

Cormorant Lakes Watershed District

Advisory Committee Minutes

June 8, 2023

The Cormorant Lakes Watershed District's Advisory Committee was held at the Cormorant Town Hall/Community Center, District Office, 10929 County Highway #5, Cormorant, MN at 5:30 p.m.

Those present were CLWD Managers: Ellis Peterson, Jeff Moritz, Lyle Hansen, Sam Blattenbauer; and Liz Larson, Administrator. Committee Members: Jay D. Carlson, Dennis Bartunek, Joe Herbst, Ed Clem, Bryan Malone and Merle Zimmerman. Guests: Pete Waller, BWSR; Moriya Rufer, Houston Engineering; and Sheldon Struble, Retired CLWD Inspector.

Meeting called to order at 5:55 pm.

- Introductions
- Lake Plans presentation by Moriya Rufer.
 - One Watershed One Plan discussion/updates.
- Watershed Overview by CLWD Board:
 - Ellis Peterson presented information about Swanie's Bay channel clearing and dredging.
 - Board discussed new employee status.
 - Blue Water Bay protection project
- Group Discussion of defining thresholds for channel clearing/dredging
 - Ease of access
 - Cost prohibitive
 - Commercial vs Residential uses
 - Expectation of usability by landowners
 - History of navigable waters of Blue Water Bay
 - Fisheries habitat

- Large motor boats travelling through shallow areas
- Pay per parcel/landowner for the project
 - Develop formula for those interest landowners to live/use the bay.
- Feasibility study-discuss with DNR
 - Ability to keep bay naturally intact/protected.
- CLWD Board leaves before Advisory Committee discussion.
- Advisory Committee Discussion
 - Channel dredging discussion continued.
 - Suggestion to review management plan or incorporating into watershed plan.
 - Final committee suggestion on topic to continue to take input on issue and review findings.
 - Blue Water Bay project discussion
 - The Committee would like to review a copy of the proposed project via email.
 - Budget
 - 1 Years reserve acceptable.
 - Move more from general fund.
 - Comment that CLWD is leveraging other funds very well.
 - Suggestion to not increase levy and keep as same for 2023.
 - Public Outreach
 - Lake association meetings
 - Tree program-expand program
 - New position
 - CLWD Feedback
 - CLWD Board is doing a very good job.

- Longevity of positions and vested in the best interests of the District.
 - Invest in enforcement attorney and partner with County Attorney for proper handling of enforcement issues.
- Board Returns for final discussion.
 - Channel Discussion Advice
 - Continue to take input on issue, especially at Lake Association meetings.
 - Swanie's Bay may not support much traffic of a marina but as a needed basis for navigability.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be scheduled in May/June 2024.

Adjourned at 8:00 pm. By Mike Foley. 2nd Ellis Peterson. All in favor.

Meeting Minutes Submitted respectfully by Sam Blattenbauer, Secretary; prepared by Liz Larson, CLWD Administrator.