

**Friends of the Eau Claire Area
Annual Meeting
July 18, 2020**

Meeting called to order via Zoom by President Kevin Shriver at 10:10 am.

Shriver welcomed those participating on the call and oriented everyone to the process and agenda.

Minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting shared with participants and were available on the website prior to the meeting. Thom Storm moved approval, seconded by Denny Scharlemann. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report reviewed by Shriver. Key points noted as follows:

- Our fiscal year (and membership year) is January – December. While we expected to spend more than we brought in last year, we broke even primarily due to a surge in memberships late in the year. We ended 2019 with 267 member households; so far, our 2020 memberships total 249 households.
- Because events this year have been either cancelled or converted to online events due to COVID-19 (conferences, the Vatten Paddlar, our annual meeting, some LEEP activities, our August educational program), we expect to see revenues exceed expenses in 2020.
- Our revenues consist primarily of memberships and donations, and one member's former employer provides funds based on the number of hours he volunteers with LEEP. All of this is deeply appreciated.
- We continue to maintain our 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, so contributions are tax-deductible. As of June 30, our cash on hand totaled \$55,031.91, with liabilities of \$144.14 (payroll taxes).
- Included in our cash balance are our special funds that members contribute to and for which we maintain running balances:
 - As of June 30, 2020: Clean Boats Clean Waters - \$855.00 (in 2019, we provided \$4,000 to the Town of Barnes to help cover increased wages for boat landing monitors)
 - Aquatic Invasive Species - \$5,993.70 (in 2019, all of Barnes's expenses were covered by a DNR grant; this year, we have committed \$1,000 cash match for the 2-year grant that is funding the new Douglas County AIS Coordinator)
 - Education (LEEP/Adult Education) - \$0 (we cover any "overages" from our operating funds); Student Scholarship - \$0 (we cover any "overages" from our operating funds).

Report from Board of Directors given by President Shriver.

- Shriver reported that the 2020 Student Scholarship award recipient is Bode Rasmussen.
- Shriver shared that the Lake Ecology Education Program (LEEP) continues to be a valuable educational program and is led by Chairperson Cris Neff and LEEP Coordinator Melissa Kjelvik.

- Shoreline Monitoring & BAISS Boat update was communicated including need for volunteers for shoreline monitoring and the BAISS Boat! Contact Ingemar Ekstrom, ije@cheqnet.net (715-795-2183).
- Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) update:
 - The Clean Boats Clean Waters program is all about keeping our lakes clean for the present and future. Our goal is further education of boaters and property owners.
 - The Town of Barnes’s DNR grant requires in-kind match, so we need boat landing monitors who volunteer their time, as well as monitors who are paid. The Town needs to spend at least 200 hours at each boat landing.
 - More volunteers needed!
 - Volunteers do not need to live on a lake to volunteer. It is a good way for teenagers to get volunteer hours for their college applications and help them learn more about lake ecology.
 - Due to Covid-19, volunteers wear masks and stay 6 feet away from boaters while asking questions. Some volunteers are unable to help this year as the Eau Claire Lakes area is their second home.
- High Lake Levels issues being experienced by some lake homeowners was shared.
- The DNR’s Healthy Lakes & Rivers Grant Program created to protect and improve the quality of our lakes and rivers was summarized and members were informed the DNR may award up to \$1000 for each project.

Election of Board of Directors

The Nominations Committee recommended Anne Torrey continue her term on the Board. Jim Bakken moved approval, Denny Scharlemann seconded. There were no other nominations from the floor. Members voted approval.

Other Business

The August educational program is cancelled due to the COVID pandemic.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Possin, Secretary

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Following Business Meeting an Educational Presentation entitled “Erosion and High Water: Landowner Options for Mitigating Shoreline Damage” was presented via Zoom by Andrew Teal, Bayfield County AIS Coordinator/Surface Water Conservation Specialist.