

**COLDWATER LAKE ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES - SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 2021**

At 9:03 a.m., Don Beck-CLA President welcomed and thanked everyone present for attending then introduced all the CLA Board Members; Ed Stone–Vice President, Randy Herriman–Treasurer, Janet Herriman-Secretary, John Boesling, Jim Czerniakowski, Mary Fisher, Kim Gray, Lynn Gump, Cheryl Rogers, Jim Snivley (absent) – Directors and Tom Manning, Consultant. Janet Herriman thanked all the supporters of the Coldwater Lake Association and Pancake Breakfast donors and volunteers.

DNR REPORT: None as Nick Wellman was not able to attend.

**SHERIFF REPORT:**

Sheriff John Pollack thanked everyone for attending and expressed his appreciation for all the Lake Associations and their contributions to that help programs like the Life Jacket Program. The Sheriff reported the department has gone from 6 patrol boats down to 3. One boat has been ordered but due to COVID is due to arrive in August. He further explained that this lack of coverage was noted by membership as he mentioned there were “lots of complaints” being fielded by his office stating the lack of coverage. He also reported there were 6 boating accidents all of last year and 2 accidents this year alone so far.

When Sheriff Pollock fielded questions from the crowd, numerous complaints were made relative to speed violations on Warren Road and Lake Drive by motor vehicles. The Sheriff listened and understood, then commented on how he felt the larger safety concern was the amount of Golf Carts being operated illegally on those same roads. He further explained there had been 7 Golf Cart incident reports filed, without elaborating on the specifics of those incidents. The membership reacted more vigorously stating they did not feel the Golf Carts were as much of an issue as the speeds of the cars posed much more of a threat. While the audience seemed to agree that underage operators were an ongoing concern, the audience was also supportive of Rod Brannon’s question as to why Golf Carts were illegal. The Sheriff offered that those interested in change should contact their County Commissioner Tom Matthew and advise of their interests.

Bringing the conversation back to speeding cars, Trustee Randy Herriman asked about possibly installing speed bumps. Sheriff Pollack said that the County Commissioners would be responsible but, thought it highly unlikely they would install speed bumps due to snow blades/plows use during winter snow removal. The Sheriff then said his focus would be on issuing tickets to illegal Golf Carts. After his time at the podium, the Sheriff spent time with members of the audience who were most vocal about the issues to best understand their complaints.

**MARINE PATROL UPDATE:**

Deputy Josh Vickers thanked everyone for attending and the Lake Association for their support. He reported there is no “in person” Boater Safety Classes scheduled again this year due to COVID. He stated Boated.com is a web site that can be used to obtain a Boater Safety Certificate at a cost of \$29.50. He anticipates local Boater Safety Classes will be offered again next year. Deputy Vickers reported they are short on boats. He stated every boat needs to be registered. If you are stopped no citation will be issued if you present a bill of sale and proof of DMV appointment. Deputy Vickers left several copies of the 2021 Boater Guide for anyone interested in having a copy. There is a Boat Safety Check scheduled tomorrow from 11:00 to 2:00. There were 6 accidents last year; 2 so far this year. One accident handled by the DNR involved 4-5 people being injured. Deputy Vickers reported last year there were 475 stops, 455 warnings, 20 tickets for “standing while underway” issued.

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Deputy Vickers stated they are still having problems with people “messing” with the buoys; they have GPS installed on them and it is a prosecutable misdemeanor offense if caught. Also, do not add a buoy in front of your property; you need to apply for a permit to have a buoy on your property. The most common boat deficiency is not having a “throwable” or fire extinguisher. During boat inspection no citations will be issued for these deficiencies. Please see the back page of the Boater Safety Guide for guidelines. Josh reported there are currently 8 marine patrol officers.

**LAKELAND FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

Chief Dave Smith thanked the community for their continued support of the Lakeland Fire Department. He reported the following for last year: 236 runs, 165 MFR (medical), 2 Jaws of Life, 3 helicopter hospital runs and 1 water rescue. Chief Smith wrote 4 grants and received 2 Thermal Image units (these were passed around for everyone to see) and carbon CO alarms. He thanked Michigan Gas for these grants. This year they have made 104 medical runs. They have 3 new firemen going through academy and Medical First Responder training. There are 12 signed up for a 40 hour Grain Bin Rescue training class. Chief Smith is writing several grants already this year including a FEMA grant for new air packs. New air packs cost \$9,000 each. Lloyd Walrack commended the Lakeland Fire Department for their handling of a death that occurred in front of his house. He stated they were very respectful and did an excellent job in that situation. Randy Herriman-CLA Treasurer presented a donation check to Chief Smith for \$12,751.00. Chief Smith was very appreciative, thanked everyone and stated how much this and all donation means to the Lakeland Fire Department. The Lakeland Fire Department services are contracted by Kinderhook and Ovid Townships. When asked if the Townships back the fire department, Chief Smith responded, “Yes, 100%.” The volunteer firefighters earn \$20 per run. Chief Smith again expressed his appreciation and thanked people for their monetary and volunteering support and all the other support and help in other areas too.

Don Beck called the Business portion of the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

The 2020 Meeting Minutes were reviewed; one correction was noted. Sentence reads, “Most traffic stops were warnings for driving counterclockwise on the lake.” Corrected sentence is “Most traffic stops were warnings for NOT driving counterclockwise on the lake.” Kevin Rogers moved to accept the corrected minutes; Kathy Brewton seconded. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Randy Herriman gave Treasurer’s Report. He said we’ve seen a drop in donations and we are investigating; Lakeland Fire Department donations are down compared to last year. Dues donations are currently \$10,500 and we hope to collect additional dues after mailing a reminder postcard. Randy stated the checkbook register and bank reconciliations are available for review. We have placed \$25,000 in a CD. Randy explained this is the third year that the Branch County Community Foundation is collecting funds on behalf of the Coldwater Lake Association. Randy informed everyone that there will be a survey available to complete at the Pancake Breakfast so we can obtain feedback on what the CLA can do for the community. Ken Angel motioned to accept the Treasurer’s Report; Allison Tyson seconded. The Treasurer’s Report was unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Lloyd Walrack asked if we had contacted the Branch County Road Service regarding the road. Kim Gray-CLA Director volunteered to contact the County Commissioner regarding Lake Drive. A suggestion was made to create a petition if needed.

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Speed Limit Road Sign – Lloyd Walrack asked if there was any chance of getting speed limit signs. Randy Herriman suggested adding “strictly enforced” under speed limit sign may help. Lloyd stated he would check into this matter.

Three (3) CLA Director Positions are up for re-election; no new nominees for director position were introduced. The current three Directors, Ed Stone, Cheryl Rogers and Lynn Gump agreed to accept another 3 year term. Kathy Brewton motioned to re-elect Ed, Cheryl and Lynn to another 3 year term; Allison Tyson seconded. Unanimously approved.

The Treasurer and Secretary are elected yearly; Randy and Janet Herriman agreed to continue in their current positions. Allison Tyson nominated Randy Herriman as Treasurer and Janet Herriman as Secretary; Jean Hornish seconded. Unanimously approved.

Don Beck outlined the following CLA Building improvements made within the past year:

- Replacement of water pump
- Electrical lines trenched from building to road (210 and 220 lines with GFI)
- Electrical work provided by Jepson Electric – we highly recommend Jepson
- Woman’s room toilet repaired
- Front foyer is rotting and a safety hazard
- Contractor from Coldwater has been hired to replace foyer at cost of \$12,500

Other expenses incurred this year include the repair of the fireworks pontoons. The Coldwater Lake Marina helps us take the pontoons in and out of the water as well as store them and we appreciate their support.

We were asked if Yoga classes were going to start up again. Randy responded that Lou DeGraff (former instructor) is involved in his children’s sports activities and has moved away from the area. Lou indicated he would assist in finding a replacement licensed Yoga Instructor.

Randy Herriman stated the CLA is here to help the community and the building is available for Yoga, Painting, Pilates, perhaps Bingo (we would have to research the feasibility so not to infringe upon other bingos in the area and if there is a gambling issue).

Andy Labadie suggested there are other foundations in the area that would be interested in contributing to the Coldwater Lake Association and that should be investigated.

Another suggestion was to contact the Lake George Conservancy regarding fish stocking of the lake.

Kevin Ledford stated he believes we are eventually going to have water issues in our area and volunteered to help with this long term issue.

Lynn Gump asked people to check out our Facebook page and web site: [Coldwaterlakeassociation.com](http://Coldwaterlakeassociation.com)

Don asked if there were any other questions or comments. There were no other questions or comments from the audience.

Allison Tyson motioned to adjourn at 9:59 a.m.; Rick Merrill seconded. Unanimously approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Janet Herriman-Coldwater Lake Association Secretary