

**CROCKERY LAKE ASSOCIATION**  
**August/September 2019 NEWSLETTER**  
CROCKERY LAKE WEBSITE: [www.crockerylake.org](http://www.crockerylake.org)  
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## **2020 FIREWORKS**

The fireworks this year were fantastic. This is the last year that our pyrotechnicians, Carl Elliot and Tom Ludwick are doing all the work. Next year, it will be up to new volunteers or Wolverine Fireworks. To have a program like this year we need to increase the firework funds by \$1500. So if you enjoy having fireworks on our lake please consider volunteering to be trained as pyrotechnicians and/or donating to the fireworks fund. Tom and Carl were willing and able to volunteer to do them for the past 6 years. Please call Carl Elliott at 616-887-4203 if you would like to learn more. Donations can be sent to your lake representative or to Greg Slater, treasurer, 2500 Crockery Shores Road, Casnovia, MI. Make checks to Crockery Lake Association. Memo Fireworks.

## **2020 BOAT PARADE**

Everyone enjoys the Boat Parade on July 3 as part of our Independence Day celebrations. The CLA Board of Directors would like to see more participation. To encourage more entries, it is suggested that the time of the boat parade be changed. We know that many are still working on July 3 and cannot get home and decorate a boat by 7:00pm. **The suggestion by the CLA Board is to change the time of the parade to 8:00pm.** This would allow more time to decorate and still plenty of time to prepare for viewing the fireworks. **We welcome your input into this change. Please email your suggestions to [crockerylakeassociation@gmail.com](mailto:crockerylakeassociation@gmail.com) or call/text Betsy Ludwick 616-723-5704 with your ideas.**

## **SCORE THE SHORE**

You may have noticed a pontoon with 3-4 lake residents writing down information in front of your home. No worries—it's just a volunteer lake study CLA is participating in. It is called Score the Shore. The helpful information we gathered included what foliage is growing at the shoreline, the amount of lily pads floating in front of each home, how much of your property is mowed lawn, and if you have rocks or a seawall by the shoreline.

In turn, MiCorps' Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) will supply us with helpful information regarding ways to improve our shorelines to minimize erosion. We will pass this information along to you.

## Lake Monitoring

MiCorps' Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) provides technical assistance, training, and other support to volunteer lake monitors in Michigan to ensure that they are collecting reliable, high-quality data.

The CLMP has been an important component of Michigan's inland lakes monitoring program for over 40 years, which makes it the second oldest volunteer monitoring program for lakes in the country. The primary purpose of this cooperative program is to help citizen volunteers monitor indicators of water quality in their lake and document changes in lake quality over time.

Since 1992, the Michigan Lake Stewardship Associations (MLSA) (formerly Michigan Lake and Stream Associations) has administered the CLMP jointly with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) under a Memorandum of Understanding. MLSA – in partnership with the Great Lakes Commission, the Huron River Watershed Council, and EGLE – continues to support the administration of the CLMP, which is now a component of the MiCorps programming. Michigan State University's Department of Fisheries and Wildlife also supports the partnership with technical assistance.

## Why Monitor?

Monitoring your lake's water quality is part of what's needed to keep it clean for the enjoyment of you and yours for generations to come. By monitoring, you'll know if your lake continues to be ready for fun and recreation, or if it's starting to degrade over time. And if there is a water quality problem, only monitoring will give you the advance warning needed to take early action to protect your lake. Enroll in the CLMP to start monitoring, and protecting, your valued lake.

The CLMP provides sampling methods, training workshops, technical support, quality control, and laboratory assistance for volunteers to monitor their lakes. Education and Training

## Monitoring Programs

The CLMP offers training and technical assistance for the following volunteer lake monitoring programs:

- [Secchi Disk Fact Sheet](#)

- [Total Phosphorus Fact Sheet](#)
- [Chlorophyll-a Fact Sheet](#)
- [Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature Fact Sheet](#)
- [Aquatic Plant Fact Sheet](#)
- [Exotic Aquatic Plant Fact Sheet](#) | [Brochure](#)
- [Score the Shore Fact Sheet](#)
- [Decontamination of Field Equipment Fact Sheet](#)

View our [2018 CLMP Participating Lakes](#). You may also view past [CLMP Annual Reports](#) to learn more about what these types of monitoring and data can show.

### **WATER TESTING KITS AVAILABLE**

We still have five kits available! Check your water to see if it is safe to drink! Pick one up from Pat Wolter's porch.

### **A FEW WAYS YOU CAN REDUCE STORMWATER POLLUTION RUNOFF**

- ~ Plant rain gardens and use rain barrels in your gardens to prevent water from leaving your property.
- ~ Collect yard waste to prevent grass clippings and leaves from entering lake.
- ~ No fertilizer! Just makes more weeds grow in lake.
- ~ Keep your septic system maintained to protect your family's well.
- ~ Properly dispose of any pet waste in a closed trash receptacle. Pet waste is raw sewage and contains harmful bacteria, easily transported to the lake.

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## **MINUTES**

### **Crockery Lake Association Board Meeting July 17, 2019**

1. Meeting called to order by President Bob Blauwkamp at 7:03 p.m.

Board Members present: President Bob Blauwkamp, Vice President Pat Wolters, Secretary Susan McClure, Treasurer Greg Slater, Dennis Arms, Carl Elliott, Paula Humphrey, Betsy Ludwick.

Guests: Karen Elliott, Jody Hyde, Ben Jordan, Callie Melton, Anna "Kat" Sluka. Benjamin Jordan, Conservation Technician for the Ottawa Conservation District, spoke to the CLA Board and guests about the role of Conservation District and his role as Watershed Coordinator.

The Conservation District Office is an unfunded but mandated service the county must provide. Thus, much of the office's funding comes from grants, which he writes. Currently, the Conservation Office has grants for the Bass Creek and Deer Creek watersheds and is working in five more watersheds in Ottawa County. (There are many more watersheds in Ottawa County.) The state grants, 319s, are aimed to restore water quality through Best Management Practices (BMP) agricultural practices and by replacing failing septic systems. The three year grants pay approximately three-quarters of the cost of reducing sedimentation and phosphorus infiltration into the watershed through the use of cover crops and manure management. To stop e-coli from entering the watershed, 319 grant money will pay up to three-quarters of the cost of replacing failing septic systems. There are caveats. The grant money is for the entire watershed, not a portion of a watershed like a lake. (The state of Michigan policy supports sewer systems for lake residents.) The aid is not immediately available; the time the grant preparation starts to the funding becoming available may be eighteen months or longer. People living in the watershed must be willing to cooperate and change farming practices. Ben stressed that letters of support are an important part of the grant application. Data about water quality from certified sources are important (another agency spent \$20,000 for testing which Ben was able to use in the watershed grants). After the grant is awarded, there is monitoring to be sure the Best Management Practices (BMP) are being used to control sedimentation and manure. Monitoring for e-coli is ongoing. And, of course, the state does audits to make sure the taxpayer funds are being used appropriately.

There is also direct Federal funding but it takes longer to obtain. The Great Lakes Restoration initiative is another source for funding. GLRI awards federal grants for similar projects. This is a possible route to get funding rather than through the 319 Non-Point Source Program from the Michigan EGLE. Farmers in the Crockery Creek Watershed are CURRENTLY eligible for funding through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) which is part of the USDA. That program provides cost sharing for cover crops, manure storage, nutrient management, etc. Ben said that it is important to note that this funding is available to apply for now (2019), but the applications are competitive and the process is somewhat lengthy. Getting a GLRI or 319 grant "localizes" the grant money and makes the process of funding BMPs in a specific area easier.

Bob Blauwkamp asked what the CLA could do. Ben noted that grant funding needs local matches which include volunteer time at events where we could meet others in the watershed, in our case local farmers. We could refer people to Ben so he could meet them. Paula Humphrey noted that Joe Bush, the Drain Commissioner (Water Resources Person), has a list of the farmers whose land drains into Crockery Lake.

Ben urged us to use the Ottawa County page to learn about Conservation District events. He gave us his business card and several pamphlets for our education. We thanked Ben Jordan for speaking to us.

2. Approval of Agenda: Accepted—no vote.

3. Call to the Audience—no response.

#### 4. Additions to the Agenda - None

#### 5. Secretary's Report

Paula Humphrey said she had not moved to accept the June Secretary's Report. However no one remembered doing what I misattributed to Paula. Betsy moved to accept the Secretary's minutes. Pat Wolters seconded. Passed.

#### 6. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Greg Slater reported 48 members have paid dues.

The Boat Parade winners were awarded \$175.

The Treasurer's Report shows \$3601.08 collected for the 2020 fireworks which is \$990.92 LESS than what the 2019 fireworks display cost. The 2020 show is expected to cost 12% more than the 2019 display.

Pat moved the Treasurer's Report be accepted, Betsy Ludwick seconded. Motion passed.

#### 7. Special Assessment District

The Stage 4, Final Resolution, was passed by the Chester Township Board on July 8, 2019. It will expire July 7, 2029. Owners of lake front property will be assessed on their Chester Township Winter Tax Notice for the cost of professional weed treatment in Crockery Lake.

#### 8. Weed Treatment

The last weed treatment (June 12, 2019) was copper sulfate or SeClear G. Carl Elliott gave the Board copies of the Safety Data Sheet which identifies hazards. Professional Lake Management wrote "NA" on the notice sheets it posted on each property in regard to when Crockery Lake could be used again; "NA" makes it sound as though the lake water can be used for typical uses immediately after application. The lack of information in the Notice misleads people. One young boy using the lake developed a skin rash after the SeClear G was applied. We will express our concerns about incomplete posting to Jaime Conroy, the PLM representative, whom Pat Wolters will invite to speak at the August 21, 2019 Board Meeting. The next weed treatment is scheduled for July 22.

#### 9. Fireworks Report

The fireworks display was spectacular.

Carl Elliott reported that he took the mortar racks back to Wolverine, the fireworks company, after the display because he and Tom Ludwick will no longer be in charge of the Crockery Lake

Fireworks Display. Carl and Tom had been storing the racks locally. One lake resident has expressed interest in participating in the fireworks display.

Carl said the mortar racks were not placed in the pasture where they had been in previous years due to heavy use by the cows. Greg Slater said that information was a pile of crap.

#### 10. Newsletter

Betsy Ludwick was thanked for her pains in producing an on-line newsletter. Pat Wolters will prepare newsletters to be mailed. Board members need to find out which residents do not use e-mail and would need a post office delivered copy of the newsletter. Board Representatives could deliver printed newsletters to residents. Pat said that she is pleased that by using the internet the newsletter is no longer limited in length.

#### 11. Welcome Packet Update

Board members want to review the Welcome Packet. When the Welcome Packet is handed to new residents, the information in it represents the CLA. If it is inconvenient for the new resident's Board representative to go with Karen, Carl Elliott noted that any Board Member could go with Karen when the Packet is handed out. Pat Wolters had reviewed the Packet and noted some changes: representative's name on inside of folder cover, add candle sales to membership form, omit that CLA plays an advisory role to the Chester Township Board, change description of watercraft to "registered" watercraft, change "anti-funneling" ordinance to "funneling" ordinance. Adding internet references to the Township Ordinances that pertain to Crockery Lake was discussed. Betsy Ludwick moved that the CLA pay for twenty-five copies with the changes to be distributed to Board members at the August meeting. Paula Humphrey seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Next meeting is Wednesday, August 21, 2019

2442 Crockery Shores

## **Crockery Lake Association Minutes Board Meeting August 21, 2019**

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

Members Present: Bob Blauwkamp, 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 CrockeryLake 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.

(Chara, Variable Leaf Pondweed, Large Leaf Pondweed, Wild Celery, Coontail, Sago Pondweed, Water Lily) 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 Blauwkamp 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 Blauwkamp 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. Treasurer'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."



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. Elliott's 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

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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.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ADVERTISEMENTS

*Advertising in this newsletter is FREE to Crockery Lake Association Members. Advertising for business is \$25/year. Inclusion of any advertisement in the CLA Newsletter does not equate to an endorsement by the Crockery Lake Association.*

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### **CLA BOARD of DIRECTORS**

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Position Expires: 4/30/22

616.957.9007 / [rblauwkamp@gmail.com](mailto:rblauwkamp@gmail.com)

Representing: 2332 - 2550 Crockery Shores Road, 24th Ave, Hoover

#### **Vice President / Pat Wolters**

Position Expires: 4/30/20

616.887.8707 / [patwolters@aol.com](mailto:patwolters@aol.com)

Represents: 2833 - 2871 Crockery Shores, Kaycee Lane, Crockery Woods

#### **Treasurer / Greg Slater**

Position Expires: 4/30/22

616.638.6930 / [GSLATER@ccstech.net](mailto:GSLATER@ccstech.net)

Representing: 2221 Van Dyke St - 2391 Van Dyke St

#### **Secretary / Susan McClure**

Position Expires: 4/30/21

616.899.5480 / [smcclure527@comcast.net](mailto:smcclure527@comcast.net)

Represents: 2519 - 2681 Van Dyke

#### **TRUSTEES**

##### **Dennis Arms**

Position Expires: 4/30/20

616.890.2681 / [bigd33@mail.com](mailto:bigd33@mail.com)

Representing: 2563 Crockery Shores Road - 2798 Crockery Shores Road

##### **Betsy Ludwick**

Position Expires: 4/30/21

616.723.5704 / [betsylud@gmail.com](mailto:betsylud@gmail.com)

Representing: 2081 Van Dyke - 2211 Van Dyke

Paula Humphrey

Position Expires: 4/30/22

616.498.0363 / [paulah2700@gmail.com](mailto:paulah2700@gmail.com)

Representing: 2392 Van Dyke - 2516 Van Dyke

Carl Elliott

Position Expires: 4/30/2021

616.822.9250 mobile

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