

FRIENDS OF EAU CLAIRE LAKES AREA (FOECLA)

	Board of Directors	
	9:00-11:30 a.m., April 5, 2024, Barnes Town Hall	
	Agenda	Minutes
	Call to order	9:11 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, Wayne Kolberg, Roger Martin, Cris Neff, Marianne Paker (via Zoom), Katherine Stewart (via Zoom), Lee Wiesner, Stephen Wilbers Absent: Barb Cooper, Marty Olson Guest: Chris Webb
2)	Agenda Acceptance or Revisions	Annual Meeting Planning date corrected; three dates for upcoming events added below.
3)	Minutes 2023-10-13: Approval or Revisions	Approved by email in October.
4)	Executive	
a)	Chris Webb, AIS Committee Chair	Chris Webb asked the Board to designate its annual AIS donation to the Eurasian Water Milfoil lakes that didn't receive a grant (specifically to Sandbar treatment and the follow-up BAISS boat work on Tomahawk after last year's treatment with Procellicore). She also provided a one-page summary of Aquatic Invasive Species Projects , noting that grants are getting more competitive every year and that 688 volunteer hours must be documented to demonstrate broad support to the DNR. With \$34,000 spent on controlling Eurasian watermilfoil in just two small lakes, Sand Bar and Tomahawk, Wiesner asked the Board to imagine the costs to treat our larger lakes should infestations spread. He also asked Webb to provide the Board with a one-page request for Board support.
b)	Spring Newsletter	Paker reported that the Spring Newsletter is at the printer. It will be mailed in separate batches to 1,549 community members and to 279 paid FOECLA members, who will not receive remittance envelopes to avoid last year's time-consuming problem of duplicate membership payments. An extra 100 copies will be printed for distribution at the Taste of Barnes and other events.
c)	2024 Meeting Dates	Listed below.
d)	New Board Members	The Board has two vacancies and four outgoing Board members. (See attached Board Roster .) Bakken said he would be willing to serve another term, though not as president. Martin noted the advantages of drawing new members from smaller lakes such as Sand Bar and Tomahawk. Wiesner suggested considering people who volunteer as water monitors, and Wilbers suggested considering people who frequently "like" Facebook postings. Bakken asked Board members to recommend names at our May Board meeting.

5)	Treasurer Report	Stewart reported that FOECLA continues to be in a strong financial condition, with a net worth of approximately \$77,400, which is \$8,000 more than at this time last year. Income from memberships, grants, and donations so far this year total \$27,860, which represents 86% of our budgeted receipts and 141% of receipts for the same period last year.
	CD Renewal	On Stewart's recommendation, a motion passed to renew our \$10,000 CD for 10 months: Wiesner/Martin.
	Bayfield Co Lakes Forum Renewal	Motion passed to renew our membership: Neff/Wiesner.
6)	Membership Report	See item 5.
7)	Communications Website, DYK & Musing articles, Constant Contact, Facebook, Newsletters	<p>Stewart reported that our Facebook page now has 673 followers. She requested that Board members submit videos, photos, and event information for her to post. The video of lake ice movement was particularly popular. She also encouraged members to "like" and share posted items.</p> <p>Wilbers will write a DYK article on cabin lighting to be sent to members in late April, Wiesner is considering doing a piece on the winter severity index, Bakken may write about healthy lakes, and Anne Torrey's "The Girls and the Burls" musing piece is scheduled for next fall.</p>
	Website	After meeting with Jeri McGinley, Martin is prepared to take over editing our website. He questioned whether certain items such as Board minutes and past Musing and DYK articles need to be posted. He asked Board members to take a look at our website and requested that they offer suggestions for simplifying it at our June meeting (rather than at our May meeting, which he cannot attend).
8)	Water Quality	
a)	Wake boat damage to lakes	Bakken expects results soon from the U of M St. Anthony Falls Hydraulics Lab study on harm caused by wake boats. Wiesner reported no apparent movement by the State Legislature on proposed bills that were opposed by our Board and others, noting that no regulations were better than inadequate, unenforceable, or meaningless regulations. He maintains that the most effective regulation is to limit wake boat usage by lake size. Following our Board meeting, Bakken sent a copy of the Last Wilderness Alliance (LWA) spring newsletter with current information on legislative action pertaining to wake boats.
b)	AIS & LEEP updates	Neff reported on the May 1 Lake Ecology Education Program (LEEP), whose components include macroinvertebrates, shoreline restoration, food web and aquatic studies review, and tree study, as well as indoor labs and outdoor field trip labs.

9)	Dark skies & starry nights	Board members liked Wilbers' suggestion that we have a table display at our Annual Meeting, using materials created by Starry Skies North president Todd Burlet for a one-month Earth Day observance at Wilbers' apartment building. (See photo 1 and photo 2 .) The Board also agreed we should invite Todd, a dynamic speaker, to make a five-minute presentation on cabin lighting that preserves our dark skies, and they affirmed that our general approach should be education rather than enforcement, as advocated by Kolberg. Wilbers also reported that Bayfield County Supervisor Charly Ray, an avid dark skies advocate, will share Wilbers' dark skies article from our spring 2023 newsletter in his April 16 Board meeting materials. Wilbers and Ray also discussed exploring the possibility of persuading the Wisconsin Legislature to declare an International Dark Sky Week, as Minnesota and the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippew recently did. (See correspondence and proclamation .)
10)	New Business	
	Taste of Barnes	Kolberg reported that the 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., June 15, event will feature 10 additional booths this year. The planning committee will meet in April.
	Scholarship - Marty	To be discussed at our May meeting.
	NW Wisconsin Lakes Conference Sponsorship	In response to a donation request , a motion passed to contribute \$100: Martin/Kolberg.
11)	Upcoming meetings & events	
	Board Meeting	9:00-11:30 a.m., Fri., May 3 , Barnes Town Hall
	Taste of Barnes	Sat., June 15
	NW Wisconsin Lakes Conference	Fri., June 21, Spooner
	LEEP Spring Program	Wed., May 1
	Annual Meeting Planning	Fri., July 12
	Vatten Paddlar	Sat., July 13
	Annual Meeting	Sat., July 20, Barnes Town Hall
	Gordon MacQuarrie Pilgrimage	Fri.-Sun., Aug. 23-25
12)	Adjournment	11:22 a.m.