

Friends of Lake Eau Claire  
Board Meeting Minutes  
March 15, 2021 via Zoom Virtual Meeting

1. Meeting called to order by President Lori Bechtel at 6:03pm. Board members present: Lori Bechtel, Duane Ives, Dale Zank, Nathan Smith, Tad Ries, Joe Vydrzal, Angel Zimmerman, Pam Hanson, Al Hendricks, Dan Marcheske, Fred Poss, Chad White. Absent: Cathy Lea, Todd Hanson, and Al Weisenbeck.

Guests present: Mike Lea, Marlo Orth, Vickie Funne Reed, Kathryn Bareis, Bob Laden, and Kennedy Schroeder.

2. Review of previous minutes dated September 15, 2020. A motion was made by Duane Ives with a second from Dale Zank to approve the minutes. Unanimous vote, minutes were approved.

3. Review of previous minutes dated October 29, 2020. A motion was made by Angel Zimmerman with a second from Dale Zank to approve the minutes. Unanimous vote, minutes were approved.

4. Treasurer's Report - Report was presented by Joe Vydrzal. Membership is down, Ice Fisheree fundraising was down, spending is also down. A motion to approve the report was presented by Fred Poss with a second by Duane Ives. Vote was unanimous and the report was approved.

5. Public Comment: President Lori Bechtel welcomed public participants to the meeting. Vickie Funne Reed informed the members that she has received water testing data. Duane Ives informed members that the Augusta High School chemistry teacher is interested in assisting with water sampling and water quality testing.

6. Kennedy Schroeder from Wildlands High School presented a power-point presentation of her senior project. The project focuses on replacing the eroding path and canoe/kayak landing at the D Bridge on the Eau Claire River. The county has approved the plan which involves laying down blue granite material and creating a safe landing and parking space. The project cost is estimated to be approximately \$4,000 to \$6500. Volunteers are needed, and any financial support is welcome. The end-date goal, with appropriate funding, will be the middle to the end of June, 2021. Member Chad White offered the use of an excavator for the project. Dale Zank suggested placing an article in the newsletter about the project so that individuals interested in donating to the project can do so. Vickie Funne Reed suggested contacting the Eau Claire Paddlers for support and potential donations. Marlo Orth offered that the Eau Claire County River Coalition may also be a good resource and may have grant money available.

7. Lake District Update

- a. Mike Lea provided the Lake District update. Shane Krueger cleaned out 3,760 cubic yards of material from in front of the cottages on Muskrat Creek. The delta at the end of Muskrat is all that remains. All of the large river traps were cleaned out with a total of 20,304 cubic yards of material removed at a cost of \$142,000.
- b. Mike has been working on grants and applied for an \$82,000 DNR grant for a river bank stabilization project. The DNR awarded the district \$49,000. The Lake District will take the funds and look for ways to cover the gap in funding. Mike is working on an additional grant that may help cover the deficit.

- c. Lori Bechtel offered a reminder that cottage owners, and other Lake residents, donated \$17,500 for the Muskrat project and the Lake Association will be able to cover the full payment.
8. Dale Zank informed members that the Historical Site Sign project is moving forward. The location will be in the park in the open area west of the clubhouse. The county must send an authorization letter prior to proceeding. Fundraising will determine the type/size of the signage that can be purchased for placement. Corporate donations and member planet donations will be pursued. The Lake Association is also willing to donate to the project.
  9. Life Jacket Project (update). The Lake Association may need correct signage and liability insurance for the project. The project will require donations, shed materials, and labor. Joe Vydrazil suggested reaching out to Lake Holcombe (which has similar life jacket stations) to inquire about liability. Duane Ives will reach out to the Jacob's Jackets program and inquire about liability insurance requirements, as well.
  10. Bridge Creek Candidate Forum: Fred Poss is willing to approach candidates to gauge interest in a forum and will report back to the board.
  11. Small Creek Dredging: Fred Poss reported that a dozen truckloads of material were taken out of Bedpost Creek and 13-14 truckloads were taken out of Beach Creek (225 cubic yards). A summary will be posted in the newsletter.
  12. Ice Fishing Contests: The members thanked and commended Dan Marcheske, for allowing the Lake Association to be involved in the Annual Ice Fisheree and for his work in organizing and running the event. Dale Zank thanked all of the volunteers. Members discussed the other ice fishing contest, DNR rules, and legality related to holding multiple contests in a year.
  13. Pontoon Insurance Changes: A policy must be in Lake Eau Claire Association's name. Lori Bechtel has been acquiring quotes and will present them to the members.
  - 14a. Membership Update: Memberships are down, mostly because the holiday party was cancelled in 2021. The association will work to send emails, mailings, and Facebook posts to try to increase memberships. Duane Ives reminded the board of the 2,500 postcards encouraging membership and asked for volunteers to put the postcards on vehicles at the boat landings during high-boat-traffic weekends and on vehicles at the beach.
  - 14b. President Lori Bechtel led a donation discussion relating to Kennedy Schroeder's D-Bridge Landing Project. A motion was made to donate \$1,000 to the project by Duane Ives. It received a second from Joe Vydrazil. Vote was unanimous, motion was approved.
  15. Fundraising:
    - a. The calendar raffle is in progress and a large push to sell calendars is under way.
    - b. Hickory Hills Golf Course has donated a couple's membership to the Lake Association. A 100-square board with \$20 spots will be used to raffle off the membership. The board will be taken to local establishments to help cross-promote businesses that support the lake. Calendars will also be available for sale at the same local bars on nights promoting the 100-square board.
    - c. A Gun raffle will be done this spring.
    - d. Assistance is needed for sponsor solicitation including making phone calls and follow-up. Dale Zank and Fred Poss suggested that they can add it to their fundraising efforts for the historic sign.
    - e. Golf Outing will be held on July 17th. Leann Balliett will again organize the event.

- f. Cathy Lea would like to organize a Candlelight Ski/Snowshoe Event on the lake next winter. The event would start at the clubhouse. Cathy is looking for suggestions and ideas related to organizing the event.
- g. Other fundraising ideas: Another cornhole tournament was suggested.

16. Other Business:

- a. Todd Hanson has confirmed the order with the same fireworks shooter used in the past. The fireworks display will take place on Sunday, July 4, 2021.
- b. Lori Bechtel asked for articles for the upcoming newsletter. Mike Harden will accept ideas for articles for submission to the newsletter.
- c. The board received an email from Mike O'Connor indicating a large amount of trash has been getting dropped along County Road SD and was hoping we could remind folks to dispose of trash appropriately. Fred Poss suggested that resident members along the north and south sides of the lake pick up litter along the roads.
- d. Next Meeting Date: Monday, May 24th, 2021 via Zoon.

President Lori Bechtel moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.  
Submitted by Nate Smith, Secretary