

2020 CLWA Annual General Meeting

MINUTES

Sunday, August 9, 2020 @ Arm Lake Recreation Center 2:00 pm

1. Attendance and welcome. Bev outlined Covid 19 precautions; masks and hand sanitizer were made available; a CLWA member handed out materials; cabin owners sat well apart in chairs they brought themselves. The sign in sheet included phone numbers which will be kept for the required 14 days. Materials handed out were the agenda, minutes from the 2019 AGM, the new depth map and draft copies of the Proposed Disturbance Standard. Also made available were handouts from many AEP organizations and copies of the Area Structure Plan.
2. CLWA Executive present: Rene Rajotte, President, Darlene Baughan, Treasurer, Laurie Fuller Secretary. Directors: Doug Jackson, Wayne Mercier, Bruce McCluskey, Bob Bishop, Rob Sawyer, Stuart Warriner, Bev Brilz.
3. Financial Report, presented by Darlene Baughan. (As attached) No questions. Motion to accept Treasurer's Report; Bruce McCluskey, 2nd – Stuart Warriner. Carried.
4. Election of board members; all board members agreed to have their names stand for another year. No cabin owners put forward nominations. Bob Snyder made a motion to cease nominations and accept existing members. Fred Calvert 2nd. Carried.
5. Acceptance of 2019 minutes; cabin owners reviewed the 2019 minutes. Diane Jackson made a motion to accept them as written. Bonnie Magnan 2nd. Carried

6. Old Business

- I. MD response to 2019 concerns: Presented by Rene; CLWA members, Rene, Laurie and Doug had a spring meeting with Ted Wilkinsen (Councillor), and Kim Christensen (Planner). Topics as follows;

Spring melt and rain runoff is a concern as it adds to the nutrient load of the lake and can be a large driver of algae outbreaks. Rene reported that there are 3 main areas of concern; the slope towards the public beach (Miller's hill), the boat launch, and around the Massey cabin #122 on the north side. Ted, Rene and Doug walked these areas in the spring and discussed possible solutions. This is a complex problem as the lake is so far below the surrounding agricultural fields. Ted and the MD are consulting with Environment to see if they can begin to implement corrections. In the meantime, larger gravel is being used at the boat launch to slow the water and minimize the sediment that enters the lake, and discussions have begun with cabin owners below Miller's hill on the West side.

Sewage – Rene and Laurie re-informed Ted that a follow up to the 2000 inspection has never been done. Reports of non-compliant cabins and outhouses still in use continue. Discussion: Cabin owners said they would like everyone to be compliant as per the area structure plan. The MD is hesitant to undertake a new inspection. Everyone agrees that the ASP should be enforced by the MD. It is not the job of neighbours or the CLWA to be the police on this. Cabin owners agree that education is very important and that the CLWA should continue with education as its mandate,

but to also let the MD know that they would like the Area Structure Plan enforced by the MD. Why can't they hire a by-law enforcement officer to check?

Speed limit: Rene reported that our request to have the speed limit around the lake reduced to 50 km/h was brought forward at an MD meeting but the councillors voted to leave the speed at 60, and place more signs warning of pedestrians on the road. Stuart showed a map of the speed limit and pedestrian signs. Discussion: 60 is too fast! Too many hills and sharp curves don't allow drivers to react if there are people on the road. There is an unmarked hidden intersection for cabin's 121-115 that is dangerous especially for vehicles with trailers entering the intersection. What about the trail? It isn't great for strollers, kids on bikes, many people prefer the hard top of the road. What about speed bumps at the beach? - not practical. Shouldn't the MD be promoting exercise and making it safe? Where is the shared road culture – pedestrians should be encouraged. Vote: to re-request the speed limit be lowered; 18 voted to ask for it to be lowered to 50, 2 voted to leave it 60, but have it lowered to 50 around the public beach. Question about why Greenshields road is only 80 Km/h – fatality a few years ago and there are no shoulders.

Gravel: Due to budget limitations, the MD will no longer be providing cabin owners with free gravel (previously one load once every 3 years was available) Discussion; general disappointment, some never knew this service was available.

Thanks: The MD once again paid for 2 members of the CLWA to attend the Alberta Lake Management Society conference, including their accommodation expenses. Ted and Kim also attended. This is very appreciated as it keeps everyone on the same page as to what's important for the health of the lake. The MD has also built a kiosk by the boat launch for brochures etc and has been very supportive of other CLWA initiatives

Emergency Services Access: Rene expressed cabin owners concern that the fire department had a big time delay in finding a cabin that had a fire last summer; The MD will review the maps of the lake access roads and meet with the emergency services teams to ensure a better method of how to get to each cabin is undertaken

- II. **Water Quality/Blue/Green Algae Update/ Lake Clean Up:** Presenters – Laurie, Doug and Bob. Many Alberta lakes have had blue-green algae outbreaks this year, but Clear Lake has had a very good summer, with many cabin owners commenting on how clear and crisp the water has been. Laurie saw one very small patch of algae in the corner where the run-off at the Massie cabin is an issue. Checks were made in all corners of the lake including the boat launch and public beach for algae and everywhere else was fine. Discussion: question was asked about whether a sample was sent away to be tested. Because the patch was so small and had dissipated within a couple of hours when the wind came up, no samples were taken, but the lake was watched very closely after that especially on warm still days, with no further signs of algae. Cabin owners were encouraged to minimize the risk to the lake of loading it with nutrients by stopping any sewage or grey water from seeping

in. Also not using fertilizer and preventing as much run-off on each individual lot is important. Doug reported that the clean-up of the spring area of the lake was a success, 3 large power poles that were still leaching creosote were hauled to the shore following which the MD took them away. A large load of black rotting vegetation was also removed from the area of the spring. Cabin owners are allowed to remove any vegetation that is dead from their area of the lake. To place and remove their piers/docks/boats in the spring and fall, cabin owners may remove weeds that restrict access for up to a 3m in width. (this is as per AEP permits for docks) Discussion: cabin owners thanked the CLWA for the clean-up.

- III. **Update on 2019 ALMS conference;** Presenters; Doug and Laurie. The ALMS conference was held at Chestermere Lake last fall. Topics included a general overview of Chestermere Lake itself, the importance of rain gardens, a grant given to Data Stream, an organization studying the entire watershed in the Eastern provinces; Updates from Respect our Lakes and ALMS; a workshop on phosphorous budgets and loading, info on a program at Sylvan lake targeting waste left on lakes by ice fishing, a study on conditions in lakes under the ice and a study that looks at lake ecosystems as sentinals as change. Some details were discussed, but Doug and Laurie are available for anyone that wishes to follow up on those topics. The ALMS conference is also a fantastic opportunity to network with other lake organizations.
- IV. **Membership Drive/Communication/ T-Shirts;** As of the AGM the CLWA had 108 members, which is a record. Thanks were given to everyone for their support. Discussion; we are stronger with membership, everyone liked the membership contests, hopefully we can have our barbeque next year. Feedback for any other ideas can be given by email; clwatershed@gmail.com As per suggestion at last year's AGM, the CLWA is selling t-shirts and hats to promote our organization and as a fund raiser. The T-Shirts are available at \$15.00, and the hats will hopefully be available next summer – due to Covid, they could not be produced this year because they require embroidery vs the t-shirts screening.
- V. **Clear Lake Signs;** Presenter; Laurie. Depth sign – see attached map. The depths on the map were approximated by using a depth finder and cross referencing by cabins in 4 directions. The depths corresponded well with the green areas on the map that indicate shallow areas. This info will be transferred on to a large map at the boat launch to encourage boaters to avoid the shallow areas, and 8 x 10's can be distributed so each cabin can have one, and they can be made available at Arm Lake for boaters. Discussion; meters vs feet – meters were voted. The MD will have a new satellite image this fall and we can compare the shallow areas. Question was asked about the welcome to Clear Lake sign that will replace the one knocked over a

few years ago. A draft will be sent out for feedback and we will try to get one put up next spring.

7. New Business

- I. **Reword CLWA Objectives #5, and #8;** Presenter; Rene. The board would like to change Objectives #'s 5 and 8 as we no longer physically maintain the hiking trail and the restrooms at the public beach. We will continue to communicate with the MD should the boat launch or beach pose any safety concerns that we are made aware of. The proposed wording will be emailed out and posted on the CLWA facebook page, and voted on at next year's AGM.

- II. **Associate membership for semi-waterfront cabins;** revision to CLWA By-Law #1 Presenter; Rene. Some of the cabins/lots in the back bay (Suley Subdivision), have asked to become members of the CLWA. Currently, our By-Law #1, states that lots must front the lake to be eligible to be a member. Could we change this by-law to include semi-water front lots (lots that have Municipal Reserve between them and the lake)? Discussion; Rene supports including those 6 lots, with the idea that providing education to them can only be good for the lake. Could they become Associate Members that gave them access to all education materials and functions of the CLWA, but not have a vote? Everyone agreed that was a good idea. Bruce McClusky made a motion that we re-write by-law #1 to reflect that. Carol Synder 2nd. More discussion: why can't they be full members? They have a large riparian area and should be included in everything the CLWA decides. The CLWA main mandate is to promote the health of the lake – why shouldn't they have voting privileges too?
Bruce amended his motion to allow them to be full members. Ryan Rinas 2nd. Carried. By-Law #1 will be re-written to reflect this and sent out to members for review. It will be voted on at the 2021 AGM. What about the lots between Faas and the boat launch? They have always been allowed to join, so allowing the back bay lots to join will make the rules the same for everyone. What about the pier at the beach? Is it semi-waterfront? Not according to the Disturbance Standards (as below), but this will be brought up with the MD.

- III. **Disturbance Standards;** Presenters; Rene, Doug, and Laurie. Since 2011, Alberta Environment and Parks have required cabin owners that place a pier/dock in a lake or along a river to apply for a permit. This was never implemented by the MD, so Clear Lake cabin owners have never had to undertake this process. As of this summer, AEP is replacing the permitting process with a set of Standards. These standards govern the length, size, placement, and configuration of docks and boat lifts. In late May, AEP did a webinar of the new Standards which Rene, Doug and Laurie attended. We (the CLWA) then shared the info with cabin owners via email and our facebook page. The standards were to have been implemented by June 15, but there was so much feedback (including ours), AEP has delayed this implementation. Any new info from AEP will be distributed to cabin owners by the

CLWA. Discussion: review of the standards; most cabins at the lake already have a working situation with their neighbours regarding their piers and boat lifts. How/why would this change? Once it is implemented, enforcement will be complaint driven so if you have agreement with your neighbour, no changes should be required. Any docks that are outside the parameters set forth in the guidelines may require a permit. Once the Disturbance Standard is finalized, we will have a better idea of how it is all going to work.

8. **Open discussion/AOB:** nothing additional was added.
9. T-Shirts were made available for purchase.

Meeting adjourned at 3:58

Thanks very much to Laurie and Len, and the Arm Lake Rec Center for their hospitality once again this year! CLWA t-shirts were presented to them as thanks.