

Crockery Lake Association Minutes
Board Meeting
August 21, 2019

1. Meeting called to order 7:01 p.m.

Members Present: Bob Blaukamp, President; Pat Wolters, Vice President; Susan McClure, Secretary; Greg Slater, Treasurer; Dennis Arms; Carl Elliott; Paula Humphrey; Betsy Ludwick

Guests: Karen Elliott

2. Guest speaker Jason Broekstra, VP of Operations, Professional Lake Management (PLM). Jason Broekstra presented an overview of the work that PLM has done at Crockery Lake since 2003, controlling the flora growth in Crockery Lake. Since 2008, Eurasian watermilfoil has been controlled. PLM has not found traces recently but it is still in the lake. At this point there is no Starry Stonewort in Crockery Lake (the plant becomes a mass of vegetation capable of clogging boat motors). Keeping invasive species out allows a diversity of native species to live. In 2003 there were eight native species of flora. In the latest survey (2018) there were six to eight native species. [please supply the names—there were questions after the meeting was over] PLM found the vegetative coverage in Crockery Lake to be balanced and praised the water's clarity (4.5 feet).

SeClear G is the herbicide of choice. Its chemical product/active ingredient is copper sulfate, but it also contains lanthanum which binds with the phosphorus that washes into Crockery Lake. Crockery Lake has become the settling pond for the watershed, thus the amount of phosphorus in the lake that feeds the vegetation. Phosphorus that binds with the lanthanum is unavailable for plants. (Phosphorus and lanthanum bond to form an insoluble metal, Rhabdohane.)

The MD pellets seem to be working in the four or five coves. The bacteria in the pellets eat the organic sediment that lies in the bottom of the shallow coves. The muck has been reduced to 8 to 10 per cent of what it was. By 2020 continued treatment would result in diminishing returns

When questioned about a boy who developed a rash after the lake was sprayed with SeClear G, Broekstra said that the chemicals were so diluted that they would not have caused the rash. He said that the information on the Safety Data Sheet refers to undiluted chemicals. PLM dilutes the chemicals in a tank carried on the boat. That solution is further diluted when it is mixed with lake water to create the spray that is applied. However if the CLA wants PLM to increase the number of days that people should not use the lake water, PLM will do it. The weed treatment dates which are given to the Board at the beginning of the summer are all Mondays. Which day of the week in particular the weed treatment will be done depends upon the weather. The Board has the permission to order extra treatments if the conditions merit a treatment.

A question was asked about the turnover rate of the lake water. There is rate-of-flow data about isolated parts of the lake. There is less turnover in shallow (three to four feet) water. Broekstra said he would find that information for the CLA.

Bob Blaukamp asked about the weed treatment budget. Broekstra said the 2019 cost will be slightly above average.

Broekstra noted that Crockery Lake is classified on the line between eutrophic and hypereutrophic—or a dying lake. He reminded us that Crockery Lake is in the middle of an agricultural area and that all the phosphorus that has washed into Crockery Lake is now sitting on the bottom of the lake supporting aquatic flora. When the lake turns over in the fall as the surface temperatures become cooler than temperatures in deep water, the surface water sinks and the phosphorus rich water rises. A combination of nutrients and light causes algae bloom and plant growth. Both lanthanum and alum can be used to control the algae, but alum is a more toxic choice. Aeration is a waste of money and no longer

recommended. He urged the CLA monitor and record data about the thermocline in the Fall. The water sample needs to be taken in one of two types of special bottles (a van Bourne bottle or a bottle supplied by the Cooperative Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP) between the thermocline and half way to the lake's bottom. The tester can identify the thermocline when the water temperature drops one degree in one meter.

The Board thanked Jason Broekstra for coming.

2. Approval of Agenda

Carl Elliott moved, Greg Slater seconded that the Agenda be approved. Passed.

3. Call to the Audience

Paula Humphrey's neighbors at 2681 van Dyke asked her to announce the blues concert they are having on their lakeside lawn on September 28 from 6 to 10 p.m. Lake residents are invited to come on their boats to enjoy the music. Betsy Ludwick said she would put the invitation on the website.

Karen Elliott noted that Board Member Carl Elliott did not receive a message from the Board about the last weed treatment. It was decided the problem lay with Verizon's service. Pat Wolters suggested we use social media to publicize the dates. Betsy Ludwick said she can use the web page to list dates.

4. Additions to the Agenda

Carl Elliott added "Score the Shore."

Greg Slater requested that all Board Members use the same form to report dues collection and fireworks donations. There were a number of suggestions: Excel spreadsheet, PDFs, Karen Elliott's form which she included in the Welcome Packet (with the addition of Slater's address). Bob Blaukamp suggested Slater develop the form he wants the rest of us to use. Betsy Ludwick said she would take care of it.

5. Secretary's Report

Susan McClure handed out hard copies to Board Members. Betsy Ludwick moved to approve the Minutes; Carl Elliott seconded. Passed. (The Minutes had been approved by a majority of Board Members via the internet within ten days of the July meeting. Ludwick was able at that point to post the Minutes on the website.)

6. Treasure's Report

Greg Slater reported that expenses for 2019 totaled \$426.95, leaving a General Fund balance of \$2,276.65. The 2019 Fireworks cost \$4600. \$4,031.33 has been collected as of August 22, 2019, for the 2020 Fireworks. Betsy Ludwick moved to accept the Treasurer's Report/Paula Humphrey seconded. Passed.

7. Welcome Packet Update

Karen Elliott was thanked for her efforts. Although she and a Board Member visit the newcomers to hand out the Welcome Packet, she asked that the Board Representative for that particular address follow up within a month. It was suggested that she ask Marie Coxson at the Chester Township office to tell her when a Crockery Lake area property is sold. Then she would be able to know whom to visit.

In the ensuing discussion it was emphasized that the Welcome Packet represents the Crockery Lake Association. Susan McClure noted two changes to clarify the CLA connection: in the first sentence of the page titled “Welcome to Crockery Lake.” Between “residents . . . , we” “and the Crockery Lake Association” should be inserted. On the next page the last sentence in the first paragraph should read “The Crockery Lake Association Mission Statement describes the CLA: the purpose of the Crockery Lake Association is to educate, protect, and promote the quality of Crockery Lake and its watershed.”

C. Elliott said that what was presented was a Welcome Packet rather than a promotion of the CLA, but the Board sees the Welcome Packet as the best opportunity to represent the CLA. Dennis Arms moved that K. Elliott become a subcommittee; Betsy Ludwick seconded. Passed with one objecting vote. K. Elliot accepted. Elliotts continue to cover the expenses of the Welcome Packet.

8. Review Board policy document (if needed)

Discussion was postponed until September. Pat Wolters will email Board Members a current copy.

9. Review Boat Parade Policy

Because the Boat Parade Policy will be incorporated into the Board Policies, discussion was postponed until the September 11, 2019, Board Meeting. Attached to the August agenda is a list of proposed changes. Carl Elliott suggested using trophies for all parade participants. Other suggestions were to have registrations done earlier than the hour or less before the parade and/or to have the parade later in the day. Changes can be published in the April newsletter.

10. Fireworks 2020 Update

Carl Elliott has talked to Wolverine, the company that puts on the Crockery Lake annual fireworks display. Elliot reported that Wolverine will put on a show on 7/3/2020 for \$2500. Elliot needs to notify Wolverine by April 1, 2020. However there was skepticism about the quality and length of the show. In the meantime Elliott suggested another end of the year appeal like he mounted last year for the 2019 show. Elliott will book the show and have questions directed to Pat Wolters. Although two people have expressed interest in helping with the 2020 show, no one has volunteered to head the committee.

11. Score the Shore

Carl Elliott objected to “Scoring the Shore” being done as a CLA project without informing the Board and seeking its approval. Score the Shore was described at the Annual Meeting as part of what the CLA did in 2018 as part of the Lake Stewardship commitment. The report from MICOR will be issued sometime after the beginning of 2020. Pat Wolters and Paula Humphrey suggested people go the MICOR website to watch the video of how to assess the shoreline. Susan McClure suggested Score the Shore be part of the program at the May Annual Meeting. The features that are evaluated would be described. The next Score the Shore will be done in three to five years.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:02.

Next meeting: September 11, 2019 @ 2779 van Dyke. 7 p.m.

NOTE: MEETING DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO THE SECOND WEDNESDAY FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING.