

FRIENDS OF THE EAU CLAIRE LAKES AREA (FOECLA)
Annual Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2023, Barnes Town Hall

Attendance: 65 people attended the business meeting.

The meeting opened at 9:05 AM with a welcome by board president Jim Bakken.

Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting:

The minutes of the July 16, 2022, annual meeting were available to attendees at the registration table and had also been posted to the FOECLA website. The board approved the minutes on August 12, 2022.

Motion by Bill Stewart to approve the 2022 annual meeting minutes. Seconded by Scott Columb. Motion carried. The board approved these 2023 minutes on August 11, 2023.

Treasurer's Report:

Although we provided more funding for invasive remediation in 2022 than in past years, FOECLA is in excellent financial shape due to higher revenue from memberships and donations. Cash on hand as of July 10 was \$64,417.08, compared to \$64,218.72 on July 10, 2022. A complete 2022 income statement (revenues and expenses) with budget information was available to attendees at the registration table.

Membership Report:

We ended 2022 with 199 household memberships, compared with 219 household memberships at the end of 2021. As of July 14, 2023, we had 296 household memberships.

Report from the Board of Directors:

- **Lake Ecology Education Program (LEEP)** – Board member Cris Neff reported that this year's relatively small class of 20 kids was "one of the most attentive and engaged we've ever had." Participating in both the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention in Stevens Point and the Northwest Lakes Conference in Spooner, LEEP is offering its newly updated curriculum to lake associations, districts, and other groups throughout Wisconsin as a resource to engage and launch young people on a lifelong commitment to environmental stewardship. Retired Drummond Middle school ELA instructor Amy Davies introduced herself as the new LEEP Co-Coordinator.
- **Student Scholarship Committee** – Board member Marty Olson described Alex Rasmussen, recipient of this year's \$1,000 FOECLA Student Scholarship, as "an outstanding example of someone who will continue promoting lake ecology." Alex, "an eager volunteer" and Drummond Area School District valedictorian, is Michigan Tech bound.
- **Water Quality Monitoring** – Board member Lee Wiesner (who has been monitoring water quality on the Middle Eau Claire Lake for 25 years) reported that FOECLA donated \$500 for water quality monitoring on Bony Lake after its \$500 allocation was cut from the DNR-administered Citizen Lake Monitoring Network. He also urged attendees to volunteer as shoreline monitors by contacting him or Chris Webb of the Barnes Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Committee, and to monitor their own shorelines for invasives such as Eurasian milfoil, curly pondleaf, invasive yellow (vs. purple) iris, and horseradish – or to simply "look for plants that look different."

- **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Remediation Efforts** – Board member Cris Neff and BAISS boat coordinator Julia Lyons explained how the Barnes Aquatic Invasive Species Sucker boat functions with two divers using an air suction hose and a volunteer emptying an on-board screen mesh to remove lake bottom invasive plants. They emphasized the critical need for volunteers on the BAISS boat. They also reported on treatment of Eurasian milfoil on Tomahawk Lake using a plastic curtain to contain the chemicals.
- **Clean Boats Clean Waters** (Barb Clements) and the **BAISS boat** (Julia Lyons) are overseen by the Town of Barnes AIS Committee with financial support provided by DNR grants and FOECLA donations.
- **Shoreline Restoration/Runoff Control** – Board president Jim Bakken reported on ongoing efforts to protect and restore shoreline habitat and to mitigate runoff through 10 projects on four lakeshore parcels with the support of a DNR Healthy Lakes & Rivers grant for \$10,000.

Other Business:

- **Membership dues increase** – Treasurer Katherine Stewart introduced the board's recommendation to increase membership dues from \$20 to \$25, to go into effect January 1, 2024. Motion to approve by Roger Martin. Seconded by Barb Cooper. Motion carried with no negative votes.
- **Campground Expansion at Mooney Dam Park, Lower Eau Claire Lake** – With input from FOECLA, Bakken reported that the boat landing will be improved rather than moved.
- **Proposed Robinson Lake Campground proposed** – Despite a FOECLA letter expressing its opposition and detailing its concerns, a permit was approved. No construction has occurred.
- **Enhanced Wake Watercraft** – Bakken reported that the Board is advocating for statewide rules and regulations to mitigate damage done by "wake boats," which can cause shoreline erosion and stir sediment containing lake bottom pollutants as far down as 20 feet.

Election of the Board of Directors:

The Nominations Committee recommended the re-election of directors Kathy Stewart and Lee Wiesner and the election of Barb Cooper as a new director for 3-year terms on the board. There were no nominations from the floor. Motion by Cindy Columb to approve the election of the above three persons. Seconded by Denny Scharlemann. Motion carried with no negative votes.

On behalf of FOECLA's board and members, Bakken thanked outgoing board members Mike Milliken, Kevin Shriver, and Anne Torrey for their years of service and dedication to the community, as well as all our fabulous volunteers, citizen scientists, and members!

Adjournment: Business meeting adjourned at 9:50.

Prepared by Stephen Wilbers, Secretary

Educational Event following Annual Meeting:

Presentation titled "Raptors of the Great Lakes Region" was presented by licensed falconer and retired DNR education specialist Christian Cold; 103 people attended.