

FRIENDS OF EAU CLAIRE LAKES AREA (FOECLA)

	Board of Directors	
	9:00-11:30 a.m., August 11, 2023, Barnes Town Hall	
	Agenda	Minutes
	Call to order	9:05 a.m.
1)	Roll Call, Members: Jim Bakken, Barb Cooper, Wayne Kolberg, Roger Martin, Cris Neff, Marty Olson, Marianne Paker, Katherine Stewart, Lee Wiesner, Stephen Wilbers	Present: Jim Bakken, Barb Cooper, Wayne Kolberg, Cris Neff, Marty Olson, Marianne Paker, Katherine Stewart, Lee Wiesner, Stephen Wilbers Absent: Roger Martin
2)	Agenda Acceptance or Revisions	Agenda accepted.
3)	Minutes: Approval or Revisions	
	Board Meeting 2023-07-14	Motion to approve: Stewart/Wiesner; passed with Cooper abstaining because she had not yet been elected to the Board at its July 14 meeting.
	Annual Meeting 2023-07-15	Motion to approve: Olson/Cooper; passed.
4)	Executive	
a)	Letter of support to Douglas County Surface Waters Program	President Bakken wrote a letter supporting funding for the Land Conservation Department's Surface Waters Program.
b)	Committee assignments	The Communications Committee chair vacancy needs to be filled to manage DYK and Musings articles. Board members or volunteers are needed to help with FOECLA website, Facebook, and Constant Contact communications, as well as water quality efforts. Paker will send a message to FOECLA members inviting volunteers. Bakken asked Board members to think about what else they might enjoy doing to help out.
c)	Dark skies & glaring lights on Upper	Neff shared her son's stunning photo of the newly installed glaring light on Upper. Paker suggested FOECLA consider designating funds to help property owners mitigate light trespass from unshielded lights.
d)	Unsolicited offers to purchase property	New Board member Cooper pointed out that these low-ball offers can be a scam targeting unsuspecting and aging property owners, and she volunteered to follow up with the Aging Disability and Resource Centers (ADRCs) in Bayfield, Douglas, Sawyer, and Ashland counties. Kolberg volunteered to contact realtors for their advice.
5)	Treasurer's Report	Stewart reported that we "have done unbelievably well" with so many lapsed members rejoining and that 90% of the duplicate memberships received from renewing members have said to just keep their duplicate payments as contributions.
6)	Membership Report	Stewart explained that "donations" in our accounting are not distinct from "memberships." "Designated" donations, however, are distinct. Cooper suggested

		<p>changing “general donations” to “area of greatest need” in our solicitations.</p> <p>Paker discussed optimal timing for our 2023 membership drive. To have letters out by Thanksgiving (including the phrase “if you haven’t already renewed” to avoid duplicate contributions), we need to have envelopes available by our Oct. Board meeting.</p> <p>Paker also noted that although our mailed hardcopy Spring Newsletter is expensive, it’s the best way for us to reach prospective members. Two thousand letters were sent last year at a cost of approximately \$3,700 for printing and manually assembling, folding, and applying stickers.</p>
7)	Water Quality	Wiesner noted that some property owners are using copper sulfate to control snails without permits, causing harm to our lake waters if applied incorrectly. He also noted that the new website interface for the DNR Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (SWIMS) is difficult to use.
a)	Wake boat damage to lakes	Wiesner reported that he recommends our pursuing statewide rather than local action at this point. Kolberg noted that education of our neighbors and community of property owners is the best way to proceed.
b)	AIS & LEEP updates	Neff reported on plans for the Sept. 25 LEEP Canoe Practice Day and other LEEP events to be held Sept. 26 and 27. She also noted that this year’s class will include 30 students, some 10 students larger than last year’s unusually small class.
8)	New Business	
	Issues relating to short-term rentals	Wiesner and Stewart will gather information for Board discussion and a possible letter to the Town Board regarding regulation and enforcement.
	New Board 2024 meeting dates	We decided to meet on the first Friday of the month, rather than the second, beginning April 2024.
9)	Upcoming meetings & events	
	Board Meeting	9:00-11:30 a.m., Fri., Sept. 8 , Barnes Town Hall
	Taste of Barnes	Sat., June 15, 2024
	Vatten Paddlar	Sat., July 13, 2024
	Annual Meeting	Sat., July 20, 2024
10)	Adjournment	11:49 a.m.