

Crystal Lake & Watershed Association
Annual Meeting
Saturday, July 22, 2023
Mills Community House, Benzonia, Michigan
and via Zoom Teleconference

DRAFT MINUTES

Attendance: ca. 90 present; 102 ballots returned by mail; total of 162 eligible votes.

Call to order:

President Sue Brown called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. The Secretary reported that the proxies and votes received constitute a quorum of voting members.

Election report:

The draft minutes from the 2022 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 Secretary reported the results of the 2023 election, which was by mail ballot. The minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting were approved and the slate of officers and board members put forward by the Nominating committee was elected.

Officers for two-year terms (to 2025):

Vice President – Mark Walton (for reelection)

Treasurer – Bruce Gerhart (for reelection)

At-large board members for three-year terms (to 2026):

Ron Ahrns (reelection)

Rick Cosaro (reelection)

Tom Kucera (reelection)

Greg Nowell

Steve Stephens (reelection)

President Brown thanked the Nominating committee for its work over the past year. She 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.

Presentation of Crystal Circle Award:

President Brown described the significance of the Crystal Circle Award, which honors those who have made exceptional contributions to the Crystal Lake & Watershed Association, those whose energy, intellect, experience, and dedication have helped the

organization advance its mission in significant ways. She announced that the CLWA Board of Directors unanimously voted to present the award this year to Dave Wynne. In presenting the award, she noted that what is remarkable about him is his continuous effort to go beyond his role and get engaged in the nuts and bolts of detailed activities and projects initiated by CLWA. He has done this for many years while balancing the CLWA with other voluntary commitments throughout the community. In accepting the award, Wynne thanked his wife Jan for her continual help and support.

President's report:

President Brown introduced Board member Coleman Schindler who is a co-organizer of the third annual "Keep Crystal Clear" benefit event, which will be held on July 29. He spoke briefly about why he and the "Junior Committee" support the CLWA and encouraged all to attend.

Next President Brown introduced John Ransom, whom the CLWA has hired to be its part-time Lake Biologist. Continuing on the staff of the Benzie Conservation District, Ransom has already been performing water quality monitoring on behalf of the CLWA. He will take on additional duties concerned with water quality and shoreline stewardship. Ransom encouraged members to get to know him and invited them to view his poster exhibit on his work after the meeting.

Brown's report on CLWA programs began with an explanation of "what is a watershed," a term that may be unfamiliar. It is part of the CLWA's name because the use of the land surrounding Crystal Lake affects the quality of the water, and thus is a major concern of the organization.

She reviewed the recent work of the various CLWA committees, who have been very active over the past year. Some new initiatives include: implementation of the ability to do mass emailings to members (Development); addition of a salt-testing field trip for high school students (Education/Communication); zoning amendments and monitoring (Land Use); constructing a new data base for water quality data that will show long-term trends (Water Quality).

President Brown stressed that all CLWA's work is supported by its membership and donations and she thanked the members for their support. She also urged them to be active as the "eyes and ears" of the CLWA – reporting concerns and observations such as swimmer's itch cases and improper development. A phone call or email to CLWA may be able to head off a larger problem.

Treasurer's report:

The financial statement for 2022 was distributed and is posted on line. Treasurer Bruce Gerhart reported that the CLWA continues in healthy financial condition. He presented charts showing the distribution of last year's expenditures. Last year fifty percent went toward water quality initiatives and the boat wash operation. The approved budget for

2023 reflects several new projects: a 43% increase for Water Quality (Lake Biologist, data base development); 63% increase for Land Use (greater need for legal consultation); and 27% increase for Development (implementation of new Association Management System). If the merganser relocation program can be resumed, that will add about \$25,000. CLWA's investments are allocated conservatively.

Questions:

Questions from the audience mainly concerned development around the lake: controlling more construction on the hillsides, mitigating the damage done by the Sunkissed Hills development and preventing similar construction in the future. CLWA representatives urged members to support updates and enforcement of zoning ordinances, attend township Planning Commission meetings, and look for posted permits on new construction.

There was also strong support for efforts to resume the merganser relocation program in order to control swimmer's itch.

Adjournment:

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 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