

CLPO, Inc. Spring Full Membership Meeting Minutes 4/18/26

Location: Watkins Village Hall

Board Members Present: Joe Kuechle, Anne Hall, Fred Rose, Laura Muller, Amy Ertl

Board Members Absent: Rick Thoman, Rob Swanson

Meeting called to order by President Joe Kuechle at 11:00 AM.

Board introductions.

Secretary's Report: Amy Ertl

- CLPO members present at the meeting were given a copy of the 4/26/25 CLPO spring full membership meeting minutes. Donald (Don) Kadelbach made a motion to approve the minutes. James (Jim) Wirz seconded the motion. No discussion. A vote was taken and motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Rob Swanson was absent, so President Joe Kuechle gave the treasurer's report.

- The CLPO fund contains \$21,620.64. Of that \$12.03 is interest. Laura Muller made a motion to approve today's treasurer's report. Bruce Hall seconded the motion. No discussion. A vote was taken and motion carried.

Membership & Communications Report: Laura Muller

- Membership update
 - There are about 139 property owners.
 - There are 19 paid CLPO members so far for 2026.
 - Current dues are \$40.00 annually.
 - Please direct new neighbors to the CLPO website.
 - Website address is ClearLakeWatkins.com.
 - Our website is currently down but should be up and running again very soon.
 - Continue to share pictures/stories/history of the lake
 - If you are not receiving emails, please let us know so that we can update our records.
 - CLPO email address: clpoinc@gmail.com
 - We are also on Facebook (Clear Lake Association).
- CLPO Apparel
 - Available for purchase here today (limited inventory).
 - Available for purchase online. Apparel Website: www.goldtree.com/clearlake. Online orders close on 5/11/26.

2026 Projects Report: Bruce Hall

- CRWD Project North Filter Update
 - Geislinger & Sons Inc. were hired to install the north tributary filters (2 sand iron filters on either side of the existing V-notch weir). These filters are designed to filter out soluble phosphates. With lower soluble phosphates entering the lake, we hope to decrease algae blooms and increase lake oxygen levels. Water levels need to decrease before this project can be started. The project has been staked.

2025 Grants Update: Anne Hall

- In 2026, our harvester operation is being supported by two grants.
 - DNR Control Grant
 - The 2025 DNR Control Grant allows us to request reimbursement up until 6/30/26.
 - We have already requested and been reimbursed for \$7,288.49.
 - \$1315.76 requested and reimbursed in 2025 for a large expense (sprockets for the harvester).
 - \$5972.73 requested and reimbursed in 2026 for various expenses.
 - The remaining amount that can be requested and reimbursed is \$5211.51. We have until 6/30/26 to spend the funds and request reimbursement.
 - We applied for the 2026 DNR Control Grant, but we were not selected this year. We did not expect to be selected because we were selected in 2024 and 2025. The DNR Control Grant is competitive with more applications than available funds.
 - Meeker County Aquatic Invasive Species Grant
 - The 2025 Meeker County Aquatic Invasive Species Grant: We received around \$11,000. The labor for operating the harvester was paid for with this grant funding (labor in 2025).
 - The 2026 Meeker County Aquatic Invasive Species Grant: We could conceivably request reimbursement of \$10,000 (\$2000 for Curly Leaf Pondweed control and \$8000 for Eurasian Watermilfoil control). Requests for reimbursement for this grant will come up later this summer and in the fall.
- MCAL grant (Meeker County Association of Lakes grant) update
 - We were awarded a Meeker County Association of Lakes grant in 2025. The grant amount was \$4000. The grant project was to do plantings on the south shore of the lake near the Meeker County Park beach area. The grant paid for soft-stem and hard-stem bulrush plugs, mats to help stabilize the planting area, and biodegradable stakes to help hold down the mats. We spent approximately \$4,200. We accumulated 167 volunteer hours and were able to request reimbursement for the full \$4000. The lake association spent about \$200 on the planting. Unfortunately, it looks like we have had very limited success with the planting project. Growing conditions were tough in that area and were affected by wave action, flooding, AIS, algae, wind, etc.

- We did not request a 2026 Meeker County Association of Lakes grant because we didn't have a project in mind.
- If anyone has ideas about a project for 2027 that does not involve AIS, Anne Hall would be happy to write a grant request.

Lake Clarity: Rob Swanson

- Rob Swanson usually tests using the Secchi disk. He is not here today, but he will continue to test.

Sewer & Water report (Forest Prairie Township Sewer Maintenance and Operations Account): Vic Geislinger

- Tom Ertl provided the treasurer's report for this group (covering dates 1/1/25-12/31/25).
- Vic Geislinger reports that lake property owners should not bring compost to the Watkins city compost site. This site is for City of Watkins residents only.
- Vic Geislinger reports that the roads around the lake should be next on the list of roads to be worked on. Vic reports that the roads won't be done yet this year due to high fuel prices.

Shoreline Treatment: Joe Kuechle

- Individual CLPO members can pursue shoreline chemical vegetation treatment independently (and privately pay).
 - Contact:
 - Aquatic Solutions of MN, Phone: 763-463-0365, Email: jim@aquaticsolutionsmn.com (Jim Strohmeier, a Watkins native, is involved with this company)

President's Report: Joe Kuechle

- So far, no **Zebra Mussels** have been found in Clear Lake. Please continue to check throughout the year and inform the CLPO Board if anything is found. Both boat landings will be monitored.
- **Bog Permit is available** (CLPO pays for this permit). If you have a bog that comes into your shoreline, please do not push it back out. Contact the CLPO Board and we can try to find someone to remove it (at owner's expense). Joe Kuechle: 320-980-2999.
- The **Harvester Treatment** will continue this summer. All AIS removal permits are in place. We will now need to rely on volunteers only to operate the harvester. We will no longer be able to hire to do this. We are looking for volunteers. Training will be provided.

Membership introductions.

Other business:

- We have two openings for CLPO Board members. Time and commitment are needed for these positions, and we are asking for volunteers. We need help.

50/50 Raffle Drawing

- \$500 winners were: Kathy Kramer, Rodger Read, Judy Rose, Emily Piccerillo
- \$3000 (grand prize) winner was: Gordy Lindenfelser

Upcoming Events: Joe Kuechle

- **Fourth of July Boat Parade:** Saturday, 7/4/26 at 1 PM. Begins at Meeker County Park on the south end.
 - Please no water balloons. This will help keep our wildlife safe.
 - Please stay moving along the route.
- **Fall Picnic/Fall Full CLPO Membership Meeting:** Saturday, 8/15/26 at noon at the Watkins Sportsman's Park. Lunch will be provided.
- Reminder that our spring and fall CLPO full membership meetings are on the third Saturday of the month in April and August.

Adjournment of meeting:

- Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted by CLPO Board, Inc. secretary, Amy Ertl.