

Crystal Lake & Watershed Association
Annual Meeting
Saturday, July 23, 2022
Community Building, Congregational Summer Assembly
Pilgrim, MI

MINUTES

Attendance: 52 present; 100 ballots returned by mail; total of 152 eligible votes.

Call to order:

President David Wynne called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. The Secretary reported that the proxies received represent a quorum of voting members. Wynne introduced the board members present and thanked the board of directors: they are all volunteers, and it is their work that enables the CLWA to function.

Minutes:

The draft minutes from the 2021 annual meeting had been reviewed and posted on the CLWA website. The formal actions taken were the election of new board members and officers and a change to the Bylaws. The minutes had been approved by mail ballot.

President's report:

President Wynne introduced Lindsay Saldebar who is a co-organizer of the second annual "Keep Crystal Clear" benefit event, which will be held on July 30. Saldebar spoke briefly about why she and Tommy Heidt wanted to support the CLWA and encouraged all to attend. All proceeds will benefit the CLWA.

Wynne stressed that the CLWA's focus is on the *future*. He presented a PowerPoint surveying the CLWA's major initiatives, ongoing programs and their results. These projects include:

- Invasive aquatic plant monitoring and control. The aquatic plant survey done in 2016-2018 found over seven acres of infestations of Eurasian watermilfoil at several locations in the lake, especially the east end. Treatment of this aggressive invasive began last year and has been repeated this year with a treatment in late June. The first round of treatments showed significant results, with major reductions in extent and density. One additional treatment is planned for 2022 and the results will then be assessed to determine future actions;
- Operation of the boat washing station at the DNR Crystal Lake boating access site. This deters other invasives from entering the lake. It is the law in Michigan and local townships to clean boats after being operated in other waters;
- Swimmer's itch control, based on a scientific study of swimmer's itch vectors done in 2016 at a cost of \$60,000. This program, carried out over the last five years, consists of

humanely trapping and relocating the merganser ducks which are the carriers of the SI parasite on Crystal Lake. It has proven successful in reducing the incidence of SI. Unfortunately, this year due to the presence of avian influenza in Michigan, the Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) cancelled all permits for the relocation of wildfowl in the state, bringing the CLWA program to a halt. The inability to relocate merganser broods this year is likely to lead to a resurgence of SI. CLWA is continuing its research on *stagnicola* snails, the other SI host on Crystal Lake, and hopes to resume capture and relocation in 2023;

- Participation in educational events and outreach including the *Crystal Whitecaps* newsletter and website. The CLWA's annual middle school Walkabout, which had been on hiatus for two years due to Covid-19, returned in May 2022. CLWA has also resumed full participation in local art fairs;
- Partnering with the Benzie Conservation District for monthly water quality monitoring. Over 50 years of data have been collected from Crystal Lake. The annual Cooperative Lakes Monitoring report is posted on the CLWA website;
- Improving and maintaining watershed health: supporting the village of Beulah's non-point source grant – including qPCR testing of enteric bacteria that originates from Cold Creek and with matching funds; promoting lake-friendly land management practices and septic system health through drone-based shoreline survey and support for strong zoning;
- protection of shoreline through lake level monitoring. The CLWA installed and maintains the automatic monitor at the Outlet, which provides the data for the County Drain Commissioner in accordance with court-ordered levels; these live readings are posted on the CLWA website.

President Wynne stressed that all CLWA's work is supported by its membership and donations. Questions from the audience addressed septic systems, merganser trapping, ice buildup over the winter, and mechanical methods for Eurasian watermilfoil control.

Treasurer's report:

The financial statement for 2021 was distributed and is posted on line. Treasurer Bruce Gerhart reported that the CLWA is in healthy financial condition. He presented charts showing the distribution of last year's expenditures. Sixty-seven percent went toward water quality initiatives and the boat wash operation. There were \$10,000 in legal expenses last year, an unusual cost due to defending against an individual's objections to CLWA's invasive species control methods. This year's expenses will reflect increased water quality monitoring and testing.

Nominating committee report and election of officers and board members:

On behalf of the Nominating committee Wanda Shreiner presented the results of the on-line election; brief résumés of the nominees had been distributed.

Officers for two-year terms (to 2024):

President – Susan Brown

Secretary – Ellen Herscher (for reelection)

At-large board members for three-year terms (to 2025):

James Hamp (reelection)

Dirk Nelson (reelection)

Wanda Shreiner (reelection)

Hugh Walton (reelection)

David Wynne

At-large board member to complete a vacant term (to 2024)

Mary Ferens

The slate had been elected by mail ballot. President Wynne thanked the Nominating committee for its work over the past year.

Old Business/New Business: none.

Questions:

President Wynne opened the floor to audience questions. They mainly concerned Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, and groundwater.

Wynne thanked all for coming and encouraged those present to join committees and participate in the protection of the lake. As he is retiring as President, he noted how enjoyable the experience has been and how much he has learned.

Adjournment:

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 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 by mail ballot July 22, 2023)