

**Friends of the Eau Claire Area
Annual Meeting
July 13, 2019**

Attendance: 64 people attended.

The meeting opened with a welcome by President Kevin Shriver.

Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Secretary Barbara Possin announced that the minutes were available to attendees at the registration table and previously e-mailed to members. She informed those present that the board approved the minutes on August 13, 2018

Motion by Scott Columb and seconded by Nancy Walsh to approve minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Jeri McGinley gave a summary report including:

- Expenses January-June totaled approximately \$11,000 with \$7,000 towards program support and \$4,000 for administrative and membership expenses.
- Jan-June revenue is approximately \$14,000 with the majority from membership dues and donations.
- The Special Fund balances of Clean Boats/Clean Waters and AIS includes money that will ultimately be paid to the Town of Barnes to supplement grant dollars related to programs that help preserve our waters

Report from the Board of Directors:

- Ingemar Ekstrom gave update on the Town of Barnes AIS Committee that receives financial support and member participation from the FOECLA. He also made a plea for additional volunteers and encouraged people to contact him if interested.
- President Shriver reviewed other activities that support our mission including:
 - Financial and volunteer labor support for the Clean Boats/Clean Waters program,
 - The purchase of new water testing equipment for the WI DNR Citizen Lake Monitoring Network
 - Financial and labor support for LEEP (Lake Ecology Education Program). This award-winning program partners with the Drummond Area School District to provide education and encouragement for students to become life-long lake stewards.
 - Funding of a \$1,000 student scholarship for a Drummond Area High School graduate enrolled in an education institution that promotes our mission.
 - Annually hosting Adult Education Programs such as a presentation on Walleye and Large Mouth Bass at last year's annual meeting and one on Furbearing Mammals in August.
 - Premier sponsor of the Vatten Paddlar Canoe Race that set attendance records in 2019.

- President Shriver summarized environmental impact activities including:
 - The Barnes Town Board elimination of the town ordinance that restricted water ski/jet ski hours to 10 am - 5 pm. Subsequent to this action a Water Safety Committee was formed by the Town of Barnes consisting participation by a FOECLA board member, Barnes town board members and other interested citizens.
- Shriver also reported on a new initiative titled “Be Safe on The Water”, supported by the FOECLA board. Wallet-sized cards with reminders of common safe boating rules as well as contact information of regulatory agencies to notify if water safety violations occur, were distributed.
- The Board is considering participation in the Wisconsin DNR Healthy Lakes Improvement project. Shriver explained that Healthy Lakes is a grant program that supports and assists homeowners improve habitat and water quality with simple and inexpensive projects for lakeshore property. Examples include Fish Sticks, Native Plantings, Diversion, Rock Infiltration and Rain Gardens. DNR and County conservation specialists will attend the August 2019 board meeting to discuss how/what the FOECLA organization can do. Shriver told those present that information and a sign up list was available at the registration table.
- Members were reminded of the organization’s participation in the “Adopt a Highway Program”. Information on volunteering to help available at the registration table.

Election of the Board of Directors:

The Nominations Committee proposed Jeri McGinley, Denny (Denise) Scharlemann, and Kevin Shriver continue their terms on the board. Cris Neff moved approval and Ron Jansen seconded. A vote by members elected all unanimously. Nominations opened from the floor. There were none.

Water Quality Report:

Thom Storm shared that Eau Claire area lakes are in the top 10% of clear lakes in Wisconsin. Tests by volunteers using a secchi disk indicate that Lower EC Lake has a clarity of 18 feet, Middle 27 feet and Upper 24 feet. There are no volunteers participating in the testing of other lakes in our area.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned.

Prepared by Barbara Possin, Board Secretary

Educational Event following Annual Meeting:

Presentation entitled “The Ecological Consequences of Boldness in Bluegill Sunfish” was presented by Melissa Kjelvik, PhD.

