

**Friends of the Eau Claire Area
Annual Meeting
July 14, 2018**

Attendance: 53 people attended. There were a few new members and several current members paid their 2018 dues.

The meeting opened with a welcome by President Carl Heltne

Minutes of the 2017 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 14, 2017.

Motion by Ron Carlson and seconded by Carol LeBreck to approve minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Treasurer Jeri McGinley, Carl Heltne 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 as of June 30, 2018 is \$46,661.95. Enhancements made this year include the discontinuation of outside bookkeeping services, effective in 2018 when members pay their dues a tax receipt is sent immediately instead of waiting until the end of the year.

Report from the Board of Directors:

- Barbara Possin reviewed the strategic plan of the organization as articulated in the Strategy Map.
- Cris Neff gave a summary report on LEEP (Lake Ecology Education Program), an annual program conducted this year for 29 7th graders from the Drummond Middle School. This year's program was improved to allow for a full day field trip in the fall and a module on canoeing in the spring. Due to the success of the program a LEEP Coordinator has been hired who is a PhD prepared individual with an extensive environmental background and grant writing expertise. Cris thanked the many volunteers who contribute to the program's success with special acknowledgement to Ted Eastlund, Carol Andresen, Carol LeBreck, and DNR Fish Biologist Scott Toshner.
- Water Quality report was given by Thom Storm who demonstrated a secci disk which is used to measure water clarity, one measure of water quality. Lower, Middle and Upper Eau Claire Lakes have all remained the same or shown an improvement in water clarity since results began being recorded in the 1970s and 1980s. Much of this is due to the efforts of many volunteers who have worked to keep invasive species out of our lakes. Carl Heltne reported that several peer reviewed studies have shown a direct correlation between water quality and property values. He also reminded members that there is a cost to maintain water quality and now, more than ever members need to be involved to assure the future quality of our lakes.

- CBCW (Clean Boats Clean Waters Program) was reviewed by Ingemar Ekstrom. He reported that the BAISS boat has been operational and there has been a tremendous response from volunteers. They are looking for a substitute diver for the 1st 2 weeks of August. It is important to maintain adequate volunteer hours for continued grant funding. He also reported that we have lost one half of the committee as a protest due to the recent actions by the Town of Barnes Board to rescind the water ski ordinance and this has resulted a crisis situation. He acknowledged the efforts of Sally Pease and Ted Eastlund's efforts to coordinate volunteers for Lower Eau Claire Lake. It is critical to increase the number of volunteers on Middle and Upper Eau Claire Lakes. There will be a weekly alert on the website, or contact Sally Pease at 715-559-0614 if you can assist.
- High water due to recent rainstorms. The President has received multiple e-mails requesting temporary restrictions on boat speeds by enacting temporary no wake zones on the lakes. Carl met with DNR representatives last week. They suggested that Town Boards consider an ordinance that states when certain criteria are met, a temporary, no-wake zone is automatically put into place. One problem is that boats already on lakes would not see postings at landings. Need to consider PSA radio announcements, etc.

Chapter 8.4 History and Update:

- The Town of Barnes (TOB) Board had the UW Extension conduct a survey of registered voters and property owners requesting feedback on the current 10-5 water ski ordinance. The results were that 67% favored retaining the ordinance.
- Since 2005 there have been 5 surveys conducted and all of them indicated that a majority of citizens wanted the ordinance retained.
- In spite of this feedback the TOB Board voted 3-2 to rescind the ordinance
- There will be a final public hearing July 31st at 2:00pm at the town hall. The President encouraged everyone to seriously consider attending or sending an e-mail to express their wishes. Even though it is not expected that the hearing will change any votes of board members it is critical to have a public record of citizens' response and perspective on this issue.
- Carl also reported that he made two requests verbally and in writing, on behalf of the FOECLA Board of Directors. The first is that the TOB create an ad hoc committee composed of individuals with a variety of perspectives who would participate in a process lead by an impartial, qualified facilitator, with the purpose of exploring the common interests (not the positions) regarding Chapter 8.4. The goal would be to work towards a compromise and reduce the friction and animosity between those for and against rescinding of the ordinance. There has been no response to this request. The second request was the creation of an Ad Hoc Water Safety Committee. This was approved by the town board but to date no charter has been shared. Anyone interested in participating please contact the TOB
- At this time the Ordinance is still in effect and will be for 30 days following the public hearing on July 31st.

- The Town of Gordon has reaffirmed its support of the ordinance that will remain in effect for the portion of Lower Eau Claire Lake that is in the Town of Gordon.

In summary, the President reminded everyone that the quality our lakes remain in Wisconsin's top 10% which is due to a variety of individual and organizational efforts such as:

- Clean Boats Clean Waters
- Shoreline restoration efforts
- Financial support of the BAISS boat

He also reminded members of past, current and ongoing activities of the FOECLA including:

- Lake Ecology Education Program
- Sponsorship of Vatten Paddler
- Co-sponsoring "Gordon MacQuarrie Days"
- August 18th Education Seminar "Large Fur-Bearing Mammals" by John Olson

Election of the Board of Directors:

The Nominations Committee proposed Cris Neff, Barbara Possin, Carl Heltne and Thomas Storm continue their terms on the board. The committee also recommended Martin (Marty) Olson and Jim Bakken be added as new board members. Bill Stewart moved approval and Carol LeBreck seconded. A vote by members elected all unanimously. Nominations were opened from the floor. There were none.

Recognitions:

The President recognized Ted Eastlund for his tireless commitment, energy and enthusiasm supporting efforts to improve and maintain the quality of our lakes. Ted is stepping down as a board member after 6 years of service but will continue in an active role including serving as Exhibit Coordinator.

Thanks were given to Nancy Walsh and Linda Mackey for assistance in room and refreshment set-up.

Adjournment:

Motion by Ron Carlson to adjourn and seconded by Carol LeBreck. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Prepared by Barbara Possin, Board Secretary

Educational Event following Annual Meeting:

Presentation entitled "What's Up with Walleye and Largemouth Bass by Scott Toshner, Fisheries Biologist, Wisconsin DNR

