

## Cormorant Lakes Watershed District

Board of Managers, Regular Meeting

Monday, October 3, 2011

The regular meeting of the Cormorant Lakes Watershed District (CLWD) Board of Managers was held in the Cormorant Town Hall, Cormorant Room, 10929 County Highway #5, Cormorant, MN starting at 7:00 P.M.

Those present were; managers Jody Beaudine, Jeff Moritz, Orvis Olson and Ellis Peterson; Inspectors Sheldon Struble and Duane Erickson; Administrator Sherwood Olson; guests Joe Lightowler (Big Cormorant), Rob Schwartz, Dustin Knutson, Shane Peterson (all on Rossman), and Casey Aakre (Nelson).

Chairperson Ellis Peterson called the meeting to order. Minutes of Watershed meetings are posted on the website [www.clwd.org](http://www.clwd.org).

**10-Year Management plan development:** The 60-day comment period on the plan began October 1, 2011. The plan is posted on the Watershed website, [www.clwd.org](http://www.clwd.org) and is available from the Watershed on request. Comments on the plan should be sent to:

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**Rossman and Nelson lake** representatives were present to voice their interest in enlarging, and removing sand from, the concrete culvert between Rossman and Upper Cormorant so that larger boats could pass through. The culvert is a critical link for the property owners, Mike Stewart et al, to access their property, and as such their agreement with any proposal is essential. The managers recommended they start with the DNR in Detroit Lakes to determine the process and requirements for a permit. A hydrologist, such as from the DNR, will likely be needed to complete a study before a permit can be granted. A petition of lake residents favoring a larger culvert would aid in their efforts. In the past, the Watershed has commissioned engineering work based on similar petitions. They might also explore grant funding with the DNR, particularly since there is no public access on Rossman, and a larger culvert would create public access to Rossman by allowing travel from other public accesses on Upper and Middle Cormorant lakes.

**Inspections:** Sheldon noted several concerns and also noted areas that have improved. The report was filed.

**Projector:** Sherwood will contact Software Solutions in Fargo to get their recommendation on a projector and screen. The Township supervisors do not want a screen, such as pull-down, permanently installed in the Cormorant Room; as such a free-standing unit will be proposed, such as a tripod, or other option.

**Permit activity:** a meeting at 11969 Maple Lodge Rd. (Owen Benson property), regarding a proposed building permit, may be scheduled in the near future, such as on Saturday, October 8.

**MAWD:** motion by Jeff, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Orvis, that Sherwood proceed to make hotel and conference reservations for the five Managers, Inspector Sheldon, and himself. Carried unanimously.

**Manager term renewals:** Sherwood will notify the County Commissioners and the Auditor that it's time to renew the terms for Jody and Gene.

**Big Cormorant Outflow:** Bob Merritt has sent an email that he is on the mend and expects to be continuing to develop the outflow agreement.

**Easements:** work continues to finalize the Bijou (Alpine Lane) and Big Cormorant Outlet easement agreements.

Bonding for Managers: Sherwood is working with John Hoffman of ICS agency (Liberty Mutual policy) to wrap up the bonding policy. Jeff asked that Hoffman verify that the new policy meets state requirements.

**Beaver dam issues** on the Ness Estates area of Upper Cormorant and on Bergeson lake outflow to Rossman are being resolved.

**Tree replacement** was discussed. At issue is the observation that the number of trees in the shore impact zone is diminishing, because as existing trees are removed for a variety of reasons (e.g. growing too close to structures, disease, limb breakage), there is no practice or policy to re-plant or replace them. Solutions such as agreements to plant replacements when a permit is granted for removal, incentives to replant, information and education for property owners and other, were discussed.

**Bills:** The following bills were approved for payment

	<u>Check</u>	<u>Amt</u>
• DL Newspapers	Budget Hearing Notices 1332	141.30

**Adjournment:** Motion by Orvis, 2nd by Jody, to adjourn. Carried unanimously.

**Next meeting:** The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Cormorant Center.

Respectfully submitted  
Jeff Moritz, Secretary  
Prepared by Sherwood Olson, Administrator