

Crockery Lake Association Annual May Meeting  
Grose Park  
May  
18, 2022

1. Meeting Called to Order 7:00 pm

Betsy Ludwick introduced Julia Kirkwood, Senior Environmental Quality Analyst, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). She works in the Water Resources Division: Nonpoint Source Pollution Program. Kirkwood has worked as a natural resource professional for 30 years. For the past 20 years she has worked with the Nonpoint Source Pollution Program collaborating with community stakeholders to protect and restore rivers and lakes from land use impacts through the watershed planning process. She is chair of the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership. She continues working to find ways to keep lakes healthy.

Lake health assessments done in Michigan in 2002, 2012, and 2017 looked at the watershed, shoreline habitat both on land and along the shore, and approximately 15 to 30 feet out into the lake. Fifty percent of the lakes were rated as poor. Twenty Percent were rated as very poor. Very poor means that the lake has lost its resiliency to heal itself.

Kirkland discussed features that destroy lakes. One of the most damaging is sea walls which disturb habitat the most. The hard structures deflect the wave energy instead of absorbing it as vegetation does. Sea walls also prevent amphibians from leaving the lake to lay eggs. Grass mown to the shoreline also creates an unstable shoreline. Grass roots are shallow and cannot withstand wave action. Thus, the waves pull sediment into the lake, resulting in accelerating erosion. Rising water levels also contribute to moving shorelines.

Today, people know more about what a lake needs to heal itself. Residents can create shoreline buffers, ideally starting 35 feet back from the water's edge. Kirkwood stressed the availability of information ("Shoreline Living," etc.) that individual property owners can access to make good decisions. Lakes need native vegetation (weeds) that produce oxygen which supports marine denizens. Without oxygen in the lake fish die.

Nutrient loading is a Crockery Lake problem. As the water table rises, more nutrients move through the soil to the water. More nutrients have come into Crockery Lake due to the greater number of residents who now live year round on the lake. The residents use water discharging appliances year round, giving the lake no time to heal itself. Water also brings nutrients into the lake through inlets. The inlets may be creeks, seasonal creeks, or road drains. Kirkland suggested monitoring inlet water.

Kirkland described the Shoreline Steward award, Gold, Silver, and Platinum. Applications can be done on-line. People can be Shoreline Stewards even if they have sea walls by placing riff-raff in front of the wall. Over time plants and sand will wash into or cover the rocks. The result is a hard but a wave energy absorbing feature that stabilizes the shoreline.

Questions:

Carl Elliott asked if grants were available. Kirkland said no, but because Crockery Lake is part of the Grand River watershed, the Ottawa County Conservation District might offer information. The OCCD and ALRO might help with grant writing. She recommended Dana Strouss at [strousd@michigan-gr](mailto:strousd@michigan-gr) or (616) 340-1613.

Septic Systems: Currently no money is available for septic systems. Kirkland emphasized what we can do now as individuals is to rebuild the lake's resiliency. However, there may be federal money coming for watershed planning. Data will be needed for applications. Paula Humphrey asked if the data collected by the Drain Commission would be useful. Kirkland said the Drain Commission has limited authority. Instead she emphasized stopping runoff now by caring for our own shoreline.

Kirkwood can be reached at [Kirkwood@mi.gov](mailto:Kirkwood@mi.gov).

### 3. Roll Call

Present: President Betsy Ludwick, Vice President Pat Wolters, Secretary Susan McClure, Treasurer Greg Slater, Past President Bob Blauwkamp. Directors Mollie Gaggin John DeGeneres, Carl Elliott, Paula Humphrey. Twenty people in audience.

### 4. Approval of Agenda

Greg Slater moved to accept the agenda, Carl Elliott seconded. Passed.

### 5. Call to Audience

Leshia Gustin showed the 2022 July Celebration shirt. People can order it for \$20 each. One hundred percent of the profits will go to the fireworks fund.

Karen Elliott said there are lake residents who want a printed newsletter. She was asked to give Betsy Ludwick the names. The residents' Board representatives will take those people a printed copy of the newsletter. Pat Wolters said Board Members can ask the people on their routes when the representatives collect dues if the people want printed newsletters.

### 6. Secretary's Report

Because of the quickly fading light, Betsy Ludwick said we would accept the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes as published in the July 2021 newsletter since there had been no responses. Susan McClure did not orally read the 2021 minutes. Pat Wolters moved the minutes be approved. Greg Slater seconded. Passed.

### 7. Treasurer's Report

The bank balance for the year 2021 is \$8575.01. The Operating Fund has a balance of \$2674.01. There is \$5901 in the Fireworks Account, which is a separate account from the Operating Fund. The budget for 2022 is \$2235. Dues remain at \$35 per residence. We need 64 members to meet the budget. Susan McClure moved to accept the budget. Pat Wolters seconded. Passed.

### 8. Fireworks

There will be no public fireworks on July 3, 2022. There is no product available. Carl Elliot reported that the Board had looked into a drone light show, but the cost would be \$50,000. There will be a boat parade with prizes for CLA members. The ring of fire will be a dusk. Plumbers candles can be ordered from Board Members for \$1.25. A new way to celebrate this year will be a house decorating contest. Betsy Ludwick reminded all those shooting off fireworks from their homes to be safe.

The money collected for the 2022 show will remain in the Fireworks Account to be used in 2023, we hope.

### 9. Lake and Inlet Testing

Lake Quality and Education Committee member Susan McClure reported that the July 28, 2021, testing of the deep hole by Professional Lake Management showed dissolved oxygen is unavailable below 12 feet. While other items tested for were not in the danger range, the phosphorus level is off the chart. The test showed 439 ug/L phosphorus. Highly enriched is more than 50. Professional Lake Management called Crockery Lake "Phosphorus polluted."

Karen Peliter said she puts a packet of Fleischmann's yeast in her septic tank once a month. When it was pumped out the last time, the operator said he had never seen such a clean tank

Mollie Gaggin asked if it was safe to swim in Crockery Lake. Susan said that the items tested affected lake health directly, not human health. E-Coli was not tested for. E-Coli disperses quickly in the water and is hard to test for. Mollie will call the Ottawa County Health Department to find out when Crockery Lake was last tested for E-Coli.

#### 10. Update Residents List and CLA members

Board Members were reminded again to get internet addresses for members.

11. The lake treatment schedule will be posted on the CLA website. The treatment is scheduled for the week rather than a day. Professional Lake Management posts green signs on the day of the treatment. The signs name the chemicals used.

The Annual Membership Drive will be done by the Board member assigned to a certain section. (Thank you to those who paid dues at the Annual May Meeting.)

#### 12. Board Policy Update

The CLA Policies have been rewritten and were adopted in 2021. The policies clarify committees chaired by Board Members. Other interested people are welcome to serve on the committees.

Residents are urged to label their property that is used on the lake or can be blown into the lake. Lesha Gustin will make permanent labels. Objects like rafts and toys (child's playhouse, for example) can be returned if they are labeled.

#### 13. Nominations/Elections of Board Members.

Incumbents Paula Humphrey and Greg Slater were nominated. There were no nominations from the floor. Susan McClure moved to re-elect Paula and Greg. Pat Wolters seconded. Elected.

#### 14. Around the Table

Buzz Holzlander asked about zoning and non-conforming lots. Betsy Ludwick said that is a township matter, not a CLA matter.

Jody Hyde said Ottawa County has no money for testing on Crockery Lake.

Betsy Ludwick reported that the three males suspected of the extensive damage done to the Grose Park restrooms plus a fire set in the maintenance storage building in 2021 are awaiting trial. The damage totaled over \$200,000. Two adults and one juvenile are being held.

Greg Slater moved to adjourn.

8:21 pm

Board Reorganization Meeting.

8:30 pm

The Board elects the CLA officers. The Board re-elected the current officers: Betsy Ludwick, President; Pat Wolters, Vice President Pat Wolters, Secretary Susan McClure, Treasurer Greg Slater. the Board members are Betsy Ludwick, Pat Wolters, Susan McClure, Greg Slater, Past President Bob Blauwkamp, Mollie Gaggin, John DeGeneres, Carl Elliott, Paula Humphrey.

No other business was discussed.