

POA Annual Meeting July 21, 2012

President Tom Boman called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. at the Barnes Town Hall. The minutes of the 2011 meeting had been printed in the June, 2012 Association newsletter, and they were approved. Fred Haueter presented the Treasurer's report showing a balance of \$22,413.55. Carol Person was introduced as Membership Chair, and Carol described plans for membership expansion, enhancement of donations, and the need for funds to advance environmental objectives. A bylaw revision was approved which added the Membership Chair to the Executive Committee of the Association's board of directors, an addition to Article VI, Section 4.

Election of Board Members

Retiring board members Charles Ledin and Shelby Woodard were replaced by Ted Eastlund and Carl Heltne. Also approved by the membership were new terms for Cris Neff, Leslie Hall, and Ron Carlson.

Milfoil and AIS Report

Ingemar Ekstrom circulated a sample of milfoil, and he reported on the course of treatment of milfoil on infected lakes, including George Lake, Tomahawk and Sandbar. The Clean Boats/Clean Waters program needs volunteers, Ingemar pointed out. He also covered the ways citizens can help to identify and protect against the spread of milfoil. The Bayfield County AIS coordinator was present, and Lee Wiesner recognized him for a description of milfoil, to assist in making identification of invasive plants. Pondweed was addressed by Lee as he described how it grows, and the work of volunteers in pulling pondweed from Middle and Upper lakes. He also mentioned a potential survey to locate the presence of curly leaf pondweed, and a grant application (Early detection and rapid response) to help spot the location of invasive plants. Shoreline monitoring is also important, Lee said, and an educational program to assist these monitors is in place.

Other Business

Educational efforts by the Association include a fishing forum which will be open to the public, on August 25 at 9 a.m. in Barnes Town Hall. Speakers are scheduled to address walleyes, muskies, and projected future populations of various fish species in our lake areas. Jerry Kaiser discussed educational outreach to area students. The Association has an active and vigorous program which includes getting students into canoes for environmental field trips. Building awareness on the part of students for lake preservation and water quality protection is an important aim. Jon Harkness circulated the 2010 Report of the Ad Hoc Lake District Committee, and discussed issues involved in formation of a lake district.

Loon Program

Fred Haueter introduced Lorna Wilson, loon ranger who speaks for Loon Watch. She moved to our lakes area in 2002 from New York, and banded loons in the boundary waters. Lorna described the work of Loon Watch, and she explained why loons nest close to shore. Loons can dive to 210 feet, and can stay down for 2 minutes. When they fly, they can attain a speed of 70 m.p.h. Loons live from 25 to 30 years old. Loons are among the first birds to return from migration in the Spring. Two eggs per season is the average reproduction cycle. The topic of how to promote loons came next, including improving water clarity, restoration of shoreline, septic system updates, and keeping lead out of lakes.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Ron Carlson, POA Secretary