

CCROA Annual Business Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2023

Present: Eugene Clark, Spencer Cable, David Fauntleroy, Susan Anderson, Greg Wenzel, Laura Mans, Scott Saveraid, Steve Kessler, Dan Farlik, Tom Krautkramer, Randy Pozin, Rod Brost, Gary Ebert, Joan Cavanaugh, Jim Boehm, Debra Kessler, and Tim Lathrop.

Absent: Mark Rolling, Mark Johnson (proxy given to Steve Kessler), Helen Hayhurst (proxy given to Tom Krautkramer), and Lucy Brundage.

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

Gene stated that we have a quorum for this meeting. There have been several proxies assigned by members of the CCROA who could not attend. He received the following proxy notifications from current members:

- To Scott Saveraid: Charles Ruhl (East Bay), Cameron Davidson (Morley), Tony/Piper Manatt (East Bay);
- To Tom Krautkramer: Helen Hayhurst (Clearwater);
- To John Ruhl: Caroline Ruhl (East Bay);
- To Steve Kessler: Mark Johnson (Lindsley), Troy & Julie Miller (West Bay), Jack Adamic (West Bay), Don Deubler (West Bay), and Phil Marshall (West Bay);
- To Patrick Kelleher: Bruce and Patty Johnson (TIL).
- There were several members who held a proxy. We were not able to record their names and proxy.

Acceptance of the 2022 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Gene noted that everyone was aware that the minutes from the July 2022 Annual Meeting are posted online. Since there were no changes to the minutes, Gene motioned that the minutes be approved. Jean Erhart seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved as written.

President's Report

Gene noted a correction in the agenda. In Item 10 (the CCLD Meeting), references to the 2023 Budget should be changed to the 2024 Budget.

Gene welcomed everyone and was glad to see the turnout for this annual meeting. Several board members are stepping down as of this meeting; all have given many years of volunteer service. We will address them individually later in this meeting. Next, we have Spencer Cable and other volunteers to thank for leading the efforts in organizing this meeting and the picnic that follows. We also thank the Cisco Bar and Spencer for their help in setting up the pavilion. The Cisco Bar is a great establishment and we recommend frequent patronage! This annual meeting is an opportunity to meet each other. Please introduce yourselves to each other and get to know your fellow lake colleagues. Whether you are new to the Chain or an old timer, please reach out!

We have some items for sale or raffle outside. Spencer got a very nice fishing rod and reel for the raffle. We have the 50/50 raffle and Joan Cavanaugh will be selling tickets. We have two old lake banners, Little Africa and Morley Lakes, which hang in Land O' Lakes. As they wear, they are replaced. These two are offered to anyone who wants them. Lastly, we have two pictures for sale. The photographer is my older brother Jerry Clark. Jerry is a published photographer. One picture is of Lake of the Clouds, and the other is of Thousand Island Lake. If interested, you can place a bid; there is no minimum bid.

Debra Kessler is doing a great job in producing our biannual Shore Lines Newsletter and managing our Social Media. This past May, we mailed a copy of our newsletter to all riparian owners on the Chain. This was mailed to the address on record for the taxing authorities in Land O' Lakes and Watersmeet. All members who have given us email addresses also received the newsletter via email. Again, we want to encourage all riparian owners to join the CCROA, stay connected, and let your voice be heard.

This organization remains committed to “Promoting Safe Fun on Clean Lakes”. All people should responsibly operate their watercrafts in ways that protect our shorelines, fish habitats, wildlife, and respect other users. Later under Old Business, I will give an update on the Slow No Wake (“SNW”) Zones proposed for several channels on the Michigan side of the Chain. The last topic for this meeting will be 2 presentations on the operation of wake surf boats (“WSB”) on the Chain followed by a Q & A period. Many of the lake associations up here are considering what a reasonable set of guidelines might be for the operation of these watercraft when they are in wake surf mode. We have published several articles in our newsletters addressing the issues around these watercrafts. While many types of watercrafts have the ability to impact water quality and equal enjoyment of the waters, WSB are specifically designed to create a large and powerful enough wake to propel a person on a small surfboard untethered to the boat. We are all still learning about this topic. This is a chance for all of us here to get a better understanding of the operational characteristics of these watercrafts. Again, that will be discussed as the last topic on our agenda. I have been in communication with several of the Chains up north: Eagle River Chain, Three Lakes Chain, and the Manitowish Chain.

We were successful in obtaining a \$115,000 Wisconsin DNR grant covering the 2023-2025 period for the 3 border lakes: Mamie, West Bay and Big. These sources of funding will allow us to operate without the \$100 assessment under our two lake districts for the second year in a row. Thanks to Many Waters in getting this grant. We also received about \$10,600 in other grant reimbursements this year. The CCROA remains on strong financial footing as David will report. We are getting AIS under control as will be discussed in the AIS Report. We thank everyone here for their participation.

Vice President’s Report

Spencer Cable reported that he is working to get an amendment to the WDNR grant to include the Clean Boats/Clean Water Program. The grant requires us to spend \$155,000 and reimburses us at 75%, so the amount we receive is \$115,000.

Treasurer’s Report

David Fauntleroy reported that the taxing districts, which were established a few years ago to cover AIS work, normally bring in about \$75,000 a year. There was no assessment this year. We had \$427,000 in assets at the end of 2022 which covers all project money. It is more than we really need, so we are not assessing a tax this year or next year. A number has not been officially determined, but he feels when we get down to the \$250,000 range, we would want to take the assessment. We have 4 funds: There is slightly under \$250,000 in our General Working Fund which is available for all projects; \$113,000 in the Lake Management Fund for AIS work; \$45,000 in the Walleye Fund to stock the Chain; and \$19,000 in the Dam Fund. On motion of Gene Clark, seconded by Mary Congdon, the Treasurer’s Report was approved.

Membership Report

Laura Mans reported that as of July 14 (prior to today’s meeting), our Membership totals 245. Following is a breakdown by lake.

36 Big Lake	13 Mamie
27 Cisco	2 Morley
8 Clearwater	17 Poor
16 East Bay	75 Thousand Island
9 Fishhawk	19 West Bay
21 Lindsley	2 Off Water

There are 39 memberships that expired in 2022. Of the 245, 131 are lifetime memberships. On motion of Gene Clark, seconded by Spencer Cable, the Membership Report was approved.

Aquatic Invasive Species Report

Steve Kessler reported that we work with Many Waters that conducts surveys throughout the year on work that is needed. PLM is contracted to do herbicide applications which vary from year to year. This year herbicide was applied to 9 acres on Lindsley Lake, and treatment is pending on 2 small areas on Fishhawk. Aquatic Plant Management (APM) will be diving and hand pulling Eurasian Water Milfoil ("EWM") plants on Big Lake and West Bay Lake this season. Their work has not yet begun because they need to give plants a chance to grow, but it will commence soon. The Clean Boat/Clean Water program is underway as well.

A question was raised about what percent of each lake has AIS. Gene said that AIS is currently on 6 lakes. The herbicide treatment this year covered about 3% of Lindsley Lake. Less than 1% of the whole Chain has AIS. Steve reported that APM is doing hand pulling on the Channels marked with buoys. Boaters need to be aware of the buoys and stay at least 100 feet away so as not to spread EWM. We can never remove all EWM, but it is under control. The AIS management program is working to identify and address the issue. Currently there are buoys on the Thousand Island Channel going toward Lindsley and Cisco Lakes; on Big Lake at Palmer Bay; and on Lindsley, Fishhawk, and Morley Lakes. We will do AIS work forever. Our work is effective, but it never ends. Rachel Wheeler said that ISCCW has sample pictures to identify EWM at the table outside and encourages members to stop by. Milfoil spreads easily, so awareness is important. Prevention is much cheaper. EWM is the only AIS on our Chain, but spiny water fleas are starting to show up around the area, so vigilance is important. Spiny water fleas are transferred into the lake via live well and bilge water.

Old Business

Slow No Wake Resolution Update

Gene, along with Yvonne Clark, reported that in May 2022, Watersmeet Township Board identified the problem presented by the CCROA Board of a need to designate 8 channels as SNW Zones on the Michigan side of the Chain and asked the Michigan DNR to conduct a study. Last summer (2022), the MDNR performed its due diligence and investigated the channels and interviewed people. In September, the MDNR drafted a provisional report which is not yet complete. In January 2023, the MDNR contacted the Township saying it needed to hold a public hearing on its draft report. This was held in June. The MDNR has expressed that a problem was found with the sand cut. MDNR is now in the process of finalizing its report. There is an open comment period until July 20. The MDNR final report on the SNW Zone ordinance should be available in the Fall.

Gene gave a couple of observations on this process. Current Michigan Boating Law restricts boat speed to SNW when the boat is 100 feet from shore/dock/raft AND where water is less than 3 feet deep. This rule does not apply to channels; it only applies in open water. That is why 15 years ago the CCROA put up its own SNW signs as an education measure. Michigan laws address safety, property protection, and environmental protection (fish habitat, loon nesting, shoreline erosion, etc.).

The safety and property protection laws apply wherever you operate your watercraft. For example, there are rules in place that when you overtake a kayak, if you are within 100 feet, you have to be SNW (a prudent speed so as not to interfere with the kayak). These rules apply in the channel. So basically, in the channels, the safety and property protection laws are in place, but there are no environmental protection measures in place. If it is 5:00 a.m. and you want to get from Thousand Island Lake to Big Lake quickly, have at it. There is likely not to be another watercraft in your way. It is this gap in our Michigan boating laws (no environmental protections in channels) that we wanted to address. We believe the channels are linked ecosystems with our lakes and are important to the overall health of the Chain. As I talked with other chains (Eagle River, Three Lakes, Manitowish), they all have enforceable laws in place restricting the speed to SNW in channels per State Boating Laws. I spoke with the Vilas County WDNR officer and of course our MDNR officer. Wisconsin law treats

channels between lakes as part of the lake. There are only two types of waters in Wisconsin--lakes and rivers; therefore, Wisconsin SNW laws apply to channels protecting safety, property and environment. As an aside, when we cross over the Hwy 45 bridge in Eagle River, we are driving over Eagle River, not a channel, so SNW laws do not apply there. Eagle River is now voting on an ordinance to make this part of the Eagle River a SNW Zone due to increased development and use. Also, many years ago on the Three Lakes Chain, the town opted out of a couple of the channels being considered SNW. Some have pointed out the ugly buoys or signage at the channels in the Eagle River Chain. The WDNR did not require these buoys; they only require that boaters obey the law. Years ago, the City of Eagle River saw fit to authorize the placement of these buoys and signage to remind boaters that this law exists and must be observed; otherwise, they will receive a citation and/or fine. That is why the buoys were put in place, and why there is a visible presence of enforcement officers making sure they are obeyed. A significant number of boaters did not know the law or simply refused to obey it.

So back to the Cisco Chain, I believe we have an environmental gap in our laws for our channels. I believe the channels are linked ecosystems with our lakes and deserve to be protected like our lakes. I guess we will know what the MDNR thinks this Fall. Whatever their decision, let's all protect our channels.

A question was asked if the MDNR can enforce the ordinance or does it have to be the local police. Police Chief Leuzzo said it would be our local police because it must be a state law for the MDNR to enforce it. Another question was asked if buoys can be placed in the middle of the channels. They can't be missed by boaters. Gene said we would need permits to get them approved.

Walleye Update

Tim Lathrop reported on walleye. We have been stocking walleye on the Michigan side of the Chain since 1993. From 2011 to 2019, we have stocked every year. The 3 years following our last stocking were tough years for the fishery that is our source for the fingerlings. COVID shut 2020 down, predators knocked out the 2021 class, and a catastrophic pond failure wiped out the 2022 class. The MDNR requires that we source the "Bay de Noc" strain of walleye. This limits our opportunities. We did find a source for planting right now, but they are the "St. Mary's" strain. The MDNR said that if we cannot get the preferred "Bay de Noc" walleye by October, then we can procure the "St. Mary's" walleye strain in the Spring of 2024. Approved walleye strains are determined by the MDNR. A question was asked if we can get approval from the Wisconsin DNR to stock in the Wisconsin side. WDNR will not give us permission to stock because their studies show that the Cisco Chain has the largest supply of walleye. There were questions related to the Tribe stocking and milking walleye. The last time the Tribe stocked was 2016 and they put in 1,000 walleye. We don't have any information about the Tribe milking walleye.

Defibrator Update

Spencer reported that at last year's annual meeting, AED placements were discussed. Various resorts and businesses on the Chain currently have AEDs, including Cisco Bar, Wilderness Bay, Bent's Camp and McCormack's Marina. The Trig's Foundation purchased an AED for Bent's Camp. Last year there was discussion regarding someone to educate on how to use AEDs and CPR training. We will be holding a class here at Cisco and are working on getting a trainer and date. The cost will be \$30 per person. If you want to be certified, then you must complete an online test first and then come to the live training. We will get an announcement out once we set a date which should be in the next couple of months.

New Business

Discussion on Local Issues by Yvonne Clark

Gene welcomed Yvonne Clark, Watersmeet Township Trustee. Yvonne reported on the following items.

- 1) High-Speed Internet – Highline folks are currently laying cable. Highline will be providing a one gig service. There is a question-and-answer section on the Township website or you can contact Yvonne directly. There are areas not covered by the new internet because of the FCC map. The Taskforce, comprised of Bob McGuffin, John Oliver, Greg Clark and Yvonne, is trying to resolve this issue.
- 2) Operating Levy – She thanked everyone for voting in favor of the levy. It is used to cover the services the Township provides (police, fire, trash, etc.). The rate has been the same for a very long time.
- 3) Chief of Police – Yvonne introduced Police Chief Ryan Leuzzo. Chief Leuzzo said that we have 4 police to cover the Watersmeet area. Chief Leuzzo can be contacted by phone or email as listed on the Watersmeet Township website.
- 4) New Township Trustee – She welcomed and introduced new Trustee John Oliver, who is a CCROA member as well.

Discussion on ISCCW Activities by ISCCW Education Manager, Michelle Kanipes

Michelle recognized several CCROA members who are on the ISCCW Board. Michelle spoke about the importance of controlling EWM. ISCCW offers education, hires Many Waters to do lake surveys, and operates boat inspections on various lakes. These programs are supported by grants, in-kind donations, and membership dues. ISCCW receives a large amount from the Township and membership dues from CCROA members. ISCCW covers all the lakes in Watersmeet. She said that it is not only Aquatic Invasive Species, but we also have Terrestrial Invasive Species. Along with EWM, there are other invasive species, including curly-leaf pondweed, zebra mussels, rusty crayfish, spiny waterfleas, and purple loosestrife. Spiny waterfleas are currently in Lake Gogebic.

Michelle said that ISCCW partners with Michigan State University on various educational programs. There is a 6-week course online on Introduction to Lakes. ISCCW is planning an event with MSU, “It’s Not Just About the Water,” on August 2, at Northern Waters Casino. It is free and both Michigan and Wisconsin residents are welcome. Michigan Shoreland Stewards has a website where you can do a survey on your lakeshore and get graded (three different levels: Gold, Silver & Bronze). After completing the survey, you will be given a certificate. ISCCW has a table outside with educational information.

Cisco Chain Lake District Meeting

The Cisco Chain Lake District (“CCLD”) meeting was called to order by Steve Kessler at 11:28 a.m. Steve said that letters were sent on June 14 to everyone on the Wisconsin side with an agenda and the 2024 budget. Steve reviewed the 2024 budget. The CCLD Budget has total revenue (from both the CCROA General Fund and grants) of \$103,000 and total expenses of \$103,000, leaving a zero net surplus. Steve stated that there will not be an assessment levied in 2024 and there has not been an assessment levied in 3 of the last 4 years. On motion of Francie Stoner, seconded by Roy Knoth, the CCLD 2024 Budget was unanimously approved.

Steve stated that one of the purposes of the Lake District meeting is to elect members to serve for a 3-year term on the Board. The following nominations were made:

- Ron Bucziewicz from West Bay to replace Mark Rolling;
- Paul Steinbrecher from Mamie Lake to replace Annie Rapp.

Ballots were distributed to the Wisconsin members present (one per property). Steve said that along with the 2 nominees, there was an option for write-in candidates. Steve asked the members to vote for 2 candidates. The ballots were collected and counted. The results were unanimous (11 to zero) in favor of both Ron Bucziewicz and Paul Steinbrecher to serve 3-year terms. Following the meeting, officer assignments will be officially designated.

On motion of Debra Kessler, seconded by Francie Stoner, the CCLD meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Open Forum

Chuck Sauberlich from Big Lake reported that he sustained \$1,000 of damage to his pontoon when it was hit by a large wave caused by another boat while he was on Lindsley Lake. He said that according to the law, the owner of the boat is responsible regardless of who is operating the boat. Someone else was driving the boat, but the boat owner was responsible for the damage to Chuck's boat. He thought it was important that the members were aware of this law.

Outgoing Board Members

Gene announced the following outgoing board members: Susan Anderson (Secretary), Mark Rolling (Mamie Lake), Mark Johnson (Lindsley Lake), and Helen Hayhurst (Clearwater Lake). Gene thanked them for their service and, in lieu of plaques, purchased a \$50 gift certificates to the Bear Trap Inn for each of them.

Board Nominations

Tom Krautkramer nominated the following members:

- Francie Stoner for Secretary, seconded by Susan Anderson. All were in favor.
- Kevin Magee for Clearwater Lake Representative, seconded by Gene Clark. All were in favor.
- Paul Steinbrecher for Mamie Lake Representative, seconded by Gene Clark. All were in favor.
- Dan Farkas for Lindsley Lake Representative, seconded by Gene Clark. All were in favor.

Although Tom Krautkramer is serving as Lake Representative for both Big Lake North and Morley Lake, 2 members were nominated for Morley Lake Representative.

- Cameron Davidson was nominated by Scott Saveraid, seconded by Chuck Sauberlich.
- James Reitmeyer was nominated by Steve Kessler, seconded by Chuck Sauberlich.

A vote was taken by raised hands. Cameron Davidson received 19 votes; James Reitmeyer received 40 votes. James Reitmeyer was duly elected to serve as Morley Lake Representative. Tom Krautkramer will continue as Big Lake North Representative. A suggestion was received that Cameron Davidson be elected to the Board as Member-at-Large. Gene stated that we already have 21 board members which is a large amount for an organization this size. Steve Kessler said that according to the bylaws, the Member-at-Large position is appointed by the Board not voted on by the membership.

Election of Officers

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

Discussion of Wake Surf Boat Issues

Gene introduced the following presenters who provided their views on WSB:

- Richard Phillips – Last Wilderness Alliance, Presque Isle
- Bill Stengl – Stengl Marine, Minocqua

Richard Phillips - Richard said that he and Bill Stengl agree on many of the WSB issues. Richard gave a presentation explaining WSB operation. Richard also distributed an educational piece on WSB operation and the affects the boats can have on the environment. He stated that wake surfing occurs when there is a large ballast at the back of the boat and the boat increases speed. Then the bow comes up and the stern goes down to increase the wake, so a person can surf behind the boat on an untethered surf board. Richard does not advocate banning of WSB, but is concerned about the following issues:

- 1) Wakes of 3 to 4 feet are created which can disturb other boaters, kayakers, swimmers, etc.
- 2) Large wakes can cause shoreline erosion.

- 3) Wakes from surf boats can disturb the lake bottom by kicking up sediment.
- 4) WSB going between lakes can transfer AIS because they retain lake water and cannot be 100% emptied, nor can they be visually inspected.

Education needs to be adequate to address depth of water, size of lake to minimize repetitious passes, and distance from docks, structures, other boats and shorelines. Current Wisconsin regulations allow use on 50-acre lakes and 100 feet from shore. Wisconsin law requires cleaning of ballast, but because the ballast can't be inspected, it's not covered.

Bill Stengl – Bill promotes responsible boat sports. He said that WSB do make impressive wakes; irresponsible operators of WSB can cause problems on the lakes, but other boats can also do that; and current regulation of 100 feet from shore is not enough for WSB or even other boats. Bill's issues are the same as Richard's when boats are operated irresponsibly. As a local boat dealer, they educate owners of any boat purchase. They educate the whole family on WSB because these are complex boats and require lots of training. Community efforts are in place. Manitowish Waters created maps of lakes that show the appropriate areas for WSB. WSB signage can be made and maps can be developed. Minocqua Chamber is trying to increase education by distributing information on water sports. He understands there are about 6 WSB on our Chain. We should have conversations with these owners on issues to encourage courtesy, responsibility and safety. WSB tend not to travel between lakes. For zero transfer of AIS between lakes, all boats need to be addressed, not just WSB.

Lake bottom scouring has been happening by all boats. WSB only produce an optimal wake in deep water. Bill feels that a distance of 200 feet from shore is the bare minimum, but boaters will still irritate people on docks. Wake surfing should be done in the middle of a lake. It could be done in Thousand Island Lake without impacting someone, giving space to fishing, kayaking, etc. Bill said they teach wake surf boaters how to turn so the surf side goes to the middle of the lake, not the shoreline side. They also teach how to keep ballasts decontaminated and trailers clean. Bill said the water sports community will fight any WSB bans because there is money in it, so we need to work together. Talk to your kids who are inexperienced on how to operate boats.

A question was put to Bill about operating a wake boat, but not surfing. Bill said that there is no problem if the boat is idling or cruising within 200 feet of shoreline or dock. The ballast fills only when in wake surf mode. You can operate the boat in idle or cruising mode without causing any wake.

Gene said that Richard Phillips and Bill Stengl will be available for additional questions after the meeting.

Additional Comments from the Membership

- John Ruhl asked to address the membership. He and 25 members signed a letter addressing the WSB guidelines that were published in the May newsletter. They feel that as far as regulations go, less is more. They fear that additional regulations will lead to more regulations. They feel that rules and regulations would lead to becoming a homeowners' association. Any regulations affect all the property owners, not only CCROA members. He stated that CCROA was established for 2 reasons: controlling the dam (water levels) and controlling invasive species. A formal letter is being prepared with a list of names of people who have concerns, and it will be shared with Gene.
- A few comments were made regarding the concern of recommendations becoming ordinances taken to the Township. The SNW Zone Ordinance was taken to the Township by the Board, but the feeling is that it did not represent everyone.

Gene stated some things to consider are that guidelines are not regulations. The Board discussed the wake surf boat concerns over many meetings and we are still trying to learn more. Science is still being developed on what happens to propeller wash at various depths. A report should be published by the Fall.

Gene reminded everyone about the raffles, and invited everyone to enjoy lunch.

On motion of Gene Clark, seconded by Mary Congdon, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Anderson, Secretary