

Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area
Barnes, Wisconsin
MINUTES

2015 ANNUAL MEETING

July 18, 2015

Attendance: 46 persons were registered, of whom at least 41 were members.

The meeting was opened by President Carl Heltne, presiding officer.

Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting: Secretary Ted Eastlund reviewed the minutes of the 2014 annual meeting and announced its public availability in the newsletter and the website.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Fred Haueter gave a report of the financial status and fund balances of the organization. Revenues and Expenses were down compared to the previous year. Printed copies were available at the meeting.

President Report: President Heltne reviewed our mission and the organization's beginning in 1973. He reviewed our current activities including member involvement in the St Croix Headwaters Watershed Project, Clean Boats Clean Water Program, shoreline monitoring for AIS, AIS control efforts, lake water quality testing, the Lake Ecology Education Program for Youth, opposition to lake, stream & groundwater pollution by the proposed Concentrated Animal Feeding Organization (22,000 confined pigs) in Bayfield County, improving membership communication, and working with other community organizations. He reported having our first beer tasting social aiming to say thank you and to attract new members, as well as sponsoring and helping the Vatten Paddlar Canoe & Kayak Race. He invited attendance at our forthcoming August 15 fishing educational seminar.

He reported IRS reinstatement of our status as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonprofit organization, work on our 2015 Strategic Initiatives and the recent addition of lake-related news articles on our website.

C Heltne expressed gratitude to outgoing Board Member Ron Carlson who has served for 29 years, many as Board Secretary and as the organization's Historian.

Nominations Committee: Ron Carlson reported for the Nominations Committee to propose two persons for election to Board membership. Board terms of President Carl Heltne and Vice President Cris Neff end this year, but they are willing to serve another term of three-years. *After a motion to place their nominations for election was made from the floor, and seconded, the election of C Heltne & C Neff for a three year term was unanimous by voice vote of members present.*

Other business from the floor:

Ingemar Ekstrom, former chair of the Barnes AIS committee made a request that volunteer shoreline monitors send in their hours worked (needed as in-kind effort to match grant funding).

Lee Wiesner, current Barnes AIS committee chair introduced Andy Teal, new Bayfield County AIS Coordinator. He announced there are several AIS identification manuals purchased through FOECLA funds for shoreline monitors

who do not have them. He reported that Eurasian Water Milfoil has returned to Tomahawk and Sandbar Lakes following treatment. In contrast it has not yet returned to George Lake following treatment. He reported that Curly-leaf Pondweed continues to spread in Upper Eau Claire Lake and has been recently found in 4-5 patches in Middle Eau Claire Lake. Because there are insufficient volunteer emergency response and pulling teams for new patches, they are considering the purchase of an aquatic mechanical AIS harvester. FOECLA has committed funds to help in the expense.

Barb Romstad, Town of Barnes Tourism Committee member, gave a report of the successful July 11 Vatten Paddlar Canoe and Kayak Race. She announced that there were 49 race crafts entered, and 77 racers registered. Eighty eight volunteers participated in planning, organizing and carrying out the race successfully. She thanked FOECLA for successfully carrying out the Safety Monitoring and Racecourse Setting and Marking. She added that the Conservation Club, Christian Men Organization, Lions Club and Boy Scout Troop 350 also participated.

Carol LeBreck, FOECLA liaison to the Barnes Zoning Committee, announced that the state Joint Finance Committee is passing a new state budget that severely restricts counties and local municipalities from protecting lake water quality as they have in the past. Counties will be prohibited from enacting ordinances on shoreline buffers, impervious surface run off control, shoreland fertilizer and nutrient runoff, lot sizes, etc, that are more restrictive than state standards. This change is a major threat to the health of lakes, particularly those in northern Wisconsin with stronger rules to keep clearwater lakes in their pristine condition.

The business meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by Ted Eastlund, Board Secretary. Accepted by Board August 10, 2015

Educational Event Following Annual Meeting:

The audience was divided into six groups. Each group visited one of the exhibits with the presenter and after approximately 10 minutes moved to the next exhibit, rotating until all exhibits were visited.

Exhibits and Round-Robin Stations included:

FOECLA exhibit, staffed by Board Member, Strategic Planning Facilitator and newly-elected Board Secretary Barbara Possin

Lake Ecology Education Program for Youth exhibit staffed by LEEP Committee member and FOECLA Treasurer Fred Haueter

FOECLA and Water Quality exhibit , staffed by WQ committee chair and Board Member Thom Storm

Conservation Club exhibit, staffed by Jerry Kaiser, Conservation Club member, the club's liaison to FOECLA and co-founder of LEEP.

Aquatic Invasive Species exhibit, staffed by Bayfield County AIS Coordinator Andrew Teal

Clean Boats Clean Water Program/Boat Landing Monitor Program, staffed by CBCW Coordinator Sally Pease

Loon Protection exhibit, unstaffed