

FRIENDS OF EAU CLAIRE LAKES AREA

FOECLA	Agenda & Minutes
Body:	Board of Directors
Meeting Date:	Friday, April 14, 2023
Meeting Time:	9:00-11:30 a.m.
Meeting Place:	Barnes Town Hall

	Agenda	Minutes
	Call to order	Time: 9:06 a.m.
1)	Roll Call, Members: Jim Bakken, Wayne Kolberg, Roger Martin, Mike Milliken, Cris Neff, Marty Olson, Marianne Paker, Katherine Stewart, Anne Torrey, Lee Wiesner, Stephen Wilbers	Present: Jim Bakken, Wayne Kolberg, Roger Martin, Cris Neff, Marty Olson, Marianne Paker, Katherine Stewart, Anne Torrey, Lee Wiesner, Stephen Wilbers Absent: Mike Milliken Guests: Kate and Chris Mayberry
2)	Agenda Acceptance or Revisions	
3)	Minutes Approval or Revisions: 2023-01-23 Board Minutes	Motion to approve: Olson/Paker
4)	Executive	Bakken invited members to report on their winter activities.
a)	WI Conservation Congress Online Survey	Bakken reiterated his concern over water and shoreline issues relating to wake boats, stating we need leadership and action beyond collecting data. (See 8.d. below.) Wiesner noted there are additional environmental questions that need to be addressed.
b)	LEC Boat Landing Relocation Status	No apparent progress. Bakken will contact Jon Harris regarding status. Wiesner affirmed the need to check water depth. Stewart pointed out that pollutants stirred up from sediment eventually make their way to the St. Croix River.
c)	12 th Board member needed	Names of prospective board members should be submitted to the executive committee.
5)	Treasurer Report: Financials & FOECLA funds in CDs	Stewart was pleased to report that another \$680 in memberships has been received by mail and that expenses for the Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers conference have been paid. She also cautioned that with AIS and other expenses, we may further draw down our reserve, which is currently down \$3.5-\$4K. She further recommended purchase of two CDs with the National Bank of Commerce, one for \$10K and another for \$20K, which would accrue 5% interest at the non-profit rate. Wiesner reminded the board that \$500 had been allocated for water quality testing on Bony Lake, but that Carol LeBreck had not yet found someone to take charge of the project.
6)	Membership Report	Paker reported that we now have 233 total FOECLA members. She added that donations are “down minimally” (about \$250) from last year and that the consultant we hired to fix problems on our website is working to make it easier to make online donations. Stewart noted that “liking” FOECLA postings on Facebook is an effective way to raise our online presence.

		Paker offered to confirm the number of new members added to date in 2023 at our May meeting.
7)	Communications	
a)	Spring Newsletter: Articles, production, & mailing	Martin reported that 80% of content has been submitted for the issue and that Lee will “tweak” a FOECLA ARCHIVES article on FOECLA history to be included. He also reminded our relatively small board that we may be trying to take on too much. Paker noted that once all copy has been edited and layout is complete, there will be lag time in the printing and mailing. She urged everyone to do their part to get the newsletter out as soon as possible, no later than May.
b)	Website move from Wisconsin Lakes platform	Paker reported that with our busy spring agenda, now was not a good time to move our site.
c)	Musings & DYK articles: Ideas & volunteers to write	Torrey reminded the board that Musing articles are generally published between October and May and that DYK articles are intermittent. Weisner noted that this winter’s deer mortality percentage was lower than expected according to the winter severity index, perhaps because deer could browse the tips of ice-laden bent-over white pines, and he agreed to write a DYK article on the topic.
8)	Water Quality	Kudos were offered to McGinley and Bakken for their good work in helping secure our Healthy Lakes grant.
a)	Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention: April 19-21, Stevens Point	Neff reported distributing pamphlets and talking with attendees about curriculum innovation in her continuing efforts to make this information available statewide. She also reported on a poster session featuring a delightful poster design by LEEP students . Neff added that meeting with Jeri McGinley gave her a clearer understanding of FOECLA’s financial support to LEEP and other AIS efforts.
b)	LEEP Update	May 17 is the date for the outdoor LEEP program, which will involve only 7 th graders this year.
c)	AIS Report	Last year not having a permit prevented work on eradicating curly pond leaf on LEC’s Mooney Bay, but we’re good to go this year. Funding from the Rapid Response Grant will allow efforts to control invasive species (such as using biological control beetles to combat purple loosestrife and chemical treatment of Eurasian milfoil on Tomahawk Lake), as well as on the entire Eau Claire watershed (working four days per week beginning June 5), with special emphasis on the head of the chain of lakes.
d)	Wake boats: future actions by FOECLA	There was a consensus that more needs to be done regarding shoreline degradation and sediment-stirring pollution caused by these wake-generating boats, especially when boats approach close to shorelines. Weisner recommended regulations be based on lake and bay size to help thinly spread wardens with enforcement. It was decided that our Water Quality Committee (consisting of Bakken, Kolberg, McGinley, Milliken, and Weisner) would meet to discuss the issue and present a motion to the board for action.
e)	Volunteers needed at public landings	Efforts are underway to recruit and train both paid and volunteer monitors at four landings. Also needed are

		volunteers to drive the BAISS boat. (Interested people should call Julia Lyons at 715-590-4218.)
9)	Education: Scholarship briefing	Olson reported on applications for awarding two annual \$1,000 scholarships to a graduating student at Northwood and Drummond Schools to continue their education. This year the application committee felt that no one qualified from Northwood because otherwise promising applicants lacked sufficient environmental background and emphasis. The selected Drummond School applicant was “outstanding and highly involved in LEEP.” There was discussion regarding whether we should award \$2K to this year’s single recipient, but for consistency it was decided to maintain the scholarship amount at \$1K. With only one new scholarship being awarded this year, the two 2022 scholarship recipients may apply for a second year of funding, but only after successfully completing their freshman year (which delays scholarship awards until early June). Stewart noted that our current scholarship fund is \$4K and that no decision has been made yet on renewing it. Thanks were offered to our guest Kate Mayberry for her able assistance in reviewing applications.
10)	Taste of Barnes: June 16-18, 2023	Kolberg reported that FOECLA activities will take place on Saturday, June 17. Paker recommended we be sure to offer lots of promotional material in our booth, and Stewart suggested we give out cupcakes. At the request of the Taste of Barnes Committee, Kolberg asked if our board was willing to apply for a temporary beer license. We respectfully declined because an alcohol application was thought to be outside our mission. Stewart suggested the Taste of Barnes Committee might want to become a non-stock corporation, and she offered her assistance in filing the application.
11)	New Business	
a)	Wisconsin Conservation Congress Online Survey	See 4.a. above.
b)	Land Use Planning Commission Meeting: April 11	The Town of Barnes passed a non-binding recommendation to the Bayfield County Zoning Committee to approve the proposed campground on the shore of Robinson Lake. The likelihood of detrimental effects on water quality throughout the ECL chain was discussed. With important decisions sometimes made at meetings on short notice, Paker suggested we identify a board member who would be willing to attend Town meetings on a regular basis. Stewart noted that as dues-paying members, we might request assistance from the Bayfield County Lakes Forum.
c)	Delicate conversations with neighbors	We briefly discussed how neighbors with differing styles of property and shoreline management can talk with each in ways that don’t create conflict.
d)	Annual Meeting Speaker: Chris Cold on raptors (July 15)	Stewart reported that our cost for Chris Cold to travel from Ladysmith to present at our Annual Meeting will be \$300 (\$200 was budgeted). The “split meeting” format previously recommended by Wilbers and Stewart was agreed upon for

		<p>the purpose of using social time for meaningful conversations about board mission and activities. Martin will place a notice in our upcoming newsletter announcing the following timeframe:</p> <p>9:00-10:00 a.m.: FOECLA status, key 2022 happenings, plans for 2023, & financial overview</p> <p>10:00-10:15 a.m.: Coffee break</p> <p>10:15-11:15 a.m.: Chris Cold's raptor presentation</p>
12)	Next Board meeting	9-11:30 a.m., May 12, Town Hall
13)	Adjournment	11:50 a.m. Motion to adjourn: Martin/Torrey