

Crystal Lake & Watershed Association  
Annual Meeting  
Saturday, July 20, 2019  
Community Building, Congregational Summer Assembly  
Pilgrim, MI

MINUTES

**Attendance: 195 proxies submitted; 81 additional members registered in person; total of 276 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 2018 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, and the presentation of the Crystal Circle Award to Edward Hoogterp. 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 Ted Fisher for his years of service and expertise, and also thanked two board members who have resigned, Rory Heckman due to illness and Tim Reznich who is now employed by the CLWA for swimmer's itch control. Wynne reviewed the CLWA's primary initiatives and ongoing programs. These projects include: invasive plant monitoring and control, operation of the boat washing station at the DNR Crystal Lake boating access site, swimmer's itch control and research, monthly water quality monitoring as part of the Michigan Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program, protection of shoreline through lake level monitoring, promoting enforcement of zoning requirements and lake-friendly land management practices, and participation in educational events and outreach including the annual middle school Walkabout, the boat washing Landing Blitz, the *Crystal Whitecaps* newsletter, and website. He highlighted the progress that has been made in reducing swimmer's itch on Crystal Lake.

Wynne introduced John Ransom of the Benzie Conservation District, and mentioned several collaborative projects between the BCD and CLWA. Ransom had on display the instruments he uses to test lake water quality on behalf of the CLWA.

Wynne 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 2018 was distributed. Treasurer Ronald Ahrns reported that the CLWA underwent an audit during the past year, which resulted in a clean report. He presented charts showing the allocation of CLWA program expenditures from 2016 through 2018, with swimmer's itch control as the major expenditure (33%). He noted that swimmer's itch costs are declining, now that the CLWA has its own trained and licensed control team, and does not need to hire an outside contractor. Formerly swimmer's itch was averaging \$40,000 per year, and now is running about \$25,000. General water quality programs were a close 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 cost per year for all programs was \$113,000.

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 2021):

Vice President – Susan Brown (for reelection)  
Treasurer – Ronald Ahrns (for reelection)

At-large board members for three-year terms (to 2022):

Bruce Gerhart (reelection)  
James Hamp (reelection)  
Dirk Nelson  
Wanda Shreiner (reelection)  
Hugh Walton (reelection)

At-large board member to fill a vacant two-year term (2019-2021):

Mark Walton

At-large board member to fill a vacant one-year term (2019-2020):

Steve Stephens

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 Ted Fisher, who is retiring from the board of directors after leading the CLWA's swimmer's itch research and control program for ten years.

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

*"The Board of Directors of the Crystal Lake & Watershed Association is pleased to present its Crystal Circle Award to Ted Fisher in recognition of his years of tireless service, organizational leadership, creativity and dedication to the combating and control of swimmer's itch. He has contributed significantly to the CLWA's mission to protect Crystal Lake now for generations to come."*

### **Adjournment:**

There being no other business, the business meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

### **INFORMATIONAL PROGRAM:**

#### ***Use of Aerial Drones for Inland Lake Protection***

Jim Hamp, member of the CLWA Water Quality committee, briefly described the CLWA's 3-year aquatic plant survey, which was completed in 2018. The results showed that Eurasian watermilfoil is the only adverse invasive plant present in Crystal Lake, totaling about 6 acres in extent and concentrated around boat launching sites. He emphasized that it is just as important to identify and monitor the beneficial native plants in the lake, to make sure that they continue to be healthy and diverse. The survey initially used the point intercept method, using a rake toss from a surface operated boat, but since 2017 that was supplemented by the use of aerial drone photography with digital enhancement. In the future they plan to use remote underwater vehicles in order to inspect lake bottom deeper than the aerial drone can detect (ca. 30 feet). Future treatment options are now being discussed.

Dennis Wiand, Zero Gravity Aerial, described the methods that he has used to conduct a shoreline survey of Glen Lake. First he does a high flyover, and then does a closer inspection of the shoreline where he can identify features that are possibly problematic, such as seawalls and cladophora, and take still photos. Advantages of using the drone are a more complete view and the ability to collect historical data to form a baseline for future monitoring.

Rob Karner, Watershed Biologist, Glen Lake Association, discussed how his lake association is using the survey data to manage and protect the lake. The survey is integrated with GPS data so

that locations can be determined, but Karner emphasized that the privacy of the data is closely guarded and only accessed by authorized persons and the land owner. Glen Lake's survey was done in 2017 and will be repeated this year to detect changes. Some of the features that they identify include shoreline erosion, irrigation, road ends, seawalls, fish habitat, drain pipes, greenbelts, cladophora, lawns, beach sanding, and numerous others. This data forms the basis of an educational campaign that includes home visits and presentations to public meetings and local authorities. The objective is to build awareness and knowledge of threats to lake water quality.

CLWA President Wynne closed the meeting by announcing that Wiand is undertaking a baseline shoreline survey of Crystal Lake this summer. He fielded questions from the audience. Topics raised included depositing sand fill on the CSA beach, fertilization of lawns, zebra mussels, E. coli testing, and rain gardens. Wynne encouraged those present to visit the demonstration tables at the back of the room, where Wiand had set up video of his surveying methods and John Ransom was displaying his water quality testing equipment.

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 style with a large initial "E".

Ellen Herscher, Secretary

**(Minutes approved by mail ballot July 18, 2020)**