

Friends of Lake Eau Claire  
Board Meeting Minutes  
January 11, 2020 at 9:00 am at the Augusta Firehouse

1. Meeting called to order by President Lori Bechtel at 9:03 am. Present: Lori Bechtel, Duane Ives, Cathy Lea, Dale Zank, Nathan Smith, Joe Vydrzal, Amy Quella, Fred Poss, Angel Zimmerman, Mike Lea, Marlo Orth. Absent: Al Hendricks, Pam Hanson, Todd Hanson, Al Weisenbeck, Tad Ries, and Dan Marcheske
2. Review of previous minutes dated November 2, 2019: A motion was made by Cathy Lea with a second from Duane Ives to approve the minutes. Previous minutes were approved.
3. Treasurer's Report - Report was presented by Lori Bechtel. Disbursements included: \$40,500.00 for sedimentation and \$835.07 for fish cribs. Fireworks receipts have increased over a thousand dollars to \$4,591.00. Todd Hanson will lead the fireworks program. A motion to approve the report was presented by Fred Poss and seconded by Cathy Lea. Vote was unanimous, motion approved.
4. Public Comment:
  - a. Guest Marlo Orth informed the board that funds set aside for the lake, usually in the \$100,00.00 range, will be reduced to a shared amount of \$75,000.00 for both Lake Eau Claire and Lake Altoona. Marlo expressed the urgency of involving Lake Altoona in the issue, in light of these funding shortfalls. Marlo also asked the board for support in educating county board members on the need to develop a different culture towards the lakes in Eau Claire County and the critical importance of sedimentation removal for the protection of these lakes.
  - b. Duane Ives and Dale Zank discussed the revenue generating potential of the lakes in Eau Claire County and suggested that in addition to education about the historical, cultural, and environmental importance of these lakes, the financial benefits that they bring to the county must also be impressed upon county board members.
  - c. The need to determine the annual requirement for sedimentation cleanout was discussed. In addition, the idea of using a PAC committee of the association was discussed as a potential tool to attack the problem of declining funding.
5. Lake District Update (Mike Lea)
  - a. The Muskrat Creek trap has been completed.
  - b. Hay Creek was dredged with 2,000 yds. taken out.
  - c. Digging has commenced on the Gravel Pit trap, with the Trouble Waters trap being next in line.
6. Lake Management Plan
  - a. There have been four meetings with Buzz Sorge, with land conservation, Parks and Forest, and DNR personnel all involved. The management plan is nearly complete and will never need to be re-written and will only require periodic updates. Lori will forward the plan electronically when it is complete. The completed plan will be published publicly.
7. The Holiday Party has 50 rsvp's and 10 open spots as of the time of the meeting. Volunteers are needed for tables, running the 50/50 raffle and basket raffle. Duane, Joe V. Fred, Mark and Vicki Reed, Amy Q., and Jane Bechtel all volunteer to help.
  - a. Leann Balliett and board members donated a basket.
  - b. Nate Smith will deposit the funds from the party at Unity Bank.

8. Volunteers are needed for the Ice Fisheree. There will be a Vexilar and other prizes. Joe V., Dale, Fred, and Nate have volunteered.
9. Fred Poss prepared a full written report related to dredging for Lori, Mike Lea, and Buzz Sorge.
  - a. Beach and Bedpost creeks had 250 cubic yards removed, which is nearly 100 cubic yards more than usual. As sedimentation has increased in both creeks, the dredging cost has nearly doubled over time.
  - b. DNR will require full-size "log cabin" fish cribs in the deep end of the lake. These can create summer shade for fish and winter protection from freeze-out. They are very costly, however, up to \$1,600.00 per unit, require complex construction, and increase the overall liability risk.
10. 2020 Fundraiser Updates/Planning
  - a. Calendars will be sold at the Holiday Party and the Ice Fisheree. There are approximately 700 calendars handed out thus far; packets will be available for people interested in selling.
  - b. The Golf Outing will be held July 18, 2020.
  - c. Coolers will be raffled over the summer.
  - d. Lori invited ideas from the board for future fundraisers.
  - e. An indoor Cornhole/Bean Bag Tournament was discussed. It could be held at the Buckhorn Bar at the end of March. Duane and Angel agreed to work on it.
11. Other Business:
  - a. The deadline for Knowles-Nelson is March 1st. Lori mentioned the need for scientific data and that we may need to find grants with more applicable verbiage, ie recreational boating grants, bank restoration grants, etc.
  - b. The Annual Meeting date has been set for August 15, 2020.
  - c. Duane and Joe Bechtel will continue investigating options for website management.
  - d. A motion was made by Duane, with a second from Fred, to approve up to \$4,500.00 for fireworks. Motion was unanimously approved.
12. President Lori Bechtel moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:38 am.  
Submitted by Nathan Smith, Secretary