

CLCOA Annual Meeting (by Zoom)

May 29, 2021

The annual meeting began at 11 am on May 29, 2021, with Dickson Wood, the Zoom moderator giving all participants the zoom rules. He asked that all microphones be muted until asking a question, and the hands-up button is used to draw attention. All participants were asked to state their name and lot address before participating.

President Greg McGrath began the meeting with a greeting and a thank you to all for participating. Greg asked if new owners Phil Scalia and Corri Schmitz, and Scott and Karla Sanderson were present. Phil Scalia (Block 5 Lot 15) was present and introduced himself. Scott and Karla Sanderson (Block 10 Lot 4) were not present. Greg mentioned that there were two other cottages with new owners (Block 9 Lot 6 and Block 9 Lot 7), but he had not had contact with the new owners.

Stephen Shenfield, Lands Manager – Bighorn / Edmonton District representing Alberta Environment and Parks, attended and gave an overview of how new organization changes have affected CLCOA. Emphasis is now more of a crown land approach to dispositions. Leases will be administered by the lands division, and Ashley Kelly is directly reporting to Stephen. Their version of red tape reduction is to have fewer people in the decision-making process so one department can handle all aspects of the Park. Questions regarding the administration of Crimson Lake Provincial Park leases can now be sent to Stephen. Parks infrastructure and visitor experience/ outreach will still be handled by the Parks Division.

Dock and Other Mooring Structures Standards: Temporary Field Authorization (TFA) or Licence of Occupation (DLO) are now required for docks on Crimson Lake. This new requirement has been on the books for years but has not been enforced until recently. This regulation covers all water bodies in Alberta, including Crimson, Pigeon, Sylvan, Buffalo, Wabamun, etc. The reason for this requirement lies primarily with liability associated with boats or snowmobiles colliding with docks and increased demand on various lakes within Alberta. As the waterways in summer or winter are open to all Albertans, safety must be ensured.

Greg McGrath asked if regulations might have been different if the Lake itself was included as part of Crimson Lake Provincial Park. Stephen replied that no; lake disposition is irrelevant to TFA/DLO.

Brent Kennedy stated that this new requirement does not appear to follow the new bill 62, which is supposed to minimize red tape. Stephen replied that we have a disturbance standard for temporary docks and if followed does not require a TFA or DLO which reduces red tape. Those structures that fall outside the disturbance standard would require a DLO and would have a 25-year life and do not need review. Brent then stated the annual fee seemed like a money grab and that many cabins on the lake with steep banks physically can't remove their docks every fall. Stephen said it didn't matter; Legislation doesn't compromise. Brent added that cabins have been on the lake for over 60 years and much longer than the park. Shouldn't these cabins be grandfathered as no one knew about this requirement? Stephen replied to have something grandfathered, you must have it in the original act. It doesn't apply to this.

Frank Turcato wondered why this requirement could not be part of the lease. Stephen said cottage leases and dock mooring standards are under different legislation. Provincial Parks act versus Lands - water bed and shore which is under the Public Lands Act.

Greg McGrath pointed out that many cottagers had no idea this legislation existed. Part of the present issue is confusion. Greg stated that he is presently applying for the DLO, and he is finding it extremely difficult and time consuming as well as complicated and expensive. Greg hopes to have a "cookbook" on how to do it available to other cottagers. Presently he is on hold waiting for a shoreline survey which is necessary and expensive.

Stephen replied that the Alberta Government is going digital with all records within the next year and hopes to have a one-stop portal where cottagers can access information on anything related to the park and their lease.

Jack and Sharon Turner of (Block 7 Lot 7) wanted answers on DLO's. Their dock has been in place since 1961 and is well maintained. If forced to remove the dock, there will be no access to water. The cost of a removable dock is prohibitive, and where would it be stored? Seems like just a money grab. Stephen understands and sympathizes. He realizes the costs are high and recommends cabin owners get together and negotiate a group discount with the service providers. He says his department has looked through the act with a fine-toothed comb and cannot find a way out. Legislation has been in effect since the 1930s.

Turners asked about reducing the cost, and Stephen replied that costs are set by ministerial order and can't be waved. And if Crimson were given special treatment, a precedent would be set, and other areas would then want the same.

Turners wanted to know since the lake is not part of the park, could they bring in snowmobiles. Stephen replied that yes, but only by helicopter as any land routes are in the park.

Dickson Wood noted that cottages (and docks; and lakeshore stairs; and lakeside decks) have been on Crimson Lake longer than the park has been in existence. Moreover, the approval process in years gone by was to ask the warden directly who would then generally provide verbal approval. So, to suggest that the leaseholders didn't get approval is false. That was the process at the time. AEP shouldn't be trying to retroactively apply current rules and procedures. Dickson suggested that this could become a legal issue, and the CLCOA might look at legal advice.

Greg McGrath asked about a breakage that has occurred at the boat launch. It is becoming a hazard in launching and recovering boats. Stephen says he is aware, but work would need to be budgeted, and there is no present timeline for that.

Ivy Mehwa asked for Stephens's contact info. He asked cabin owners to reach out to his email account: stephen.shenfield@gov.ab.ca

Greg McGrath wondered if Stephen knew about the security gate that CLCOA had proposed to the Parks. Stephen was not familiar, so Greg gave him the basic information. Dickson noted that Parks promised to get back to us with a list of all the requirements that would have to be met prior to a gate being considered, but as of yet, we haven't had anything. Stephen said he would pass on our concerns.

Al Rundell noted that regarding the TFA's and DLO's, the government seems to be disorganized. He suggested a moratorium until the government has everything in order.

Stephen replied that the requirements wouldn't change, and a moratorium wouldn't make any difference. He feels that adequate time has been given but is open to requests for more time.

Darwin Park noted he has been on the lake since 1952, when his family paid \$5.00 per year. Darwin has dealt with and been involved with all park wardens since then and has been active in governmental meetings right up to and including the formation of the CLCOA. In all that time, docks never came up for discussion. Darwin feels this is bureaucracy gone mad, and cottage owners have been put at a severe disadvantage.

Greg McGrath thanked Stephen for attending and taking our questions. Turners chimed in, wondering if a time extension could be approved right away. Stephen replied the assistant deputy ministers will be briefed so that they are aware of Crimson Lake and as an association, if you need more time, we will look at it.

At this point, Stephen left the meeting due to other commitments. Dickson noted that Scott Sanderson, one of our new cottage owners, had logged on. Greg welcomed him to the lake and the association. Scott introduced himself and his wife Karla (who was unable to attend). He stated that the cabin owners hold the lake to a higher standard than the government.

Moving on, Greg noted that there was no meeting last year and consequently no minutes. In lieu of minutes, Greg composed a note explaining why no meeting was held and asked that the "note" be adopted as a replacement for the CLCOA 2020 minutes to keep the minutes chronologically intact. Frank Marcotic moved minutes to be approved, and Scott Sanderson seconded.

Annual Ditch Clean Up: Brian Carpenter reported on last year's cleanup which went extremely well with high attendance. Because of covid, a barbeque was not held. This year the cleanup date is July 3rd at 10 am. The only question now is how big a party will be held after.

Financial Report: Greg noted that if annual \$20.00 membership dues were being sent by email to Rob Warrender, make sure to use the email on the membership list, not the email address for Rob contained in the meeting notice because there was a typo in that address. Greg is hiring someone to clean up, organize and modernize our list of members.

Rob Warrender: \$7000 in the account to start the year. Brought in \$1300 via memberships, paid for the new notice board on cottage road and at the end of the year had about \$7500.00. 67 of 89 cabins are paid members of CLCOA.

Darwin Park moved to accept the financial report. Grant Anderson seconded.

Election of Officers: Gil Mather is resigning his post. Greg thanked Gil for his service to the CLCOA. Kelly Lowry offered to act as Gil's replacement. A motion was put forward, and Mike was appointed as a director. Darwin moved to accept the slate of officers.

Questions/Discussion

Darwin Park thanked Greg McGrath for his service. Greg thanked Dickson Wood for setting up the zoom meeting.

New owner/member Phil Scalia wondered about the history of Crimson Lake. Greg McGrath referred him to Marsha Brown's book, which was done some time ago. Greg promised to check with Marsha to see if more copies were available. He also asked the members that if they were interested in a copy, let him know.

Al Rundell asked if it is possible for us to formally recommend to the government an increase in the time frame for DLO / TFA submission. Greg felt it was a good idea as he has been working on his DLO for six months and is now waiting on the surveyor to do a shoreline survey. Much paperwork is required. High Country Surveyors has been approached and is offering a group discount. The exact amount depends on whether High Country Surveyors has done a Real Property Report and also the size, complexity, and accessibility of the shoreline.

Dickson Wood asked if we need to make a motion. Grant Anderson added that a 2-to-3-year extension would be necessary, as the submission is much more complicated with stairs, storage sheds, etc.

Al Rundell moved CLCOA make a formal request for a 2-to-3-year extension.

Seconded by Grant Anderson.

Leah Craig wondered about the condition of cabin road. Greg replied that the county is aware of the condition, but they have stated that if they upgrade the road, it

must be to county specs and would change it from a lane to a road. Parks would object. Greg said he would reach out to Clearwater County to see if there are types of repairs that could be done to mitigate the issues in the bad spots that wouldn't involve major reconstruction.

Clearwater County Waste Disposal. The Rocky site has been closed permanently, and a new site has been opened on the road to the Rocky airport. This site takes pickup truck load maximums and, if larger, must go to the regional landfill west of Rocky on highway 11.

Adjournment: Greg asked if there were any other topics for discussion. None were put forward, so he asked for a motion to adjourn. Rob Warrender moved to adjourn; Kelly Lowry seconded.