

CLPO, Inc. Spring Membership Meeting Minutes-April 24, 2021

Meeting Called to Order by President Denise DeJuliannie at 11:00 AM.

CLPO, Inc. Board Members Present: Ron Graham, Denise DeJuliannie, Joe Kuechle, Jim Wirz, Amy Ertl

CLPO, Inc. Board Members Absent: Rick Thoman, Rob Swanson

Multiple CLPO, Inc. members/property owners present.

President Denise DeJuliannie called a Moment of Silence to recognize the contributions of Guy Bobendrier to CLPO, Inc. and to all the Watkins, MN community.

Introductions: Denise DeJuliannie introduced the board members who were present. All CLPO, Inc. members/property owners who were present at the meeting introduced themselves.

Secretary Report-Amy Ertl

- Minutes from the last spring membership meeting (April 27, 2019) were shown by Denise DeJuliannie.
- Motion to approve meeting minutes from 2019 spring membership meeting was made by Jane Harff, seconded by Jay Sundberg. Vote was taken and motion carried/passed with no negative votes.

Treasurer Report-Denise DeJulianne read the report in Rob Swanson's absence.

- General Fund Balance/Regular fund Balance-\$1321.36
- Improvement Fund Balance-\$8819.97
- CD's Balances-\$10863.76
 - Total of \$21005.09
 - Motion to approve treasurer report was made by Ron Harff, seconded by Jay Sundberg. Vote was taken and motion carried/passed with no negative votes.

Membership & Communications-Denise DeJuliannie

- There are 57 paid members so far in 2021
- 10 members have paid \$99 for the project: Project \$99...My Weeds, Our Weeds
- President Denise DeJuliannie asks that members/property owners direct new neighbors to the CLPO, Inc. website: [Home | clpoinc \(clearlakewatkins.org\)](http://Home | clpoinc (clearlakewatkins.org))
- President Denise DeJuliannie updated those present about how we will be naming the North access **Guy's Landing** in memory Guy Bobendrier, former president of CLPO, Inc. who passed away recently. Signs were there for members to view. The signs were made by Backyard Garden Creations. We will be updating/decorating the kiosk on the North access (now **Guy's Landing**).
- Interesting tidbit: catfish were added to the lake in 1990 to help control the bullhead population. There are still some in the lake.
- President Denise DeJuliannie is working on CLPO, Inc. apparel order with Hometown Screening. Information will be sent out by email.

- Upcoming Events:
 - **Boat Parade to celebrate the Fourth of July is on Saturday, 7/3/21 at 1 PM (meet at the county park). Please no water balloons! Water balloons are hard on the environment and detrimental to the fish, birds, and other wildlife.**
 - **Fall Picnic/Membership Meeting-Saturday August 21 at noon (likely at the Sportsmen's park).**

2021 Projects Report-Ron Graham

- We started trying to control AIS (aquatic invasive species) in Clear Lake about 18 years ago. CLP (curly leaf pondweed) starts growing under the ice and grows the surface in early spring. EWM (Eurasian Water Milfoil) usually takes hold in July. There are two other AIS that we do not have yet in Clear Lake: starry stonewort and zebra mussels
- Harvester was operated by volunteers only last year. We would like the harvester to be able to be operated more often so we are entering a contract with a crew/team of two. They will work 300 hours for us through the summer operating the harvester.
- We researched/searched for grant money to help support the work that must be done.
 - We received a Meeker County grant for \$12,400.00 which was the maximum we could receive. We must match this grant (with \$6200.00 and the other half in volunteer time/hours).
 - We received a DNR grant of \$5000.00
 - We received a grant from the Meeker County Association of Lakes for \$4000.00. This grant is meant to help lakeshore property owners address vegetation at the lakeshore. To help our property owners address this we have a new project:
 - **Project \$99.. My Weeds, Our Weeds:** We purchased 7 sets of mechanical weed harvesting equipment. These sets include 3 tools/pieces of equipment. The sets will be housed at the CLPO, Inc. board members' homes. Property owners need to sign a waiver/form and then can use the equipment for 2-3 days at a time.
 - To make this work we needed to spend \$4000.00 (half in volunteer time/hours—which can be property owners spending time using the equipment).
- Budget for the outer lake harvesting and the lakeshore harvesting projects was \$29600.00. We received \$21,500.00 in grants. We need \$8200.00 to make this work. **Therefore, we are asking for \$99.00 from each CLPO, Inc. member/each Clear Lake property owner.**
- Denise DeJuliannie played videos of the equipment/tools that have been purchased from Weeder's Digest for property lake owners to use: Weed Shear, RakeZilla, Beach Roller.
- We will need to have delineation completed and this will cost about \$2000 to do.
- Discussion about CLIP, Inc. To receive grants, we need to show expenses. If CLPO, Inc. operates the harvester, then there are no expenses to show. So, decision was made to create a subsidiary corporation which we are calling CLIP, Inc (Clear Lake Improvement Projects, Inc.). CLIP will bill CLPO so that we will have expenses. We are hoping that this new financial model will reduce funding needed from property owners in the future.
- **Joe Kuechle**, CLPO Board member/director, discussed the harvester: We should start harvesting the first or second week of May. SCSU students will be picking up weeds 3-5 times throughout

the summer and using the weeds to feed SCSU's Biomass Digester. SCSU student will do some core samples and will be presenting to us on different lake quality measures. The harvester will be run 300 hours by our contracted employees this summer. Volunteers can and will also run the harvester. We would like to keep it moving as much as possible. The goal is to remove 5000 tons of AIS from the lake this summer. AIS that is left to die and decay causes more algae bloom. Harvested AIS will be dumped near the north end on the sportsmen's lane and on the south end at the county park. Joe also states that we are looking for property owners who might have decent access where we can dump AIS for a short period of time and then remove them. This will save time (as the harvester takes awhile to drive to each access).

- Discussion about where property owners can dump AIS. More to come on this. Watch your email.
- Discussion about mechanical harvesting of AIS versus chemical treatment.
- When we created CLIP, Inc., the state told us that we needed a commercial harvester license. **Joe Kuechle** agreed to take the online education and testing to obtain this license. **Thanks so much to Joe Kuechle for doing this!**
- Denise DeJuliannie informed members that they can hire Clarke Aquatic Services to chemically treat your own lake shore. They can do up to two treatments (June and July).
 - Clarke Aquatic Services
 - Stephanie L. Rodriguez-Senior Aquatics Customer Care Specialist
 - Email: srodriguez@clarke.com
 - Direct number is: 630-671-3184
- You do not have to use Clarke Aquatic Services, there are other lakeshore treatment companies you can use as well.
- **Ron Graham discussed the Clearwater River Watershed District North End Project.** Much of our lake quality problems are because of an abundance of phosphorus. We have appealed to the Clearwater River Watershed District to do something on the north end of Clear Lake to help stop the phosphorus from coming into the lake. Bruce Hall (CLPO, Inc. member) is the point person on this. Clear Lake is the initial start of the entire Clearwater River Watershed District so we are hoping that they will assist with this project. May need federal and state funding to help with this. We are hoping if the tax, then the whole watershed district will be taxed because we are at the head of the watershed district. With reduction of phosphorus, we hope for less algae breakouts.

President Report-Denise DeJuliannie

- **By-Laws:** We are proposing to make term changes in the CLPO, Inc. by-laws. Denise DeJuliannie read the proposed change. Jake Evans made the motion to approve the term change. Kevin Sather seconded the motion. Vote was taken and motion carries/passed with no negative votes.
- **Lake Quality:** Lake quality secchi disk readings will continue by Rob Swanson. Bruce Hall will also check lake quality.
- **Zebra Mussels:** Zebra mussel checkers please check them throughout the year and inform the board if anything is found. Both boat accesses will be monitored.
- **Bog Permit:** There is a standing bog permit. If a small bog floats into your lakeshore, please try to remove it yourself. If a large bog floats in, please call a board member and we can try to help

you find someone to remove it. **Please do not push bogs back out into the lake (because then your neighbors will have to deal with the problem).**

Meeting Adjourned by President Denise DeJuliannie at 12:16 PM.