

# Memorandum



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**To:** ACL Board

**Date:** June 14, 2015

**From:** Megan Shamp

**Memo #:** 2015-49

**Topic:** June committee changes

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**Recommendation:** To appoint Rich Miranda, Mike Cammack, Edie Petelle, and Rosanne Brandenburg to the Nominating Committee, to appoint Marge Clark as Chair of the Legal Committee; and to accept the resignation of Dane Curtis from the Rules and Regulations Committee and Erin Winter from the Conservation Committee.



# Memorandum

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**To:** Board of Directors

**Date:** 6/15/15

**From:** Rick Paulson

**Memo:** 2015-55

**Topic:** boat length variation

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**Issue:**

Attached is an email from Michael Link in regards to the length of his recently purchased boat. ACL limits the length of a speed boat to a maximum of 21 feet. Because all registrations takes place at the ACL office, the length of the boat listed on the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Watercraft Registration is considered the official length of the boat. Both the Watercraft Registration and Watercraft Liability Insurance submitted by Mr. Link list the length as 22 feet. We indicated to Mr. Link on several occasions that his boat exceeded the allowable length. As requested by Mr. Link, I forwarded an email to the entire board asking if they would consider giving the Links a variation for the extra one foot of length. I did not receive responses from every board member but the majority indicated they could not approve this type of variation. Deb McNamee was the only board member who responded that was in favor of a variation. Although I told the Links that it was very unlikely for the board to grant this type of variation, they have asked that their request for a variation be placed on the agenda for consideration.

**Recommendation:**

From a staff perspective, granting a variation for this individual case would create major issues within the office and more than likely promote additional variation requests for this same issue. Each year we receive many calls from people buying new boats, and we consistently inform people of the length limits. The Links did not contact the office or review the Rules & Regulations prior to purchasing the boat. They incorrectly assumed that the maximum length for a motor boat was the same as a pontoon boat.



# Memorandum

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**To:** Board of Directors

**Date:** 6/10/15

**From:** Rick Paulson

**Memo:** 2015-52

**Topic:** Health Insurance

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**Issue:**

After months of research with two insurance brokers, we have a proposal for changes to the employee health insurance policy. Previously we were with Coventry Health Care which required our employees to be members of the Production Workers Union. As you know, the Coventry Insurance was changed from a PPO to a POS due to the union contract negotiations, of which our employees had no knowledge. I recently received a notice that the Coventry Insurance was being increased up to 15%. The proposed Blue Cross Blue Shield plan that was previously discussed is actually less than the new rate for our existing Coventry policy. Based on the current employee census, the cost of the insurance has decreased significantly. As more employees are hired to fill the vacated full time positions, the census and the cost of the insurance will be revised. The new insurance with the current census will be less than the current Coventry policy.

**Recommendation:**

Authorize the Interim Operations Director to purchase Blue Cross Blue Shield 510 PPO employee health insurance plan from Bullis & Sundberg LLC Insurance at a cost estimated at \$10,000 to \$13,000 per month based on the current and future employee census.



# Memorandum

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**To:** ACL Board

**Date:** June 14, 2015

**From:** Megan Shamp & Julie Janssen

**Memo #:** 2015-50

**Topic:** Campground Cancellation Policy

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## **Issue & Analysis:**

Current Campground Cancellation Policy:

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations at least 7 days in advance of the rental will receive an ACL Gift Card. Rentals cancelled without 7 days' notice are non-refundable.

A limited number of property owners are manipulating the current campground reservation Rules and Regulations (reservations not to exceed two weeks, made no more than 30 days in advance) and Cancellation Policy to hold campsites for extended periods of time; which does not allow another property owner the opportunity to use the site.

For example, we had three bookings for a full hookup campsite for two weeks from June 20 to July 3. These same three property owners then cancelled the reservation on June 22, and used their gift card refund to rebook the same site from June 22 through July 5. These "inchworm" reservations go on through the entire month of May, June, and August for the holiday weekends.

We have received numerous complaints from property owners who are unable to use the campground that they also pay to maintain. Emails from several of these property owners are included in the Board packet. It has come down to having property owners waiting in the lobby before we open the office in order to reserve the one or two full hookup sites that are available. In addition to those waiting, we are also inundated with angry phone calls from other property owners who believed they would be able to book these sites.

We cannot stop people from manipulating the existing rules, but we can prevent them from doing so by making it financially painful. Additional Rules and Regulations changes will be presented to the Rules and Regulations Committee for their review at a later date. There are simply not enough rental campsites to meet the demand. The Board should also consider converting seasonal campsites as they become available to rental sites in the future. The Long Range Planning Committee and Board of Directors should evaluate the possibility of expanding the existing campground to accommodate additional full hookup sites.

**Recommendation:** To approve an amendment to the campground cancellation policy to read: "All full hookup campsite cancellations are non-refundable. No modification of bookings is allowed." The revised policy will go into effect immediately after Board approval. Primitive campsites will not be affected.



# Memorandum

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**To:** Board of Directors

**Date:** June 11, 2015

**From:** John Sershon, Deer Management Committee

**Memo:** 2015-53

**Topic:** availability of hunting zones

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## **Issue & Analysis:**

In an effort to keep deer stand placement within the rules pertaining to distances from trails, structures, private property, and for safety reasons, we felt it necessary to limit the number of hunters to the current zone space available. Last year we were able to split some of the zones to accommodate all the hunters who qualified. This is no longer practical for the above stated reasons. As it is not reasonable or fair to try to limit the number of hunters who apply, the only option is to limit the hunters to the zone space available.

## **Recommendation:**

The Deer Management Committee hereby recommends that the capacity of deer hunters allowable at ACL be limited to the current zone space available. The existing procedure for issuing zones will be used to allocate the zones.



# Memorandum

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**To:** Board of Directors

**Date:** June 11, 2015

**From:** John Sershon, Deer Management Committee

**Memo:** 2015-54

**Topic:** hunter property theft

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## **Issue & Analysis:**

In an effort to help control deer stand and personal property theft and/or destruction thereof, the Deer Management Committee thought it would be reasonable and fair to participate in an effort to apprehend the person or persons committing the act. The tampering or theft of deer stands is not only a financial hardship, it is a serious safety issue when the bolts are removed or ladders cut.

## **Recommendation:**

To match any reward monies paid for the apprehension and conviction of any person or persons involved in the destruction or theft of the personal property of any deer hunter participating in the ACL Deer Management Program. The property must be located in an issued zone on ACL property at the time of the act. The amount of the matching funds would be limited to the amount of \$500.

# Memorandum



**To:** ACL Board of Directors

**Date:** June 10, 2015

**From:** Conservation Committee – Paula Wiener, Chair

**Memo #:** 2015-48

**Topic:** Greenway Stewardship Program and Application

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**Issue & Analysis:** Greenway Stewardship at ACL

At the Interim Operations Director's request, this committee reviewed both the Greenway Stewardship Program and application. We agreed that it was too cumbersome for most property owners. The new program is streamlined and, we think, easy to follow. Again at the Interim Operations Director's suggestion, we structured the approval process after that used by the Architectural and Environmental Control Committee which avoids the necessity of Board approval for these projects. The program and application are attached to the motion card and this memorandum.

**Recommendation:** The Conservation Committee recommends that that the Board approve the ACLPOA Greenway Stewardship Program Overview and Application as presented.



# Memorandum

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**To:** ACL Board of Directors

**Date:** June 11, 2015

**From:** Conservation Committee, Paula Wiener, Chair

**Memo #:** 2015-47

**Topic:** invasive species removal

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**Issue & Analysis:** Controlling encroachment of invasive plant species into our community has been and will continue to be an issue. This motion is aimed at addressing the problem in one of the areas where infestation is the most extensive.

**Recommendation:** After much investigation with both the ACL Operations Director and our Resource Conservationist, Mike Malon, the Committee recommends that ACL enter into a contract with Driftless Stewardship to remove invasives from an approximate seven acre area lying between Nixon Beach, the waterfall, and Eisenhower. Driftless was chosen because they have a machine that spins, cuts, and chips simultaneously, attacking invasives while leaving desirable trees and bushes undisturbed. While this cutting will not rid the area of invasives, it will make it possible to conduct a controlled burn at a later time. Their proposal to work on 12 acres at a cost of \$9,000 was considered reasonable by the ACL Operations Director.



# Memorandum



**To:** Board of Directors

**Date:** June 11, 2015

**From:** Conservation Committee, Paula Wiener, Chair

**Memo #:** 2015-46

**Topic:** Fish Habitat Tree Placement - Willis

**Issue & Analysis:** Apple Canyon Lake is used in three ways: for swimming, recreational boating, and fishing. In order to assure continued good fishing on the lake, it is necessary to provide habitat.

**Recommendation:** The practice of sinking Christmas trees (cedars) to form new fish habitats in lakes and streams is practiced all over the U.S. There are numerous articles posted on the internet about wildlife biologists sinking hundreds of cedars in lakes and streams around the country. In an article appearing on the Oregon Public Broadcasting website on 2/19/2013 entitled "How to Turn your Christmas Tree into a Salmon Habitat" Doug Ray, a wetlands restoration expert, notes that within days of putting the trees under water, a brown algae starts growing on the needles. Other species beside fish flock to the branches to feed and a new food web is born.

Here are two other citations to support the use of cedars in our lake:

FROM MISSOURI DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FACT SHEET 2006

*If you have a fishing pond, Christmas trees can be used to improve fish habitat. The trees attract fish of all sizes for a number of reasons. Small fish eat the aquatic insects that find a home in the tree branches. Small fish also use the trees as escape areas from the larger fish that eat them. As a result, the fishing is improved around the trees because more fish are congregated in these areas.*

FROM NY TIMES ARTICLE DATED JAN 03, 2011 ON THE USE OF CHRISTMAS TREES AS FISH HABITATS AROUND THE U.S.

*"They last a pretty long time — about five years in the lake," said Lee Mitchell, a natural resource specialist for the Army Corp of Engineers, who is leading a similar campaign this year in Shelbyville, Ill. He expects to receive 500 or more trees. "Fish use them like crazy. And the fishers really like them, too."*

We found varying opinions on how long the trees remained viable habitats – from three to ten years. Using an average of seven years, any trees placed before 2008 are probably no longer useful.

The Conservation Committee is aware that there has been some resistance to placing cedars in Apple Canyon Lake. The overwhelming opinion of natural resources professionals, including our own Resource Conservationist Mike Malon, is that using cedars for habitat, when properly placed, is good for both the fish and the fisherman and at no cost to the lake environment.

As the Board considers this motion, it is important to base decisions on facts and not on personal opinions.

The Conservation Committee recommends to the Board "the placement of two (2) cedar trees in Presidents Bay area for fish spawning." Maps of the area will be provided.



# Memorandum

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**To:** ACL Board

**Date:** June 14, 2015

**From:** Steve Davis, Building Inspector & AECC

**Memo #:** 2015-51

**Topic:** Lot Combination 13-165 and 13-166

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**Issue & Analysis:**

Charles Laing and Janice Arp-Laing have requested a Lot Combination of lots 165 and 166 in the Pioneer (13) subdivision in order to have a shed put on lot 166, 30 feet back from the front lot line, and 30 feet west of the east lot line.

This Lot Combination request was approved by the Architectural and Environmental Control Committee at their June 6, 2015 meeting.

**Recommendation:** To approve the Lot Combination Agreement requested by Charles Laing & Janice Arp-Laing for lots 165 and 166 in the Pioneer (13) subdivision.