

OLRA Board Meeting, February 4th, 2017

Location: Kerry and AJ Mueller's cottage at 168 Bradshaw Rd.

Present: Kerry Mueller, Daryle Moffatt, Brian Nelson, Marty Chepesiuk, Sonja Cigler, Tony Buszynski (via phone)

Regrets: David Amy

At 1:40pm the meeting was opened by Brian: seconded by Kerry

Items on the Agenda:

1. Re-introduction of Marty Chepesiuk to the OLRA board. Marty has been a long time OLRA member and former OLRA President as well as serving in other positions in past years. Welcome back Marty!

2. The May 22, 2016 Annual General Meeting (AGM) minutes were approved with the one edit recommended by Kerry as per the Oct. 1st 2016 meeting minutes. Daryle moved to approve the AGM minutes with that edit; seconded by Brian. Passed. Kerry will change the AGM minutes on the OLRA website.

2. The Oct. 1st 2016 Board meeting minutes were unanimously approved by the Board.

3. Financial Report was presented by Daryle. At December 31, 2016, \$6,119.31 was in the Operating Fund, \$35,952.48 was in the Reserve Fund and \$15,513.18 was in the Environmental Fund which are mainly invested in GIC's at TD Direct Investing. It was discussed that this "extra" money in those funds is not really that much money should OLRA become involved in a major dispute. OLRA has \$29,000 at 4%, \$5,000 at 0.4% (both maturing April 2017) and \$14,000 at 1.97% (maturing in April 2018). The \$29,000 and \$14,000 GIC investments are cashable any time but if cashed before they mature, OLRA will lose the accrued interest but no other penalty. The Financial Report was moved to be approved by Marty; seconded by Brian. Passed.

4. The Membership Report was presented by Daryle. Membership renewals are ahead of normal so far in 2017. Kerry sent out an email reminder about renewing memberships on January 1, 2017, which has proven to be successful in getting members to renew earlier than in other years. \$1,355 were received to date for 2017 memberships: 15 were received by e-transfer; 19 received by cheque.

People sending in payments for renewals are often going on-line to self update their profiles. Some have sent in membership forms with their cheques. Additional emails can now be added to a member's profile on the website for their additional OLRA family members.

There was a discussion regarding members being identified at the AGM for voting by i.e. a coloured piece of paper, which they can hold up when voting. It was agreed to try this method at the upcoming AGM.

To identify new owners on the lake, Kerry will again manually update OLRA's list of ratepayers on Otter and Little Otter Lakes by cross referencing with the Seguin Township office printed records. So far, no faster way to do this has been found. The Membership Report was moved to be approved by Marty; seconded by Daryle. Passed.

5. Kerry and Daryle will talk to Mike Comrie about the OLRA website updates. Their mandate is to clarify the ownership of the website and its data with Mike in order to decide whether to update the website

further or to possibly start a new website. No date has been set as yet for resolution; trying for spring. This objective was moved for approval by Brian; seconded by Marty. Passed.

6. The Water Levels Report was presented by Tony. At this time, water levels in the lake are good and consistent when compared to recent years. There is always a discussion as to what is too high or too low. Fluctuations are typically within about 9 inches which is quite good compared to some other lakes. Close monitoring by Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry (MNR) has helped with graphed results available on-line. Mathew Bancroft is still with MNR in a new position. Amanda Vincent (MNR) is now Manager of the dam at Little Otter. Andrew Oshier (MNR Technical Specialist) is the person now looking after the Otter Lake water levels. Tony has a good relationship with the MNR staff monitoring the dam and said that they are always responsive.

It was again reinforced that OLRA members need to communicate about water levels, especially if not satisfied. The Water Levels Report was moved to be approved by Kerry; seconded by Brian. Passed.

Tony re-confirmed his resignation from the Board. Kerry asked him if he would continue in the capacity of water level monitoring and he accepted.

7. Lake Stewardship Report re: Water Testing Recommendations was presented by Brian. There was a discussion of increasing our water monitoring by including extra testing. Brian has been investigating this topic. Water testing can include testing for: nitrogen, calcium, dissolved organic carbon, dissolved oxygen, bacteria, dissolved carbon, giardia, phosphorous, Secchi (water clarity) and temperature.

Test sites are recommended to include depth, near shore and water course sites and to be done once per month over 5 months (May to Oct.) Brian presented a map of Otter Lake on which potential testing sites were marked. The GPS coordinates of such sites would need to be determined for reference. Brian's initial estimate of the sampling/testing costs are \$1,800-\$2,000 per annum plus the cost of the environmental report on the data of \$1,000/annum.

Brian spoke with Mario Buszynski, Ward 2 Councillor about possible assistance from Seguin Township. Mario will bring Brian's report and his request to Seguin Council for review.

Marty made a motion for OLRA to spend up to \$5,000 to establish baseline water quality testing to help guide us and execute assessment. The motion was withdrawn.

Marty made a second motion for OLRA to spend up to \$1,000 on an accredited water quality biologist to advise OLRA on establishing a baseline water quality testing program. Brian will source the above. Sonja moved to approve the motion. Daryle seconded. Passed.

It was agreed that when Brian has some new information on the above he will circulate it to the Board members for review prior to the AGM. The Board's goal is to agree on a new water testing program, including the dollars associated with it, before the May 22nd AGM so OLRA can present that new plan at AGM and have the membership vote on it.

8. Loon Report was presented by Daryle. OLRA has applied for a \$1,500 grant from the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund through Grants Ontario and approval should be known by March. The grant would allow for at least two platforms at approx. \$500 each. Volunteers would still be needed to construct and place the structures in big Otter Lake to encourage Loon nesting.

9. The new OLRA Objectives Report was presented by Marty. The new OLRA objectives were felt to be worthwhile. It was suggested by the sub-committee of Marilyn Campbell, Doug Whitman and Marty

Chepesiuk to remove the words “and fun” from the fourth objective. Kerry moved that the new OLRA Objectives Report with that change be proposed at the AGM for a vote; seconded by Brian. Passed

10. Report on Survey Respondents who want to help the Board was presented by Kerry. Marty and Brad Chittick have put forward their names to serve on the Board and this will need approval at the AGM in May. A number of other OLRA members have also indicated to Kerry their interest in helping the Board with various events/to do's which is much appreciated.

11. The Spring Newsletter Report was presented by Kerry. Discussion – in 2016 \$1,667 (62% of the total Spring newsletter costs) was spent on printing/ mailing costs to contact non-members to encourage them to join OLRA. This mailing to non-members has been done traditionally each Spring but it has been determined that very few new members have resulted.

Most OLRA members now receive the newsletter by email. Those without an email address will be contacted to perhaps have additional OLRA family members emailed the newsletter with OLRA's new website upgrade. As well, the newsletter will be posted on the website and some printed copies of the newsletter will be available at the AGM and the annual BBQ.

To reduce costs spent on non-members it was proposed that this Spring non-members will only receive a letter promoting OLRA membership and lapsed members will receive a letter reminding them of the value of renewing their membership. A personal follow-up call or visit with lapsed members, new owners on the lake and non-members was felt to be the most effective way to encourage membership rather than mailings.

In 2016 OLRA collected \$1,075 in advertising which helped to offset newsletter costs. Daryle will take over contacting those prior advertisers and new ones. Two–three pages maximum of the newsletter are to be made available for advertising.

It was moved by Kerry to adopt the above newsletter process. Seconded Brian. Passed.

The newsletter should be ready at the beginning of April so content should be submitted by mid March at the latest.

12. The Henvey Inlet Report was presented by Daryle. There was no news to report re: Henvey Inlet wind farm as Seguin Township was waiting for information, which was understood to come from Hydro One regarding the determination of the location of the switching station. No fibre optic line is to be placed along corridor.

New Business:

13 a. Daryle presented his financial forecast. \$2,000 insurance, \$2,000 for the newsletter, \$250 per year for the website.

139 lapsed members were mailed last spring plus another 174 property owners that have never joined OLRA. By reducing mailing to non-members, we will reduce costs. Art Coles persuaded approximately 12 lapsed members to rejoin in 2016.

13 b. May 22, 2017 AGM report was presented by Kerry. It will be held at the Foley Community Centre Monday May 22 as the hall was rented out for a wedding Saturday night and would not be ready in time for a Sunday meeting. Voting cards need to be prepared as there will be a vote on the changes to the constitution, the new board members and potential new lake quality testing program.

13 c,d. The annual BBQ Report was presented by Kerry. The BBQ will be August 12 at Tappattoo rain or shine. \$15 per person will be charged to OLRA. Tappattoo is not charging OLRA a gratuity. If OLRA members purchase tickets before July 31st they will save \$5 per OLRA member otherwise late comers will pay \$15. All non-OLRA members will be charged \$15 per ticket. A notice will be published in the Spring newsletter on the 2017 BBQ ticket pricing. It is hopeful that this will increase second and third family members joining OLRA on top of the primary members.

This year's BBQ will feature an art show, photo contest, live band (organized by OLRA) and lawn games. We have contracted for 156 attendees. Brad has also volunteered to help with running the event and selling tickets. Kerry will ask Brad if he will supervise ticket sales. Tickets are to be printed and made available at the AGM as well as through the Board.

13 e. Membership renewal and recruitment strategies for 2017 presented by Kerry. Tony and Kerry attended the FOCA Fall conference where it was suggested that lake associations develop a Facebook page. The constant work needed to maintain a Facebook page discouraged the OLRA Board from pursuing this at this time. Direct personal contact was felt to be a more effective way of signing up existing and new members.

13 f. Otter Lake / Salmon Lake portage rebuild presented by Marty. Marty has contacted Dominique O'Brien at Seguin Township to see if a dock could be built from the existing path at the Salmon Lake portage to beyond the reeds which prevent passage of canoes and kayaks most of the year. Tony pointed out the liability, maintenance and insurance costs of building such an access and suggested MNRF be contacted directly. Marty is to contact the MNRF for their input and possibly present an OLRA funded proposal at the AGM.

13 g. Invasive species detection/control presented by Marty. Marty reported that Seguin Township is aware of patches of Giant Hogweed and invasive Phragmites and is exploring training a township employee in herbicide application. An app to record invasive species is available for download "EDDMapS".

13 h. Parry Sound area internet improvement initiative presented by Kerry and Brian. Kerry contacted the smartnow.ca team for Parry Sound to ask about possible improvements to the Otter Lake internet service. Smartnow.ca recommended that local users visit the website <http://smartnow.ca/demandfibre/> to do the [CIRA Speed Test](#) to document their connection speed now. Kerry will add this to the spring newsletter. Brian Nelson discussed how local internet service could be improved – fibre backbone distributed to multiple WIMAX towers would be an ideal solution but unlikely to be implemented as the area is served by cell tower 3G and LTE service as well as a relatively slow wireless from Vianet.

Kerry moved that the meeting be closed. Seconded by Daryle. Passed.