

Friends of the Eau Claire Lakes Area
Board of Directors
MEETING
September 8, 2014
Maki Restaurant, Barnes, Wisconsin

Members Present: Carl Heltne (Chair), Bob Hershey (timekeeper), Fred Haueter, Cris Neff, Ted Eastlund, Denny Scharlemann, Tom Boman, Tom Storm,

Members absent: Ron Carlson, Leslie Hall, Barbara Possin

Guest present (New topic at end of meeting): Mary Crook of Bony Lake.

MINUTES: Copies of the draft minutes of the August 11 meeting were distributed. T Eastlund explained that after adjournment there was a decision by the board officers to include information needed by the bank to be in the minutes as to who can sign checks for updating the bank signature card.

A motion by T Boman, seconded by Bob Hershey to accept the previously drafted minutes of the August 11 , 2024, meeting of the Board of Directors was passed unanimously.

T Eastlund was asked to post the approved minutes on the website and re-distribute the minutes to Board members by email.

TREASURER REPORT: F Haueter distributed and reviewed income and expenses over past 4 years, fund balances and details about current membership numbers and dues and donations received. *A motion to accept the Treasurer Report passed unanimously.*

TAX EXEMPT STATUS: F Hauter reported that the IRS has reinstated our tax-exempt status and has permitted application of that status retroactively to cover when it was first rescinded due to lack of submitting annual reports. *A motion by T Eastlund, seconded by T Boman, that the president inform the membership to announce that our tax-exempt status has been regained and will be applied retroactively and to seek membership renewals, was passed unanimously.*

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION: R Carlson reported on the status of updating our Articles-of-Incorporation with the State of Wisconsin. An attorney, Mike Kelsey of Hayward, familiar and experienced with state-requirements has been identified. *A motion by C Neff, seconded by D Scharlemann, to authorize and attorney fee of \$500 was passed unanimously. F Haueter will follow-up on this.*

PRESIDENTIAL & FOECLA COMMUNITY OUTREACH: C Heltne reported that R Carlson and he met with the Town of Barnes Board Chair John Cosgrove. *He will, along with T Boman, meet soon with the Town of Barnes Board Chair. C Ness volunteered to set up a meeting with the Barnes Chamber of Commerce.*

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT: Chair D Scharlemann reported on the membership status and growth efforts. Membership numbers are stable with 214 paid members reported by the treasurer. D Scharlemann has reviewed past applications and found comments that may not have had responses and answers. *Comments written on future membership applications will be reviewed and triaged by C Heltne.*

COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT: Although the committee has not been meeting, D Scharlemann, with help from T Eastlund, has been carrying out its objectives.

D Scharlemann reported on the community education seminar held August 23, entitled: Migrating Land Birds & Songbirds: How to make your property a bird-friendly, food-rich habitat for the birds you love. Invited speakers from DNR included Brick Fevold & Ryan Brady. The turnout was good; 42 attended including 34 who were not speakers, meeting volunteers or Board members. She thanked board members who helped with the meeting. Exhibitors included: FOECLA, LEEP, loons & loon rangers, ECL Conservation Club (Ron Jansen), and Clean Boats/Clean Waters (Sally Pease). D Scharlemann reported results of a survey completed onsite by 24 attendees (69% were members) of the Aug 23 program: They liked the program contents, length and day and time and gave suggestions for future topics. C Heltne thanked all involved in participating in the program and acknowledged the major role D Scharlemann played from its inception and organizing the program, speakers and topics, to being the meeting moderator and recruiting and following up the speakers. C Heltne recently appointed Community Education Committee co-chairs as D Scharlemann & T Eastlund. *Committee membership is being developed; meetings will be held in the future.*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

C Heltne explained the need to recruit more Board members with one open position and another held by T Eastlund who is willing to step down if a replacement is found. T Eastlund distributed a detailed list about the status of seven potential prospective members, some of whom have been briefed and have met with the committee chair. Several prospects are well qualified and very interested but want to be considered later when they have more time available or are going to be at lake near fulltime. *C Neff commented that prospect CKLB will be recruited as Barnes Zoning Committee Liaison to the Board. D Scharlemann will follow-up with prospect Schrivvers.*

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: C Heltne reported on website activities of the Communications Committee and distributed its minutes from a September 4 meeting. A membership survey will be emailed the week of Sept 9th. The board approved the inclusion of a volunteer outreach in the upcoming survey. *A volunteer to help with website maintenance and updating will be sought.* The posting of website updates has been too slow. The committee recently reviewed all sections/tabs of the website and focused on who is responsibility updating each section:

1. Home Page....C Heltne
2. About Us T Eastlund (Board names, posting approved minutes, committee names (Add Dames & Hydrology Committee), C Heltne (ByLaws)

3. Upcoming events....T Eastlund is to add the LEEP field trips
4. Online newsletter C Rusch
5. Lake Stewardship, change to “Lake and Stream Organizations” C Heltne
6. Lake Resources Library, change contents to links to other internet sites as much as possible ... C Heltne
7. LEEP T Eastlund to spell out Tab and add Drummond Schools students to the narrative

Inclusion of activities into the Activities Tab will emphasize quiet activities, nonprofit activities, consistency with FOECLA mission, local activities.

(Carl: is there more to add here or revisions to above? Was there a motion to spend up to \$600 one time to aid creation of the Activitie Tab ... or maybe that comes from already budgeted monies and doesn't need motion)

PLANNING & INITIATIVES FOLLOW-UP: BALANCE SCORE CARD: Report tabled due to Barbara Possin being unable to attend

LEEP COMMITTEE REPORT: C Neff reported on curriculum updates, three pre-field trip classroom lessons, pre-field trip Water Safety and Canoe Practice at Drummond Pond Sept 23, and preparations for the Fall 2014 LEEP field trip scheduled for Sept 24 on Carol LeBreck's Bony Lake property. A full Plankton Module has been added and will run simultaneously with the other modules (Aquatic Plants, Water Quality & Critical Habitat). *T Boman & B Hershey volunteered to staff a water safety boat at the field trip.*

BARNES AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORT: C Heltne reported of Barnes AIS Committee deliberations and distributed the minutes of the August 18 meeting. He reported that the \$1000 FOECLA grant is being considered for training booklets (~\$400) and a training video (~\$600) which *he is exploring through YouTube or Vimeo.*

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT: Although the committee has not been meeting, T Boman gave a report on phosphorous levels in the three Eau Claire Lakes, showing an increased median level from 2013 to 2014. Committee members have been working with the St Croix Headwaters Watershed Project to advance analysis and amelioration efforts for the phosphorous-impaired lakes (3 Eau Claire Lakes, Tomahawk and Bony).

DAMS & HYDROLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT: T Eastlund (interim chair) distributed a written report. Several members have been recruited; others have been invited and are considering membership but *several more are needed for better representation from all three lakes.* Current membership include *Lower:* Bob Hammond, Dan Berglund, T Eastlund, R Carlson, *Middle:* C Heltne, B Hershey. Repairs of the Middle ECL Dam are planned. Repairs of the Mooney Dam (Lower ECL) are delayed due to DNR still evaluating and not yet approving county repair plans. The possibility of funding by a special benefit assessment district whereby funding of costs is partially or fully from levying an assessment from shoreline owners needs full public, stakeholder discussion.

The following have been prepared and distributed to some committee members and are available to Board members

1. A 2013 status report of the three dams, with the history and current status of the Mooney Dam (Lower ECL) emphasized
2. A brief current (Aug 2014) Mooney Dam status report,
3. An analysis of the benefits and drawbacks of a special benefits assessment district (SBAD) for paying Mooney Dam repairs via shoreland owner assessments
4. Committee objectives

NEW BUSINESS: Mary Crook, of Bony Lake, presented pictures and information about a nearby Bony Lake condominium property with extensive recent alterations to trees, natural vegetation and the shoreline buffer zone which appear to violate zoning requirements and a covenant between owners and the DNR. She answered several questions including a request for more specific information. *Full deliberation, review and possible action was tabled to a future meeting*

Submitted by T Eastlund

October 16, 2014