

**COLDWATER LAKE ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES - SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2022**

At 9:05 a.m., Tom Manning-CLA President welcomed and thanked everyone present for attending and all members of the Coldwater Lake Association. Tom introduced all the CLA Board Members; Tom Manning-President, Kim Gray-Vice President, Randy Herriman-Treasurer, Janet Herriman-Secretary, Tyler Cady, Cheryl Rogers, Denise Ward and Lynn Gump (absent) – Trustees. Tom explained the CLA board is currently in transition due to several long-time members of the board retiring. John Bosling was recognized as a former Trustee and thanked for his contributions. Tom then presented “thank you for your service” plaques to Mary Fisher, Ed Stone (absent) and Don Beck. These board members received a standing ovation for their many years of demanding work and dedication to the Coldwater Lake Association.

**SHERIFF REPORT:**

Undersheriff Keith Eichler attended on behalf of Sheriff John Pollack and thanked everyone for attending and expressed his appreciation for all the Lake Associations and their contributions that help their Branch County programs. Undersheriff Eichler reported there is currently no midnight patrol, but they are working on reinstating; he reported there are 3 to 4 officers currently on patrol and they are working on hiring additional officers. He discussed the new facility and the need for additional staff. He reported they are 7 deputies short at the jail. Undersheriff Eichler stated the Marine Patrol has one new boat out on the water as of Memorial Day and two more new boats are scheduled to be delivered soon. He reported there will be 6 new boats on the water by next year. Undersheriff Eichler reported there has been an increase in Larceny and Breaking & Entering (B&E) cases. He stated several B&Es are happening during the daytime and it is important for everyone to watch out for their neighbors and report anything they think looks suspicious. When asked what people can do to help, Undersheriff suggested contacting their County Commissioner and requesting more money for the Sheriff's Department. When asked about the current golf cart policy, Undersheriff Eichler reported that a golf cart driver must be 16 years old and have a valid driver's license. It was suggested that perhaps “Golf Carts in use” signs be posted. Undersheriff Eichler stated that the Township level is the place to start to change the laws. Undersheriff Eichler recognized the Victims Service Unit and their participation in a 4-person fatality last weekend. He reported they have 10 members now but could use more volunteers. He was asked about officer compensation and responded Coldwater is comparable to other nearby counties; starting pay is \$19+ per hour and road patrol officers at \$23+ per hour. Lake Drive and Warren Road speeds were discussed.

**MARINE PATROL:**

Sgt. Josh Vickers thanked everyone for attending, their support and donations. He stated the new boat received this year is their first new boat since 2009. He reported there were 169 Boater Safety students attending class this year throughout Branch County and approximately 110 attended class at the Coldwater Lake Association Building. They may be holding 1 more class this year in the fall. He stated they are still performing Boat Safety Checks, free of charge, no citations issued. He urged people to have their boat inspected and get an inspection sticker for your boat. Sgt. Vickers explained the Life Jacket Program. If you are stopped for a child not having the proper sized life jacket (children under 6 years old need a Type I or Type II lift jacket) they will give you one, free of charge, to use for the day and to be returned to one of the marinas. When asked about the speed limit on the lake, Sgt. Vickers stated the lake speed limit is 55 mph.

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The 911 Communications project was funded at well below 1% and included 5 new radio towers, 282 hand-held portable radios, 108 mobile units and 148 pagers for firefighters. First responders reported the new system is a big upgrade. The Sheriff's Department was given an additional \$450,000 over budget. Other items the County has implemented are as follows: 2-1-2 program to recruit employees at a higher starting wage, increased wages by 7.6% for 2022, lower cost health plans, completing a review of their Master Plan, updated 35 employee policies, expanding Public Defender department by adding more legal counsel and investigators, applied for and received American Rescue Plan Act funding of \$8.4 million which they are considering using for building repair and upgrades, EMS training, Employee Recruitment & Retention program and Probate Detention. Mr. Matthew reported mobile providers are phasing out their 3G networks in 2022 and starting in 2024, Michigan County Commissioners will run for 4-year terms instead of two-year terms.

Tom Manning-CLA President called the Business portion of the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. The 2021 Meeting Minutes were reviewed; Minutes were unanimously approved.

Tom reported on CLA activities, membership drive and new this year, sponsorships. He stated we would like to add digital contacts so we can better stay in touch with our membership. Tom reported we have 3 open Trustee positions at the current time. Don Beck nominated Craig Retcher for a Trustee position. Mary Fisher seconded the nomination. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. Rick Groves nominated himself; Luanne Beekman seconded the nomination. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. Lynn Wachtmann was nominated; Rick Groves seconded. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. Tom Manning asked for a motion to accept the slate of current Trustees. Tim Angel motioned to accept the current Trustees; Kathy Brewton seconded. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

John Bosling motioned to adjourn the meeting; Jean Hornish seconded. Unanimously approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Janet Herriman-Coldwater Lake Association Secretary

## Survey for Feedback

Keith Eichler

The Sheriff offers us support through parking and crowd management for our events and we are appreciative of their efforts and support.

Josh Vickers

The Marine Patrol supports the community with Boater Safety Classes and crowd control during Fireworks – offering the Fireworks show would not be possible without their support. We thank them.

Dave Smith & Joe Jepson

Lakeland's benefit to the community at large is most readily understood, we thank them for all that they do for us.

Jay Miller

The Road Commission has made many improvements to enhance our safety and convenience – we are very appreciative of their ongoing efforts on our behalf.

Tom Matthew

Support at the county level is key to our well-being within the community. Tom Matthew listens and reacts to our needs and we are appreciative of his efforts

Please rate 1 – 10 (with 10 being the most favorable rating) circle the number

Did you find the meeting length was acceptable? 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 - 10

Did the speakers address issues of interests? 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 - 10

List the speakers you enjoyed the most?

Are there other speakers you would like to see next year?

The Association is on the right track 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 - 10

Information offered regarding the Association met my needs 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 - 10

I am interested in volunteering for Association work. 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 - 10

Name and phone (optional):

Other comments: