

CCROA Annual Business Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2022

Present: Eugene Clark, David Fauntleroy, Susan Anderson, Laura Mans, Mark Rolling, Steve Kessler, Tom Krautkramer, Rod Brost, Jim Boehm, Helen Hayhurst, and Christina Studlow.

Absent: Omar Shabaz, Greg Wenzel, Ann Rapp, Mark Johnson, Gary Ebert, Joan Cavanaugh, and Lucy Brundage.

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

Gene stated that everyone was aware that the minutes from the July 2021 Annual Meeting are posted online. Since there were no changes to the minutes, Gene motioned that the minutes be approved. It was seconded by Dick Barney, and the minutes of the July 17, 2021 Annual Meeting were approved as written.

Discussion on Local Politics by Yvonne Clark

Gene welcomed Yvonne Clark, Watersmeet Township Trustee. Her report was moved up on the agenda as she has to leave early. Yvonne reported on the following 6 items.

- 1) High-Speed Internet - Although we aren't getting the new internet this year, Highline has said that we are still next. They ran into problems in Dickinson County with the road commission permits. Watersmeet has put the Highline folks in contact with the road commission in Gogebic to avoid this problem in our county. Highline is continuing to do pre-engineering work here. The Watersmeet Broadband Task Force is holding a virtual meeting with Highline on Friday, July 22. More information is available on the Watersmeet Township website. A question was raised about what has happened with the deposits that some folks made to Highline. Yvonne said that Highline is supposed to be sending out some updated information to those people with an option to have deposits refunded.
- 2) No Wake Zone - A public hearing was held in May regarding the No Wake Zone ordinance. It was well attended, and she appreciated everyone's comments. The Township Board voted 4 to 1 in favor of having the DNR investigate the ordinance. They are now waiting for the DNR who will hold their own public meeting.
- 3) Zoning Changes - The Township Board held a hearing in June on various zoning changes proposed by the Planning Committee. The Board chose to leave the language on General Limitation on Trailer Coaches. They also voted to change the length of time that trailers could be used as dwellings during construction. The previous language limited the time to one year and the proposed change was for 5 years. The Board voted to allow for trailer dwelling during construction for a period of one to 5 years, but the dwellers will need to have building inspector approval each year. A question was raised as to why it had to be inspected each year and Yvonne stated that they didn't want anyone to dwell in a trailer for 5 years not intending to complete construction during that time. The hearing also included proposals of changing side lot lines in L-1 and lot depth in L-2. These proposals were sent back to the Planning Committee for further information.
- 4) Marijuana - The Tribe wanted to grow and sell marijuana. The Township wanted to make sure that there were no chemicals used. The Tribe will do this organically and naturally. The Township has concerns about not having enough first responders to handle the problems with increased traffic brought on by the sale of marijuana. The Township also received letters from various law firms that they would sue Watersmeet if we moved forward, so it has been tabled.
- 5) Roads - One-half mil tax was passed for roads. The Township has established a Road Commission of 5 volunteers, including 2 CCROA members, to work on determining road improvement needs. Yvonne encouraged people to buy their new Fire Signs for \$27.00. These signs help the fire and police get to you in emergencies.

- 6) Website - The new Watersmeet website is up-to-date and user friendly. If you sign up for virtual meetings, you will receive updates even if you don't attend the meeting.

Yvonne concluded that she is very happy with people coming to public hearings as they need everyone involved. She encouraged everyone to keep active and said that Gene has her contact information if anyone wants to get in touch with her. Gene thanked Yvonne for attending the meeting.

President's Report

Gene thanked everyone for their help in his first year as President. Several board members are stepping down as of this meeting; all have given many years of volunteer service. He will address them individually later in this meeting. Next, we have Helen Hayhurst to thank for leading the efforts in organizing this meeting and the cast of volunteers who worked with her. Gene also thanked the Cisco Bar, Nick Schanstra and Spencer Cable, for their help in setting up the pavilion. The Cisco Bar is a great establishment and we recommend frequent patronage! One last thanks to Jim & Kirsten Boehm for restoring the Cisco Bar, making it an attractive asset for purchase by the new owners!

Phil Wolbrink has advised Gene that the permit for walleye stocking has been tentatively approved. The guy that's going to deliver the fish has his order into the pond on the eastern end of the UP. They can't guarantee the fish until they see the success rate, but everything looks good at this point. We have plenty of funds to pay for it. Deanie Wolbrink provided specifics on the process and how they try to protect the fish population.

Gene stated that CCROA remains committed to promoting safe fun on the Chain. All persons should responsibly operate their watercrafts in ways that protect our shorelines and fish habitats, and look out for other users. Watersmeet Township approved language for a local ordinance that will govern speed and wakes in our many channels. That language is currently with the MDNR under review. If they approve it, it will return here and the ordinance will be established. Then "Slow - No Wake" signs will be posted.

The CCROA remains on strong financial footing as David will report. We are getting Aquatic Invasive Species ("AIS") under control as will be discussed in the AIS Report. Membership levels are stable. Our last newsletter emphasized the importance of supporting this organization. Gene thanked everyone for their participation.

Vice President's Report

Christina Studlow read the following report from Omar Shabaz.

"Dear members of the finest association in the world, the one and only CCROA! It is with my head held high, honor, pride and a smile that I have to step down from the Vice Presidency of this great organization. My new Job has been more demanding of me than expected and does not allow for much Up North time these days. At the moment, I just have to keep telling myself it will get better sooner than later. I have been privileged to be able to work on CBCW grants over the years, allowing young University of Wisconsin students to man the Palmer Launch, educating boaters on AIS. The more people learn about AIS, the better the future will be for our great Chain. We are granted approximately \$4,000 a summer for this project. In conjunction with WDNR and Many Waters, we also have an AIS grant on Big Lake and West Bay that has been running for some years now. This year we are collecting about \$35,000 of the ongoing grants that will aid in the expense of AIS surveys, mapping, diving and hand pulling of plants, just to name a few of the many projects that Many Waters does for the CCROA. It has been my pleasure to meet, become friends with, and work with so many wonderful people over the years.

Lastly, please excuse my family's absence today, as most of you know my son is a US Marine. His Tour of Duty has come to an end and he is returning home today! We will be together as a family to pick him up from the airport. A very proud moment for us all.

Oh, and whoever is sitting next to Krautkramer.... beware!!!!

Respectfully yours,
Omar Shabaz "

Treasurer's Report

David Fauntleroy reported that our financial condition continues to be excellent. At the end of 2020, we had a balance of \$400,000 which dropped to \$341,000 at the end of 2021. Last year was a huge year in expenses for AIS of \$80,000 with an additional \$30,000 paid earlier this year. We have \$50,000 left in the Lake Management Fund, \$44,000 in the Walleye Fund, and \$228,000 in the General Working Fund. Along with \$19,000 remaining in the Dam Fund, we have a total of \$341,000. Our investment fund shows \$235,000; however, there is more cash in the fund, but we keep it the same on the books due to market fluctuations. To protect our investments, they are spread over various market funds. We have received the tax money this year of approximately \$70,000, so we are in great shape to handle AIS work and walleye stocking.

On motion of Bob McGuffin, seconded by Gene Clark, the Treasurer's Report was approved.

Membership Report

Laura Mans reported that as of July 15, our membership totals 261. Below is a breakdown by lake.

42	Big Lake	14	Mamie
32	Cisco	1	Morley
11	Clearwater	18	Poor Lake
1	Cloverleaf	73	Thousand Island
16	East Bay	19	West Bay
9	Fishhawk	3	Off Water
22	Lindsley		

She stated that 60 memberships expired as of 12/31/21. She will send out notices to remind these members. We currently have 127 lifetime members or about 50% of the membership. Gene stated that it is critical that we keep our membership up. Membership gives you a vote and it is important to have solidarity to get things done on the Chain. Laura reminded that membership numbers are also important when applying for grants.

On motion of Gene Clark, seconded by Jean Erhart, the Membership Report was approved.

AIS Report

Gene reported that the first round of surveys by Many Waters are wrapped up. The new orange buoys are placed on sites that they felt have the greatest chance of boat traffic spreading Eurasian Watermilfoil ("EWM"). Most sites so far this year are very small and some are individual plants. Generally, EWM on the Chain, based on the last round of surveys, is lower than in previous years, except for Lindsley Lake. Many Waters found quite a few locations along the western end that they will be monitoring in 2022, and they will put together a management strategy.

Gene stated that the AIS budget for this season is a lot lower than last year's budget. Good news is that we are not expecting any chemical applications, but the budget does contain a \$10,000 provision just in case. The total Operating Budget for 2022 is just under \$115,000. Survey, Dive & DASH is our highest expenditure at \$54,000. We have the WDNR grants, totaling \$20,600 for West Bay and Big Lakes, to use up this year. We will be doing PI work on Lindsley and Fishhawk.

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 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 explained that EWM is a very aggressive plant that grows in less than 10-12 feet of water. It cannot be eliminated, but we can control the spread. There are many instances of other lakes where EWM has spread and prevents navigation. It could clog up our channels if it gets out of control. It is most likely brought up from other lakes. It is more prevalent in southern Wisconsin. EWM decreases oxygen in the water and prevents aquatic insect growth resulting in fewer fish. Tom Krautkramer commented that it is extremely unique in how it reproduces. It does not need to flower and seed; a piece of the plant can germinate on its own. It is important that people stay away from the orange buoys, so they don't grab EWM on hooks and transport it to different areas of the Chain.

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 \$20,000-\$30,000 each year. The ISCCW has just over 400 contributing members, of which 174 are from the Chain, contributing nearly \$23,000 in 2022. This helps fund the activities from which we all benefit. 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 Michelle. The ISCCW Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, August 13, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., at the Watersmeet Pavilion.

Old Business

Update on Dissolution of Dam Funds

David Fauntleroy stated that there is still approximately \$20,000 left in the Dam Fund. That is because we have received no answer from some past contributors. We have asked those contributors to state whether they wanted to receive a refund or would authorize us to use those funds for other purposes. We can't touch that money for anything else without authorization.

New Business

Introduction of new ISCCW Education Manager, Michelle Lukas-Kanipes

Gene introduced Michelle who is the newly appointed ISCCW Education Manager. Michelle spoke about the importance of controlling EWM. It can be controlled through harvesting, hand pulling, scuba, and chemical treatment. ISCCW covers all the lakes in Watersmeet. She gave an example that Langford Lake has an EWM problem. There have been 12 treatments on that lake from 2003-2018, and there is a 5% growth rate increase since the last treatment. She said that EWM likes high traffic areas and pollution (which can be from boat exhaust among other things). She stated that there is an aquatic weevil that feeds on EWM and biologists are experimenting with it. Michelle also encouraged membership in ISCCW (which stands for "Invasive Species Control Coalition of Watersmeet"), and she has a table outside with educational materials and membership enrollment forms.

Cisco Chain Lake District Meeting

The Cisco Chain Lake District ("CCLD") meeting was called to order by Steve Kessler at 10:57 a.m. Steve said that letters were sent to everyone on the Wisconsin side with an agenda and the 2023 budget. Steve reviewed the 2023 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 then assessed a tax in 2021 which raised \$17,600 in Wisconsin and \$57,100 in Michigan. Steve noted that passage of the 2023 AIS budget means that no 2022 assessment would be made. The budget has total revenue of \$70,000, total expenses of \$70,000, leaving a zero net surplus. A question was raised as to why not have a tax

and do more AIS work. Gene stated that this was a discussion point when the Board reviewed the tax assessment for 2022. Many Waters had been asked if additional AIS work could be done if we had excess funds. Many Waters said that we are doing everything as we should and to stay on plan. It would be a waste of money to do additional small pulling projects which would yield very little results. Gene also said that prior to the first tax year, information was provided that we would only tax when needed. We have a fiduciary responsibility to our members. We cannot spend the tax money on anything but AIS. There were no further questions or comments, and on motion by Mark Rolling, seconded by Debra Kessler, the 2023 budget was passed.

Steve reminded everyone that Ann Rapp, himself, and Mark Rolling currently serve on the Lake District Board. Steve replaced Rick Nevers, who could no longer continue on the board since he sold his Wisconsin property. Ballots were distributed to vote to elect Steve Kessler for the remaining 2-year term and to re-elect Ann Rapp for a 3-year term. There was also a place for write-in names on the ballot. Ballots were collected and Steve and Ann were unanimously elected by a vote of 4-0. Gene stated that after adjournment, the Cisco Chain Lake District board members will elect a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. On motion by Betty Rolling, seconded by Mark Rolling, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Open Forum

Tom Krautkramer encouraged everyone to keep an eye open for Eurasian Watermilfoil.

Recognize AED Contribution

Gene wanted to recognize that a new Automated External Defibrillator (“AED”) has been donated by Trig’s. Jeff McClure has been on the chain (Thousand Island) for decades. He worked with Trig’s for many years as a supplier and became very close with the organization. One of his Trig’s friends, Bob Jasolski, very recently bought land on Thousand Island next to Jeff’s place. It was through discussions with Jeff and Bob that Trig’s decided to donate the AED which will be kept at Bent’s Camp.

A question was raised as to where the other AEDs are kept on the Chain. There is one at Cisco Bar, one at Wilderness Bay, and one at McCormack’s Marina. There was discussion on the use of an AED and when it’s appropriate. There was also discussion on CPR training. Several members (Jeff McClure, Spencer Cable and Richard Brown) volunteered to serve on a committee to review AEDs and CPR training needs.

Outgoing Board Members

Gene announced the following outgoing board members: Omar Shabaz (Vice President), Ann Rapp (South Big Lake Rep), Bob Warren (East Bay Rep), Dean Challed (Fishhawk Lake Rep who sadly passed away), and Christina Studlow (Shore Lines Editor/Social Media). Gene thanked them all for their service and presented Christina with a plaque. The other outgoing members, who were unable to attend the meeting, will also be receiving plaques.

Board Nominations

Vice Presidency: Tom Krautkramer nominated Charlie Schiltz and Kirsten Boehm nominated Spencer Cable. Charlie Schiltz withdrew his name and Spencer Cable was elected Vice President on motion by Kirsten Boehm, seconded by Bob McGuffin. All were in favor.

Tom Krautkramer nominated the following:

- Dan Farlik for South Big Lake Representative, seconded by Chuck Saveraid. All were in favor.
- Scott Saveraid for East Bay Representative, seconded by Kirsten Boehm. All were in favor.
- Randy Pozin for Fishhawk Lake Representative, seconded by Gene Clark. All were in favor.
- Tim Lathrop for Member-at-Large, seconded by Mary Congdon. All were in favor.
- Debra Kessler for Shore Lines Editor/Social Media, seconded by Randy Pozin. All were in favor.

Election of Officers

On motion of Gene Clark, seconded by Tim Lathrop, the following officers were elected to the CCROA Board for one year: Eugene Clark, President; Spencer Cable, Vice President; Susan Anderson, Secretary; and David Fauntleroy, Treasurer.

On motion of Jack Erhart, seconded by Tim Lathrop, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Anderson, Secretary