

**Friends of the Eau Claire Area  
Annual Meeting  
July 15, 2017**

**Attendance:** 73 people attended, which is about 20 more than last year.

The meeting opened with a welcome by Vice President Cris Neff and she introduced Treasurer Fred Haueter who served as presiding officer in the absence of President Carl Heltne, who was unable to attend.

**Minutes** of the 2016 Annual Meeting. Secretary Barbara Possin announced that the minutes were distributed to attendees at the registration table and were previously e-mailed to members. She informed those present that the minutes were approved by the board on August 18, 2016.

Motion by Jim Reinart and seconded by Lilly Herring to approve minutes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Fred Haueter gave a report of the financial status and fund balances of the organization. Membership numbers and contributions have increased from previous year. Current bank balance is \$42,0425.56

**Barnes Book Club Thank You:** Frank Shelton thanked members for co-sponsoring the July 24<sup>th</sup> event.

**Bayfield Public Hearing:** Carol LeBreck reminded those present of a public hearing July 20<sup>th</sup> regarding proposed zoning changes that would weaken current environmental laws that protect lakes. She encouraged members to attend.

**Board Report:** Treasurer Fred Haueter reviewed our mission and the strategic goals by explaining the organization's Strategy Map

He then reminded members that the activities of the organization has lead to a deeper understanding of what is necessary to keep our lakes clear and beautiful. This includes members being involved in monitoring the health of our lakes by participating in Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW), Shoreline Monitoring, testing water clarity and quality, providing and sponsoring educational opportunities to assist all in good lake stewardship. As a result today our water quality is listed in the top 10% of all Wisconsin waters.

Fred Haueter then reviewed the organization's major activities this past year, summarized below:

- With our financial support and volunteers we continue to assist the Town of Barnes in the operation CBCW and Shoreline Monitoring.
- We have contributed financially to the development and operation of the BAISS boat which will significantly enhance our efforts to reduce aquatic invasive species.

- Our Clean Boats Clean Waters activity contributed to :
  - Highest number of Bayfield County boats inspected and individuals educated .
  - Through the activity of many volunteers and with financial support we continue the LEEP (Lake Ecology Education Program) which works with the Drummond School to provide classroom and outdoor education. The goal is to foster an interest and understanding of environmental stewardship.

He also stated that FOECLA remains an active voice in public policy discussion such as:

- “Concentrated Animal Feedlot Operation”. There has been adoption of our proposed resolutions regarding public health concerns related to such operations.
- There has been discussion again this year concerning Town of Barnes Ordinance, Chapter 8, Section 4 which reads as follows:
  - “No person shall water ski, operate a motorboat or other power propelled device pulling and object and/ or a person or use a jet ski on the waters herein described after the hour of 5:00 pm and before the hour of 10:00 am”
- Survey of our membership revealed support for the Town of Barnes Board to maintain this ordinance by 83% to 17%. This information was shared with the Town Board
- Ordinance has been in place for over 40 years.
- There has been no action to change this by the Town Board to date
- We have retained legal Counsel to help guide us in this process

Fred Haueter articulated that FOECLA has Partnered with local community organizations as follows:

- Partnering with the Barnes Area Historical Society in sponsoring a lecture on the history of logging in this region.
- Co-sponsoring with the Barnes Book Club an event on July 24th featuring the outdoor writer, Emily Stone.
- Our efforts of collaborating with others supports activities that enhance the number and quality of these events related to our mission

He explained how FOECLA has collaborated with local government:

- We maintain membership on Town Committees- At this time a board member serves on the Town of Barnes AIS Committee and we participated on the Town of Barnes EMS Committee.
- We continue to explore ways to collaborate with the Towns of Barnes and Gordon in ways that furthers our mission

In conclusion, Fred Haueter spoke to collaboration efforts with state government:

- This year we participated in “Water Days “ in Madison. The goal of this event was to educate our state legislators on the many issues facing our lakes, streams and shorelines.
- This type of activity will continue to be of importance as there are counter forces that promote actions we believe are harmful to our resources.
- There was representation at NW Wisconsin Lakes Conference

**Nominations Committee:** Cris Neff reported for the Nominations Committee to propose Jim Krook, Ted Eastlund, and Anne Torrey continue their terms on the board. She also nominated Jeri McGinley as a new board member. Nominations opened from the floor. There were none.

Ron Carlson moved approval and Katherine Stewart seconded. A vote by members elected all unanimously.

**AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Report:** Andy Teal, Bayfield AIS Coordinator

Andy Teal gave an overview of activities this past year, focusing on removing curly pondweed and milfoil. He also spoke about the identification and removal tactics of yellow iris found along lakeshores.

Public recognition was given to the Conservation Club for donating \$5,000 to pay for divers on the BAISS Boat. All of the voluntary deckhands were acknowledged.

**Awards:** Fred Hauter noted the following awards the organization received:

- The Wisconsin Invasive Species Council recognized our volunteer efforts by naming us the Invader Crusader of 2017. This award is given to the group that is noted for outstanding voluntary efforts in the battle against invasive species.
- Exxon-Mobile Grant for Volunteer work-recognizing the efforts of of Fred Haueter

### **Proposed Bylaws Changes:**

Ron Carlson, FOECLA Historian explained the need to revise bylaws, mainly to update them so that the organization can take advantage of benefits of electronic communication with members.

Major proposed changes are:

Article I Section 2:

- Added current name of the organization
- Article V, Annual Meeting
  - New bylaws meeting notice process has been revised to include “electronic means” as a method of communication
  - Annual meeting quorum revised to “The members present at the annual meeting of the Association shall constitute a quorum”
- Article VI Board of Directors
  - The seventh sentence revised as follows; “They shall meet whenever deemed necessary by The President or a majority (deleted is the phrase “instead of any member”) of the Board of Directors”

- The sentence “Three unexcused absences shall automatically terminate membership of the Board of Directors” is deleted.
- Article VII Voting by Active Membership
  - Sentence revised to allow for voting through electronic communication
- Article XI #3
  - The phrase “or otherwise attempting to influence legislation” was deleted. He stated the board believes it is important that the organization can support legislation that is consistent with our mission. There is still a ban on supporting political candidates which is necessary to keep our non-profit status with the IRS

Motion by Ron Jansen to approve revisions and seconded by Carol LeBreck. Motion carried.

**Other Business:**

Cris Neff reminded members of proposed legislative changes at the state level that weaken current dredging restrictions. More information at the Wisconsin Lakes Association website, and [cleanwisconsin.org](http://cleanwisconsin.org).

**Adjournment:**

Motion by Ron Carlson to adjourn and seconded by Bill Stewart. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Prepared by Barbara Possin, Board Secretary

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**Educational Event following Annual Meeting:**

Lecture on life of Gordon MacQuarrie titled “Gordon MacQuarrie-a place on the lake” by biographer Keith Crowley

