

CCROA Annual Business Meeting Minutes
July 20, 2019

Present: Bob McGuffin, Omar Shabaz, David Fauntleroy, Susan Anderson, Greg Wenzel, Linda Hammer, Bob Warren, Roy Knoth, Ann Rapp, Tom Krautkramer, Dean Challed, Rod Brost, Eugene Clark, Joan Cavanaugh, Jay Sweney, Helen Hayhurst, and Gary Ebert.

Absent: Mark Johnson and Dean Stanton

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m. by President Bob McGuffin.

The minutes of the July 14, 2018 Business Meeting were read. On motion of Mary Congdon, seconded by Jim Boehme, the minutes were approved as written.

Cisco Chain of Lakes Flags

Melissa McGuffin stated that rather than continue to order and sell clothing, the board has opted to sell flags. She displayed a sample of a flag with the Cisco Chain of Lakes logo which CCROA is selling for \$15 each. We will be taking orders today during the picnic and until August 1. The flag is 2 ft. x 3 ft. and will include grommets for hanging.

Presentation by Denise Fauntleroy, ISCCW Educator

Bob introduced Denise Fauntleroy, ISCCW Educator. Denise quizzed the group on what ISCCW stands for: Invasive Species Control Coalition of Watersmeet, also known as Watersmeet Lake Guards. Bob stated that it is the law to clean boats and trailers before launching and the maximum fine is \$100. ISCCW is thankful for the Cisco Chain support. She stated that all of their 3 boat inspectors have returned. CCROA participated in the Michigan Landing Blitz and provided handouts. Denise stated that in 2018 ISCCW contacted 7,031 people, inspected 3,554 boats, washed 1,394 boats and had 30 educational events. They added a fourth boat washer to their fleet and put one on Northern Edge as they are inspecting boats for us. ISCCW is continuing with education work. They partnered with Iron County Lakes and Streams for a conference that was attended by approximately 80 people. Denise said that on June 17, 2020 they will hold a Shoreline Health and Restoration conference. Denise also stated that there is a grant opportunity on lakes with a native population of cisco and lake trout. Thousand Island Lake would be eligible for this grant. She also mentioned that the ISCCW Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 3, at 2:00 p.m., at the Ottawa Visitors Center, and they will have a film about ISCCW produced by Conserve School. Denise stated that ISCCW is looking for additional board members if anyone is interested. She will also have a table outside with samples of aquatic invasive species.

Bob commented that ISCCW is dependent on donations. They have a bigger scope and what they do is important.

Presentation by Eric Smith of Northern Michigan University

Bob introduced Eric Smith of Northern Michigan University who spoke about their high-speed internet. Eric stated that it started in 2008 when they found that students could only use computers while on campus. They built a network for students in communities around the UP. They went back to the FCC and in 2016 they began building internet around the UP hoping to get 120 communities when finished. Watersmeet is the first community project using the water tank as the base of operations. There is a tower east of Watersmeet and one in Stickley. Eric described how their service works and said that it is identical to Verizon and AT&T except that they are data only, no voice. Their goal is to provide affordable service to people in the area. All revenue goes back to improve the service. Eric stated that he would be available after the meeting to discuss specifics with anyone interested.

Report by Mike Rogers, Chairman of Watersmeet Township

Mike Rogers, Chairman of Watersmeet Township, discussed several issues. He has been approached about having a No Wake ordinance on the channels. The Township Board will establish a resolution and the DNR will hold a public hearing. Then the DNR will write the ordinance and submit it to the Township Board. He also commented that a police department has been established in Watersmeet. The tribe approached the township as they can only get Federal grants, but the township can get state grants, and the Tribe has no jurisdiction off the reservation. The state required the township to set the millage before October, so they went ahead with one mil. Watersmeet currently has one full-time and one part-time officer. At some point, they want to get a boat and have them enforce laws on the lakes. A question was raised on the prospect of an ambulance service. Mike stated that we currently have 4 to 5 EMT's in the Watersmeet area and would need 10 to 12 EMT's for an ambulance service, so it won't be happening anytime soon.

Tom Krautkramer stated that the Township contributed \$15,000 to ISCCW this year.

President's Report

Bob thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He said that we saw a need to manage AIS and it started with donations for 8 years, but we had to set up something more equitable. He is grateful for the support he received in getting the taxing bodies set up. Bob asked the group, "Where do we go from here?" As an association, what do we want to focus our attention on going forward? He requested that the members provide him with their thoughts on what future work CCROA could undertake.

Vice President's Report

Omar Shabaz stated that Denise Fauntleroy hit on most about CBCW (Clean Boats/Clean Water) on the Michigan side. On the Wisconsin side, it was hard to find volunteers and it looked like we were not going to have a CBCW program. He found volunteers through the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and got us a slot on Palmer. Since Palmer is under construction, it was moved to Spring Creek.

Omar stated that very recently he learned of a new and exciting option of using the same technology as red light cameras to report boat cleaning violations. The cameras will take a picture of the boat registration and license. It will start with a verbal warning. If non-compliance, the system will take a video and send it to a monitoring station. Then a fine will be sent to the boat owner. A sign will be posted and the camera will not interfere with the scenery. It still needs research and it will have to be explored with the DNR. There are grants available, and Omar asked for a show of hands of those interested in placing the cameras at the 5 public landings (Big Lake, Clearwater Lake, Cisco Lake, Thousand Island Lake, and Spring Creek). Many hands were raised showing a great deal of support. The cameras are solar operated and Wi-Fi is used for monitoring. A question was raised as to whether anyone else is doing this now. Omar stated that Big Portage Lake is doing it and that is where he received the information. He stated that this monitoring does not override the boat washings being done.

Treasurer's Report

David Fauntleroy reported that we are in fine shape. As of December 31, 2018, we had assets of \$357,000 which are down from the previous year. There is \$76,000 in our available working fund, \$219,000 in the dam fund, \$65,000 in the lake management fund, and zero in the walleye fund due to restocking. He said that 200,000 walleye were stocked by the tribe at the boat landings on Cisco and Thousand Island lakes. A question was raised as to whether we can get some history and a commitment moving forward from the tribe. Jay Sweney will check on this. On motion of Linda Hammer, seconded by Ann Rapp, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Membership Report

Linda Hammer stated that we have 347 members which is down about 3 from last year. We have 115 lifetime members and we have dues paid through 2026. We have 12 members on the 2017 list. Information for 2017 and prior is on file and Linda has done several mailings in the past; obviously they are either no longer property

owners or do not wish to be members. Linda stated that 2017 expired members will no longer receive newsletters and emails. Letters reminding 2018 members and encouraging 2017 expired members to rejoin were mailed in March and included a membership form and a CCROA self-addressed envelope. For lifetime members and members that have prepaid dues, please let us know if you have moved or changed phone numbers, so we can keep records up to date. You can help with membership by encouraging Cisco Chain owners that are not members to join and be an important part of the CCROA's mission of "Promoting Safe Fun on Clean Lakes." Linda stated that being a CCROA Board member has been exceptionally rewarding, but life changes and she will be moving. If you are considering taking over membership or newsletter editor, please don't hesitate to do so. Linda has everything saved and will be happy to discuss it with her replacements. Linda also thanked Diana Melhop for her help with proofreading. On motion of Jean Erhart, seconded by Joan Cavanaugh, the Membership Report was approved.

AIS Report

Bob introduced Eugene Clark as the new AIS Coordinator to help with the management of our AIS Programs. Gene stated that his objectives are to lessen the workload for Bob and Omar, to provide information on our programs and progress through the year, and to make sure our activities remain aligned with the ISCCW (and any other partners we find ourselves working with). Gene is also on the ISCCW Board. He stated that one measure of our success would be the lessening of the number of orange EWM markers on the Chain, signifying a reduction of the EWM footprint on the Chain.

We did expand our AIS budget at the June Board meeting from approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000. As you may know, EWM is currently in 7 lakes and a channel: West Bay, Big, Morley, Thousand Island, Fishhawk, Poor, Indian, and the channel from Lindsley to Cisco. We are working closely with our biologists, Barb Gajewski and Bill Artwich of Many Waters. They recommended using a new more expensive chemical that is tailored for less dense populations. It would be good to see how this chemical performs. This \$10,000 increase covers a move to this new chemical and a larger treatment area. A blend of herbicide and hand pulling management is occurring on Thousand Island Lake, Lindsey Lake and Morley Lake. Chemical budgets would include the most dense and expansive sites and resource intensive hand pulling sites. Chemical management may achieve multi-year control; however, follow up management using additional herbicide treatments, DASH or hand pulling might be necessary. Hand pulling on these lakes would emphasize isolated colonies, which may reduce footprint; whereas, herbicide management would seek to reduce lake-wide populations.

Lastly, Gene wanted to emphasize our valued partnership with the ISCCW. The ISCCW spends \$11,000 per year on boat inspection/washing activities at the two busiest public landings on the Chain, the Cisco Lake landing and the Thousand Island Lake landing. An estimated 1,400 boats put in at the Thousand Island Lake landing in a season and an estimated 900 boats put in at the Cisco landing. The CCROA also benefits by some \$6,000 per year through the educational programs sponsored by the ISCCW. About one third of CCROA members are also ISCCW members contributing \$11,500, covering a good portion of the monies the ISCCW spends on the Chain. ISCCW's work on other Watersmeet Township lakes also benefits the Chain by preventing the spread of EWM, so please continue your support of the ISCCW. If you are not a member, please consider becoming one! Annual dues are \$25.

Old Business

Dam Purchase Funds Distribution

Bob stated that we are not buying the dam. He asked if there was anyone who donated to the dam fund who did not receive a form. They should please see Dave Fauntleroy after the meeting. Dave stated that there was a total of \$346,000 donated to the dam fund by 297 people. To date \$97,000 has been returned to those requesting refunds; \$5,500 was donated to ISCCW; and \$214,000 has been redirected to CCROA which is greatly

appreciated. We still have remaining \$29,500 waiting for responses. We cannot touch this money without authority of the donors.

New Business

Wisconsin Lake District

Bob stated that we now have a Wisconsin Lake District. On the Michigan side, we established a Special Assessment District last year which helped with funding and also permissions to do the work due to Riparian Law. The Michigan SAD was established for 20 years. The Wisconsin program is similar, but the Lake District is a unit of government and it is a permanent solution. It has a wide scope on how we can use the money: water quality, shoreline restoration, etc. Michigan tax money can only be used for AIS. Every year, Wisconsin residence will get a budget in the mail with a ballot and an invitation to the Lake District meeting at which the budget will be approved. In Michigan, we can increase the budget by 10% per year and we don't need an annual vote. A Lake District Board needs to be established in Wisconsin. Board members will be Mark Johnson, Roy Knoth, Ann Rapp, Sam Otterpohl from Land O' Lakes, and a representative from Vilas County. By September 8, we must hold a meeting of the 197 members and vote for a proposed budget which will be the same as the Michigan SAD budget. The tax will show up on the December bill. Members thanked Bob and Greg for their work on this project.

Portable Defibrillators

Bob stated that Dan Hance, owner of Wilderness Bay, proposed that we start up a program to set up portable defibrillators at public areas around the Chain. Mike Rogers reported that the township has budgeted for approximately 5 defibrillators for the Cisco Chain. Plans are to locate them at Cisco Lake Bar & Resort, Bent's Camp, Wilderness Bay, and the Cisco Chain Marina.

East Bay Sign

Although they usually give us more notice, The Land O' Lakes Beautification Committee plans to replace the East Bay sign at a cost of \$150. Bob asked if anyone would be interested in purchasing the sign and Bob Warren said that he will purchase the East Bay sign for \$150.

Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

Bob stated that we are losing 4 board members. Paul Lucas had donated the beer for the picnic every year. He retired from the board and rather than receive a plaque, he asked us to donate the cost of the plaque to the AIS fund. He was unable to attend today, so if you see him, please thank him for his work on the board. Bob introduced Dave Neumann, who is retiring as a Member at Large and thanked him for his work on the board. Dave also asked to have the cost of the plaque donated to the AIS fund. Bob presented Jack Erhart with a plaque in honor of his retirement as a Member at Large and thanked him for his work on the board. Linda Hammer was presented with a plaque for her years of service as Membership Chair and Shore Lines editor. He stated that we cannot replace Linda and plans are to fill 2 separate positions. He also thanked her for the phenomenal job she has done on the board. Greg Wenzel also commented on how much Linda has meant to this association.

Mamie Lake Representative

Tom Krautkramer nominated Mark Rolling as Mamie Lake Representative. All were in favor.

Membership Chair

Pat Mans nominated Laura Mans as Membership Chair. All were in favor.

Shore Lines Editor

Debbie Shabaz nominated Christina Studlow as editor of the Shore Lines newsletter. All were in favor.

Open Forum

The following questions were raised:

- 1) Are there any regulations about boats parking at the sand cut? Not that we know of. Greg stated that we cannot restrict anyone on the lake. He reminded folks to keep an eye on little ones and to exercise caution when coming through the sand cut so as not to hit anyone on a raft. It was suggested that maybe we can get a sign there, but it is private property so we have little control.
- 2) Are there any rules and regulations on water skiers too close to land? Bob has discussed this with the DNR and was told they have written citations. Private water crafts are to stay one hundred feet from shore. Mike Rogers suggested that we get a hull number or a video for any infractions and to call the Township.

Election of Officers

On motion of Kirsten Boehme, seconded by Pat Mans, the current officers were re-elected for another year. Bob McGuffin, President; Omar Shabaz, Vice President; Susan Anderson, Secretary; and David Fauntleroy, Treasurer.

Miscellaneous Announcements

- 1) This year, soda and water are free and we will be selling beer for \$1.50 a can.
- 2) We have 2 raffles: one for a wood burned eagle on leather from Artistry Gallery and the other a 50/50 raffle.
- 3) We have several "Saving Our Lakes & Streams" books available for \$15

On motion of Pat Mans, seconded by Debbie Shabaz, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Anderson, Secretary