

## FRIENDS OF EAU CLAIRE LAKES AREA (FOECLA)

	<b>Board of Directors</b>	
	<b>9:00-11:30 a.m., May 3, 2024, Barnes Town Hall</b>	
	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>**DRAFT** Minutes</b>
	<b>Call to order</b>	9:05 a.m.
<b>1)</b>	<b>Roll Call, Members:</b>	<b>Present:</b> Jim Bakken, Barb Cooper, Wayne Kolberg, Cris Neff, Marty Olson, Marianne Paker, Katherine Stewart, Lee Wiesner, Stephen Wilbers <b>Absent:</b> Roger Martin
<b>2)</b>	<b>Agenda Acceptance or Revisions</b>	Agenda accepted
<b>3)</b>	<b><a href="#">Minutes 2024-04-05: Approval or Revisions</a></b>	Motion to approve: Cooper/Wiesner; passed.
<b>4)</b>	<b>Executive</b>	
a)	Recommendations to fill two Board vacancies (see <a href="#">Board Roster</a> )	Board vacancies, potential candidates and recruitment ideas were discussed. Follow-up will include: Board members will contact individuals mentioned; a Facebook posting will be developed using member job description; and Kolberg will explore planning a social gathering to create awareness.
b)	Publications/acquire/print	There is a need for handouts for upcoming events. The DYK article emailed on March 17 will be reproduced as a one-page handout. Stewart recommended that DNR publications be purchased. She will research costs to purchase 100 of those used at a lakes conference. Motion to approve associated costs: Cooper/Stewart; passed. Neff mentioned that LEEP brochures will be printed this year.
c)	Report from Wiesner on Spring Hearing	Wiesner reported on the Spring Hearing results. Questions 32, 42 and 43 related to more restrictive wake boat regulations. Each of these questions had approximately 10,000 responses favoring increased regulation versus 4,000 opposed. Education about reducing lead in ammo and lures is needed.
<b>5)</b>	<b><a href="#">Treasurer Report</a></b>	
		<p>Stewart reviewed the financial reports. To date revenues total \$29,259.80 primarily from memberships received, with expenses of \$1,734.38. Interest from CDs anticipated in August.</p> <p>Motion by Stewart/Bakken to ratify the following motions approved between the October and April meetings, passed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The 2024 Annual Budget was approved by an email vote of 9/10 on November 8, 2023.</li> <li>2. Approve the amendment of the Healthy Lakes contract to add one rain garden to the grant.</li> </ol>

		<p>The rain garden will be built at Peggy and Roger Martin's property on Lower EC. Passed by email vote 10/10 on November 27, 2023.</p> <p>3. Approve the letter written by the Water Quality Committee to the authors of LRB-3518, a law now introduced as AB-656 and SB-680, objecting to the bill. Passed by email vote 10/10 November 27, 2023.</p> <p>Note: The bill as written would allow wake surfing within 200 ft of shore. It would also prevent local units of government adopting an ordinance that would require that activity to be further out into the lakes. Our stand has been that this activity should be 700 ft from shore and in 20 ft of depth or deeper. We sent emails to our membership asking them to contact their senators and representatives about the bills.</p>
	2024 Vatten Paddlar Race Sponsorship renewal	<p>A letter from the race organizers was discussed. The event provides an opportunity to promote the lakes and our organization. Motion to sponsor at \$500 level: Olson/Kolberg &amp; Neff; passed.</p> <p>Stewart and Cooper will represent FOECLA at the finish line and hand out materials.</p>
6)	<b>Membership Report</b>	<p>Paker updated the board on membership activities that occurred since October. She printed and prepared the membership renewal letters at home to save costs. Letter folding and imprinting of reply envelopes were completed by vendors. The mailing was sent in late November, with personal notes from board members, resulting in 279 memberships as of April 1. A new idea for FOECLA window clings was implemented, 500 were purchased for \$365 and have been distributed to 2024 members to display on cars or boats.</p>
7)	<b>Communications</b> April Newsletter update from Paker Website (report from Martin at June 7 meeting), Bakken's April DYK article, upcoming DYK & Musing articles, Constant Contact, Facebook	<p>The Spring newsletter was mailed to a total of 1,800 lake residents including members and non-members. Reply envelopes were enclosed to members who had not renewed yet. 200 extra copies are available for summer events. Craig Tanner introduced himself via Zoom. He and Marianne have developed a Google schedule that outlines topics for two online communications per month. Bakken's DYK article has received positive feedback.</p>
8)	<b>Water Quality</b>	
a)	Wake boat regulations update	<p>Wiesner reported that 17 townships have now passed ordinances banning or restricting wake boats, including Town of Cable.</p>

		<p>Green Fire is comprised of mostly retired WI DNR professionals from various disciplines. The group was formed to encourage natural resource decisions to be based on science as science based decisions took a back seat a few years back. They are taking a hard look at many studies on wake boats and their impact on lake health.</p> <p>The water quality committee's position is that without legislation restricting wake boats to lakes greater than 1500 acres in size, the next best alternative is legislation making it illegal to operate within 700 feet of shore and in waters less than 20 feet in depth. The second alternative would be very hard to enforce and there is currently no such law or ordinance in the Barnes area so at this time in the Barnes area our best course of action is to educate and encourage wake boat operators to honor the 700 foot shoreline and 20 foot water depth recommendations.</p>
b)	AIS: Chris Webb request for FOECLA support	Neff distributed a summary of the AIS projects and associated grant funding, expenses and local matching requirements. There is no grant this year for Sand Bar/Tomahawk lakes EWM control, so this is the greatest area of need. Motion Neff/Wiesner to fund \$12,000 to AIS and \$1,000 to Clean Boats, Clean Waters in August, following the Annual Meeting in July; passed.
c)	Gauges and Healthy Lakes	The Kelly Lake gauge was laid down by the ice and Bakken has repaired it. Bakken brought sample seeds of native plant seeds from Elk Mound Seed. Stewart has thousands of milkweed seeds to share. This year there are Healthy Lakes projects on Upper and Lower Eau Claire Lakes (a rain garden and native plantings).
d)	Report from Neff on BAISS boat on Lower, AIS	The BAISS boat will be on Lower Eau Claire Lake July 1-11. A place to dock is needed July 1-6. The following week, Clearwater Resort has agreed to provide dock space. The Town of Barnes website has a link for volunteers to select shifts on the new BAISS boat live calendar. Interested people need to call the Town Hall to be given access to the live calendar.
9)	LEEP Report from Neff on May 1 Spring Program	The May 1 program was successful. There were thirty-one 7 <sup>th</sup> grade students this year, who were very engaged. As a bonus, they are going to the Great Lakes Visitors Center on October 9.
10)	<a href="#">Dark skies &amp; starry nights</a> <a href="#">Table display</a> at Annual Meeting; Wisconsin chapter of <a href="#">Starry Skies North</a>	Wilbers reported that a DarkSky Wisconsin chapter is in the process of being established, with guidance from Minnesota's Starry Skies North President Todd Burlet. Volunteers are setting up a website, compiling lists of statewide ordinances, local astronomer/observatory clubs and Dark Skies

		<p>compliant lighting fixtures (shielded and timed fixtures, with sleep-inducing warm yellow light rather than sleep-inhibiting blue-white light).</p> <p>Future efforts by FOECLA include distributing an online article on cabin lighting to members, addressing problem lighting in our area, encouraging local businesses to carry compliant light fixtures and to apply for designation as Dark Sky friendly businesses. Long term, there could be efforts to apply for IDSP-designation for the Eau Claire Lakes area. These efforts could make our area more attractive to residents and revenue-producing visitors alike.</p>
<b>11)</b>	<b>New Business</b>	
a)	Taste of Barnes report from Kolberg	TOB will be held June 15 with set-up at 9:00 a.m.; this is a good opportunity for information on FOECLA, Dark Skies, non-lead sinkers; there will be a pickleball tournament and other fun activities.
b)	Scholarship report from Olson	<p>There were seven applications from Drummond School District's class of 29 students, the recipient is an active volunteer near the top of this year's class and their name will be announced on May 13.</p> <p>Northwoods School District had four applicants, but like last year, the students' majors were not directly relevant to the scholarship mission. This year \$1,000 was awarded, which is less than budgeted; Stewart suggested guidance counselors might be contacted and encouraged to be more proactive and helpful; Parker added there may be ways to get the word out regarding scholarship opportunities.</p>
c)	Annual Meeting	Stewart asked if there should be meetings in the off season.
d)	Stewart on DNR publications for summer events	Discussed under 4. (b)
<b>12)</b>	<b>Upcoming meetings &amp; events</b>	
	Board Meeting	9:00-11:30 a.m., <b>Fri., June 7</b> , Barnes Town Hall
	Taste of Barnes	Sat., June 15
	NW Wisconsin Lakes Conference	Fri., June 21, Spooner
	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
<b>13)</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>	11:52 a.m.