

Lake Eau Claire Association, Inc.
Board Meeting Minutes
April 9th, 2024 at 5:30 pm, Zoom Virtual Meeting,

1. Call to Order– Lori Bechtel called the meeting to order at 5:32pm Present: Lori Bechtel, Cathy Lea, Al Weisenbeck, Angel Zimmerman, Jill Weisenbeck, Jason Phillips, Josh Zimmerman and Joe Vydral. Absent: Duane Ives, Kim LaLonde, Nate Smith, Al Hendricks, Heidi Conner. Guests: Mike Lea, Fred Poss, and David Claude
2. Review of previous minutes dated October 25, 2023. No changes. A motion was made by Josh Zimmerman and seconded by Al Weisenbeck to approve the minutes. Vote unanimous, motion approved.
3. Treasurer’s report was provided by Jill Weisenbeck. Presentation of balance sheet (YTD). Beginning balance for 2024 is \$186,858. Jill Weisenbeck will send end of year numbers. A motion was made by Angel Zimmerman to approve the treasurer’s report. A second was offered by Josh Zimmerman. Vote unanimous, motion approved.
4. There was no public comment.
5. Lake District update (Mike Lea)
 - a. This year has been a big year for dredging as all four main traps were dredged for a total of 24,000 cubic yards removed.
 - b. The Skid Row Phase 1 project completed which opened the boat landing and area in front of the cottages. The first trap near the boat landing was also installed and 34,000 yards of sand were removed.
 - c. Total of 58,000 yards were taken out which is the most ever done. This was 54% more than the first year.
 - d. Next winter will begin the 2nd trap or Phase 2. There is a little red tape to get through but confident this will happen.
 - e. Mike will meet with the skidsteer guy to look at Muskrat Creek mouth and come up with a way to get the mouth opened. Mike thinks they will be able to get into the water and get it dredged thinking about 4,000 cubic yards. Will be getting a quote but expecting a bid around \$30,000.
 - f. The Eau Claire River Watershed Association (ECRWA) website is up and running. The goal with this association is to allow for new large grant applicaitons that will be able to fund big projects.
6. Budget Discussion (Jill Weisenbeck)
 - a. Jill discussed the 2024 draft budget. The question was put to the board about what projects we may want to focus on this year.
 - b. Cathy Lea suggested we increase the picnic budget from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

- c. Fred Poss recommended we increase the cost of corporate sponsorships from \$300 - \$500. There is concern that we may lose some if it is increased. We do have some corporate sponsors (Bush Bros) does give more than the top level.
- d. Few additional items that Jill will add to the budget and will then send it out to everyone.
- e. Discussion was held about whether some funds should be moved into a CD to allow interest to be earned. It would provide about 5% interest and the term would be about 12 months. Lori Bechtel suggested we move \$75,000 split between 2 banks. At this time, the Muskrat project is the only big project on the horizon. Mike Lea indicated he doesn't see any others coming up in the next year. There was a motion made by Josh Zimmerman and seconded by Cathy Lea. Vote was unanimous, motion carried. Lori will work with Jill to get the money transferred.

7. Website Management

- a. Trying to get the website updated, however the current company running it has not been responsive to Cathy Lea. Lori was able to reach out and get their attention. They do have most everything updated with some minor exceptions. Jason Philips did reach out to a few others. Lori and Jason will connect regarding the history of where we've been, where we want to go with website management. Lori, Jason and Cathy will connect.

8. Highway Clean Up

- a. Cathy Lea provided an update that within 48 hours, all volunteers for road cleanup had been secured. Sixteen families will participate, and Bridge Creek provided 50 bags.
- b. Families offered to continue this through the year.
- c. Suggested to have something in the newsletter regarding pollution to help mitigate it.

9. Projects Needed Around the Lake this Summer:

- a. Fish Crib Installations. Fred Poss and Dave Claude are now managing the fish crib installation process. They will provide an itemized list of what is needed with costs. Eight fish cribs will be installed on June 1st. Fred and Lori to connect regarding the use of a skidsteer to help save some money.
- b. Need 6 volunteers for June 1st at 9am at North Boat Landing.
- c. Cathy Lea agreed to get the volunteers lunch.
- d. Fred will notify county and DNR that we need to use boat landing that day.
- e. Lori will email to obtain volunteers and create Facebook post.
- f. Motion made by Joe V to approve up to \$1700 for building fish cribs. Seconded by Cathy Lea. Vote unanimous. Passed

10. Fundraising

- a. Calendars are ready for pick up at the Woodland. Trisha Ives has some as well and can get them to anyone who needs them.
- b. Golf outing is scheduled for July 13th. This will mark the 10th year. More to follow on this. Jason Phillips has offered to possibly assume the responsibility of this fundraiser in future years as it is likely that this is Leann Balliett's last year.

c. Sponsor renewals will kick off soon.

11. Other Business

a. Brian Gumm who is a Musky Sponsor is interested in working with us for a private coffee label for Lake Eau Claire. Potential revenue stream. Lori will send out mockups.

b. Membership mailing likely to go out in June. In need of volunteers to help stuff envelopes.

c. Mike Lea indicated that Beaver Creek Reserve will have an invasive species survey going out likely this summer.

14. President Lori Bechtel moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Submitted by Angel Zimmerman