treasurer Ronald Ahrns reported that the account balances for 2017 were positive. He presented charts showing the distribution of CLWA program expenditures from 2016 until present (mid-2018), with swimmer's itch control as the major cost (36%). General water quality programs were second in expense, with the majority of that spent for operation of the boat washing

station at the DNR public boating access site. Total average costs per year for all programs was \$121,000.

Ahrns emphasized that the CLWA is a volunteer-driven organization, with countless hours of volunteer time going toward the implementation of its ongoing operations.

Nominating committee report and election of officers and board members:

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

Officers for two-year terms (to 2020):

President – David Wynne (for reelection)
Secretary – Ellen Herscher (for reelection)

At-large board members for three-year terms (to 2021):

Catherine "Tassie" Boshier (reelection)
Susan Kirkpatrick
Barbara Leonard (reelection)
Tim Reznich (reelection)
Kristin Tebo

The nominations were seconded; there were no nominations from the floor. The slate was elected. President Wynne thanked the nominating committee for its work over the past year.

New Business: Presentation of Crystal Circle Award

President Wynne described the CLWA's Crystal Circle Award, which is given to individuals who have contributed their experience and intellect to the CLWA and who have done so in a way that significantly moved the organization and its mission forward. He announced that the Board of Directors has voted to present the Award this year to Edward Hoogterp, who served as CLWA President from 2008 to 2012.

Presenting the award to Hoogterp, Wynne read the following citation:

"The Board of Directors of the Crystal Lake & Watershed Association is pleased to present its Crystal Circle Award to Edward Hoogterp in recognition of years of service providing leadership, wisdom, creativity and dedication that have contributed significantly to its mission to protect Crystal Lake now for generations to come."

Adjournment:

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

INFORMATIONAL PROGRAM:

1. CLWA Aquatic Plant Survey 2016-2018

Hugh Walton, chair of the CLWA Water Quality committee, introduced Jim Hamp, member of the CLWA board of directors, and Dennis Wiand, Zero Gravity Aerial, who will be completing the final stage of the aquatic plant survey this August. They had also set up an exhibit of their results that audience members were able to view before and after the meeting.

Hamp explained that they are using the "point intercept" method of surveying, using a rake toss from a surface operated boat. This is being supplemented with aerial drone photography by Zero Gravity Aerial. The drone is able to check the surface results and observe deeper areas not accessible by rake toss, while rake toss is necessary to identify the specific types of plants. The entire lake is being surveyed. Both invasive and native plants must be documented, in order to record the complete plant diversity of the lake.

The most common plant in Crystal Lake is *Chara*, which is beneficial. The only invasive (bad) plant that has been identified is Eurasian watermilfoil, and this is still quite limited in extent, mainly affecting the east end of the lake in the area of the Beulah boat launch. It usually occurs in depths of 9-11 feet. Only about 4.14 acres of milfoil have been found in the two completed years of survey, with none occurring at the west end. Hamp and Wiand estimate there is less than 6 to 7 acres total in Crystal. At this time the growth does not appear to be aggressive.

Eradicating this invasive is likely impossible, so the only course of action is controlling it. (For this reason, preventing the introduction of invasive plants into the lake in the first place – by careful boat washing, for example – is extremely critical.) Various control methods have been tried in other lakes, most of them complex and expensive. Herbicide is likely the most practical approach if treatment is decided upon for Crystal Lake. Whether or not treatment is undertaken at this time, survey should be repeated every 3-5 years to monitor the growth. Reducing the nutrients entering the lake will also help prevent the rapid growth of undesirable aquatic plants.

2. Swimmer's Itch Solutions for Crystal Lake: Action and Results 2017-2018

Ted Fisher, chair of the Crystal Lake Swimmer's Itch Partnership, reviewed the background of the control program being carried out over the past two years. Preliminary reports are that the rate of swimmer's itch occurrence is significantly reduced this summer. He commended the Congregational Summer Assembly waterfront staff for their meticulous data recording. Costs for this program have been high, but local workers are being trained this year to continue the program in the future, with an expected reduction in costs. He also recognized the work of the Michigan Swimmer's Itch Partnership, of which the CLWA is a founding member, which has continued to foster the research that is still needed to understand the biology of this parasite.

Fisher introduced Dr. Randall DeJong of Swimmer's Itch Solutions LLC, a member of the team that was contracted by CLWA to carry out this year's program.

DeJong described what is known about the causes of swimmer's itch and how this relates to the way that control is being pursued. Common merganser ducklings have been found to host the highest concentration of itch-causing cercariae, so that it is important to trap and relocate them within the first two weeks after they hatch. In contrast, the infection rate in snails is very low: the sheer number of snails would make their removal impossible in any case. Swimming cercariae live less than one day, so the time in which they can find a host (avian or human) is very short.

In 2017 Swimmer's Itch Solutions trapped and relocated 14 broods (126 birds total) on Crystal Lake; in 2018, so far, they have trapped 16 broods (141 birds). Relocation sites have been approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and each has a capacity limit. Studies of stagnicolae snail samples this year have shown a clear reduction in the infection rate from the study done in 2016. A few trapped adult female mergansers are being fitted with GPS tracking devices, as part of a project to learn more about their behavior.

The informational program concluded at 11:45 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 20, 2019)