

CCROA Annual Business Meeting Minutes  
July 17, 2021

Present: Bob McGuffin, Omar Shabaz, David Fauntleroy, Susan Anderson, Greg Wenzel, Laura Mans, Mark Rolling, Bob Warren, Roy Knoth, Tom Krautkramer, Mark Johnson, Rod Brost, Eugene Clark, Joan Cavanaugh, Helen Hayhurst, Rick Nevers, and Christina Studlow.

Absent: Ann Rapp, Dean Challed, Jay Sweney, Gary Ebert, and Lucy Brundage.

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by President McGuffin.

**Presentation by ISCCW Educator Denise Fauntleroy**

Bob introduced Denise Fauntleroy, ISCCW Educator. Denise began her presentation by saying that ISCCW has a wonderful relationship with CCROA. She said that ISCCW is currently providing boat washing equipment/inspection on Duck Lake, Lac Vieux Desert, Palmer Bay Landing, and Thousand Island Lake. The Canadian border closing has brought additional business. They are having trouble filling the boat washer positions, so they have increased the pay and are offering job sharing options.

During 2019, ISCCW contacted 7,061 people, inspected 3,433 boats, and held 32 educational events. In 2020, the summer was cut short by a month. In 2020, they contacted 6,333 people, inspected 2,861 boats, but did not hold any educational events. She has found that they can do a variety of educational programs this year via webinars. She reviewed various programs held and those upcoming. On July 14, MSU Extension offered a webinar on shoreline health and preservation. LOLA Arts has collaborated with ISCCW and Iron County Lakes and Streams Partnership to offer an introductory watercolor class which will also offer education on shoreline health beginning July 19. This will be a YouTube link that can be accessed indefinitely. ISCCW is also hosting 2 concerts: July 24 at Chicagon Lake in Iron River and August 12 at Snowflake Pavilion in Land O' Lakes. MSU Extension is also offering an on-water education program on August 9. Denise said there are educational materials on the table outside for anyone interested.

Denise ended by commenting that ISCCW needs an interim president. This would be a commitment of 1-2 years if anyone is interested or knows someone who might be interested.

**Approval of the Minutes of the 2020 Annual Business Meeting**

Bob reminded everyone that the minutes were distributed to all members and, unlike previous years, will not be read at this meeting. Since there were no additions or corrections to the minutes of the July 18, 2020 Annual Business Meeting, on motion of Greg Wenzel, seconded by Melissa McGuffin, the minutes were approved as written.

**President's Report**

Bob stated he has been coming up here for 30 years. When he decided to move up in 2010, he wanted to give back, so he joined the CCROA Board with Greg Wenzel. During his presidency, they worked on several projects. They started raising money to buy the dam and then found out we didn't need to buy the dam. He started an awareness program on aquatic invasive species/Eurasian Watermilfoil and then asked for donations. The problem was only about 25% of the property owners donated and the donations dried up. Then he worked to set up the Special Assessment District for Michigan and the Lake District on the Wisconsin side. With these districts established, we can continue to count on tax money to fund our work on AIS. Bob previously asked members where they want CCROA to go from here. His term has now come to an end, and he thanked everyone for their support over the years. He said that Eugene Clark has volunteered to take his place, and Gene will need member support as well.

**Vice President's Report**

Omar reported that his job is working with Clean Boats Clean Water (CBCW) and they are set up again this year at the Palmer Bay landing. University of Oshkosh interns are used for this work, and these are the future environmental researchers of tomorrow. While they are here working, we have to find them places to live. We also get grants from Wisconsin to help with this program.

**Treasurer's Report**

David reported that we remain in very good financial shape. The lake districts have changed the mechanics for raising money, and going to taxing districts has reduced the Treasurer's workload. At the end of 2020, we had income of \$114,000, expenses of \$33,000, with a net income of \$81,000. As of 12/31/20, we had \$411,000 in all funds: \$224,000 in the Working Fund, \$126,000 in the Lake Management Fund, \$40,000 in the Walleye Fund, and \$19,000 in the Dam Fund. In 2020, we were unable to stock walleye because Covid prevented testing of the walleye prior to stocking. The \$19,000 in the Dam Fund is locked and cannot be spent until we receive authorization from donors. David will be getting another letter out to the remaining donors. So far this year, we spent \$80,000 for aquatic invasive species. This is due to some overlap of 2020 bills and payment of a current bill of \$37,000 for treatment on 3 of our lakes. Our BMO Harris investment account is on the books for \$235,000, but has a current value of \$290,000.

On motion of Greg Wenzel, seconded by Joan Cavanaugh, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

**Membership Report**

Laura reported that our membership is down. In 2019, we had 347 members; in 2020, 337 members; and we currently have 280 active members. Below is the breakdown by lake.

43	Big Lake	18	Mamie
31	Cisco	1	Morley
12	Clear Lake	2	Off Water
17	East Bay	16	Poor Lake
8	Fishhawk	88	Thousand Island
24	Lindsley	19	West Bay
1	Little Africa		

She stated that members usually renew at the picnic, and last year we did not have a picnic due to Covid. She has sent out an email blast in order to pick up some members. A question was raised as to what constitutes membership. Laura said that membership is by property, not on an individual person basis.

There are some concerns about membership numbers dropping. It may be Covid or it may be taxes. Bob stated that the tax, which is mandatory, just pays for AIS work, but membership is voluntary. Membership gives you a vote. It was requested that members get new landowners in touch with the CCROA Board.

On motion of Joan Patton, seconded by Melissa McGuffin, the Membership Report was approved.

**AIS Report**

Eugene Clark reported that as a recap of our 2020 AIS season, our total AIS/Water Quality budget was \$107,000; the actual spend came in at \$65,000 (40% less). This was impacted by Covid and chemical treatments that were not used. The total AIS/Water Quality budget for 2021, developed in March,

came in at a record \$165,300. Again, this budget includes ALL activities on the Chain. These budgets include services provided for free by the ISCCW: boat washing/inspection at Chain landings and education/promotion activities. These services can total \$20-30,000 in a given year. Looking at 2021, we budgeted \$70,000 for Chemical applications, nearly \$50,000 for Hand Pull/DASH activities, \$16,000 for Water Quality, and \$31,000 in ISCCW activities on the Chain. We were concerned when the numbers came in this high, knowing that we would largely use up our Lake Management Fund and may have to dip into our General Fund. We have reason to believe that this budget will be a "one-off" budget, not likely to recur in 2022. A major driver in the budget was that Thousand Island Lake, the largest lake on the Chain, came up in the rotation for EWM treatment and water quality surveys. This will not occur next year.

The good news now is our AIS chemical spend, which was budgeted at \$70,000, came in way below budget at \$37,000. Gene noted that our chemical spend in 2020 was just over \$9,000. The reason for this reduction in 2021 is that 2 areas on Thousand Island Lake did not make the final treatment list, avoiding \$14,560 in chemical spending. Some portion of this savings may be spent on Hand Pull/DASH activities. We saw savings in the remaining Thousand Island and Fishhawk/Lindsley sites. Driving these savings was a better application method of the liquid ProcellaCOR chemical. Instead of dispersing the liquid chemical on the surface, PLM was able to use a new tool, a tube that could reach down to near the bottom and apply the chemical in this more efficient manner. Many Waters will continue with the survey work and can weigh in on this method at the end of the season, so there is reason to believe that our actual spending can come in significantly below budget and provide a better cushion for other years.

Gene expressed his thanks to all who help identify areas with EWM that have not been marked by Many Waters, our contracted biologists. As a friendly reminder, if you spot what you think is EWM in an unmarked area, please call or email Gene. His contact information is in the newsletters sent out to you and also on the CCROA website. Please do not contact Many Waters. They want to remain focused on their work of surveying and EWM removal. We will notify them immediately. They will schedule a survey of the designated area and, if necessary, will deploy orange buoys marking the areas.

Gene also took the opportunity to thank those members who have also maintained their membership in the ISCCW. As previously mentioned, the ISCCW provides freely to the Chain services valued at \$20-30,000 each year. The ISCCW has just over 400 contributing members, of which 154 are from the Chain, contributing nearly \$14,000. This helps fund the activities we all benefit from. ISCCW is grateful for your help! If you are not an ISCCW member, please consider becoming one. Annual dues start at \$25 per family. There are some paper forms out with Denise Fauntleroy along with the ISCCW/LakeGuards license plate. The ISCCW Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, at 2 p.m. at the Watersmeet Township Pavilion.

### **Old Business**

#### **Update on Dissolution of Dam Funds**

David Fauntleroy stated that there is no additional information on the dissolution of dam funds, but if anyone still has not authorized distribution of their donations for the dam, please see him to fill out a form.

### **New Business**

Bob McGuffin introduced Yvonne Clark, Watersmeet Township Board Trustee. Yvonne said she lives on Long Lake and was newly appointed in March.

She reported on several township items:

- 1) Improved Internet: A citizens' task force has been working to bring better internet to the Watersmeet area. Highline will be bringing high-speed internet at low cost to the Michigan side of the Chain. Bob will be sending out more information soon, but you can visit their website, **highlinefast.com**.
- 2) Road Improvements: One-half mil tax was passed for roads for next year. They need a citizens' advisory commission to work to determine which roads need improvements. If interested, contact Julie Mathiesen, Township Clerk.
- 3) Michigan legalized marijuana for recreational use in 2018. At that time, Watersmeet opted out. The Tribe came to the Board to say they will set up distribution/sales. If they do so on trust property, there is no need for approval, but Old Mill property is under Board advisement.
- 4) Public Safety: The Fire Department was in need of a new fire truck. They now have purchased a used truck in very good condition. An additional police officer is needed to work with our Police Chief Ryan Leuzzo.
- 5) New Website: The Township is working on a new website. They have contracted with the individual who designed the Land O' Lakes Public Library website.
- 6) Virtual Meetings: The Township holds all meetings virtually, so everyone can participate in the township meetings. To do so, send an email to [moderator@Watersmeet.us](mailto:moderator@Watersmeet.us).
- 7) The Planning Commission passed a loosening of restrictions on use of trailers and on lot sizes.
- 8) No Wake Zone Ordinance: No Wake Zones first came up in October 2019, and there was follow up contact in August 2020. She said there are a number of steps that need to happen in order for an ordinance to be passed. Landowners should come to the Township Board meeting and provide facts and figures, so the Board can bring the best information to the DNR.

Bob thanked Yvonne for speaking at our meeting.

Mark Johnson has been working on the No Wake Zone Ordinance and he assured members that we are not requesting to make any additional areas No Wake Zones. They would only cover the current areas marked with No Wake signs. The 3 major areas are 1) the Sand Cut; 2) the channel between Lindsley and Morley; and 3) the channel starting in Lindsley and going to Thousand Island Lake. He said the reasons for the No Wake Zone Ordinance are reduction of property damage and erosion, consideration of wildlife, and safety.

A question was raised as to how No Wake Zones can be monitored. Mark said we need legal evidence: the registration numbers and a video of the speeding boats. Then citations can be written. The first year or two will be a challenge, but the word will get out after that and we should see a reduction in violations. A suggestion was made to put signs up at the launches educating boaters on the No Wake Zones. It was a great idea that the Board will consider. Other suggestions were to 1) put buoys in the middle of the channel that have worked in other lakes; 2) clean up the channels for boats to navigate before buoys are placed in the middle of the water.

Bob commented that for safety purposes, AED's (automated external defibrillators) are located at the Cisco Bar and Wilderness Bay.

### Internet

Bob stated that he has very exciting news about internet service in the next year. The FCC auctioned off parts of rural areas. Highline, a subsidiary of Atlantic Energy Group, will be bringing high-speed internet to all addresses on the Michigan side of the Chain by this time next year. It is a fiber optic cable system which will give you one gigabyte download and ½ gigabyte upload per second. There is no cost for installation and the price is \$99 per month with no data limits. If you go into their website (**highlinefast.com**) and sign up, there is no obligation. You will be providing them with a data point for their list so the Cisco Chain owners can be first in getting this

new internet service. They are looking for help. They need to employ 175 people with starting pay at \$25/hour plus benefits for unskilled workers.

#### Cisco Chain Lake District Meeting

The Cisco Chain Lake District meeting was called to order by Rick Nevers at 11:12 a.m. Bob McGuffin said he had sent letters to everyone on the Wisconsin side with an agenda and the 2022 budget. Rick reviewed the 2022 budget and commented that although Eurasian Watermilfoil cannot be eliminated, it can be controlled. He said the Lake District was created in 2019 and a tax assessment was levied that year, but not in 2020. We had a sizable investment this year in AIS management. Rick noted that passage of the 2022 AIS budget means that a 2021 assessment would be made. The budget has total revenue of \$126,000, total expenses of \$84,000, leaving a net surplus of \$42,000. There were no questions, and the 2022 budget was passed by a vote of 7-0.

Bob reminded everyone that Ann Rapp, Rick Nevers, and Roy Knoth currently serve on the Lake District Board. Rick Nevers replaced Mark Johnson, who could no longer continue on the board since he sold his Wisconsin property. Ballots were distributed to vote to fill Roy Knoth's term which ends this year. Mark Rolling has volunteered to replace Roy, but there was also a place for write-in names on the ballot. Ballots were collected and Mark Rolling was unanimously elected to a 3-year term by a vote of 7-0. Bob stated that after adjournment, the Cisco Chain Lake District board members will elect a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

#### Open Forum

A complaint was made about last year's walleye fishing. It was suggested that the Tribe took more than their allotment during spearfishing. Bob commented that we were unable to stock walleye last year due to Covid, but we will be stocking walleye this year.

Greg Wenzel reminded everyone to be sure that children wear PFD's when on or near the water.

#### Outgoing Board Members

Bob announced that Roy Knoth and Jay Sweney are outgoing board members. Bob thanked Roy Knoth for his service on the CCROA Board as West Bay Representative and on the Lake District Board. A plaque was presented to him. Jay Sweney, Cisco Lake Representative, was unable to attend the meeting and he will be receiving a plaque as well. We are happy that Christina Studlow has decided to stay on the board for another year.

Greg Wenzel presented a plaque to outgoing President, Bob McGuffin. Greg thanked him for his contributions as President and commented that what Bob has accomplished is unparalleled. He also stated that, going forward, with the exception of the No Wake Zone Ordinance, the job of presidency will be easier with all the work Bob has done.

Bob thanked everyone for their support during his presidency and said that Gene Clark will be a great replacement with all his knowledge. He also thanked Helen Hayhurst for organizing this year's picnic.

#### Board Nominations

Tom Krautkramer nominated:

Jim Boehm for Cisco Lake Representative. All were in favor.

Steve Kessler for West Bay Representative. All were in favor.

Gary Ebert for Thousand Island North Representative. All were in favor.

On motion of Tom Krautkramer, seconded by Kirsten Boehm, Eugene Clark was nominated for President of CCROA.

#### Election of Officers

On motion of Greg Wenzel, seconded by Bob McGuffin, the following officers were elected to the CCROA Board for one year: Eugene Clark, President; Omar Shabaz, Vice President; Susan Anderson, Secretary; and David Fauntleroy, Treasurer.

Eugene Clark gave the following acceptance speech:

Thank you all for your support. It will be a difficult task to live up to the standards set by Greg and Bob. Both have provided incredible leadership during a trying period when AIS was becoming a major concern on the Chain. They created the strong focus and a credible plan to fight AIS and maintain the quality of our lakes. So, I have a great foundation to start from. Thanks so much.

I am also grateful for the strong support I will get from the officers of the CCROA and from the Board. They will help me a lot. We also have a good number of go-to people who volunteer and get things done. Here I am thinking of people like Helen Hayhurst & Company who organized this whole event. We have the Cornfields who volunteer to coordinate our Secchi Disc program and the host of volunteers on the water. And others.

You know, this is a special organization, I saw it when I first entered it in about 2008. Susan and I were new to the Chain, and we were warmly welcomed. This is special. We all have a bond to each other on this social level and with our joint love of the Chain. This is a special body of water. We come together as members of the CCROA. I want to encourage all of you to remain involved with this association, tell your new neighbors about it. Finally look for ways to become active. I consider it an honor to serve in this organization. That's how we should all view our volunteer efforts. Thanks.

On motion of Bob McGuffin, seconded by Diana Mehlhop, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Anderson, Secretary