

Lake Eau Claire Association, Inc.

Board Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2022 at 6 pm, Zoom Virtual Meeting,

1. Call to Order– Lori Bechtel called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm Present: Al Hendricks, Duane Ives, Nathan Smith, Cathy Lea, Fred Poss, Al Weisenbeck, Angel Zimmerman, Joe Vydrzal, Kim LaLonde, Jill Weisenbeck and Jody Shong. Absent: Dale Zank, Pam Hanson and Dan Marcheske. Guests: Mike Lea and Kevin Ives.
2. Review of previous minutes dated August 3, 2022 A motion was made by Duane Ives and seconded by Angel Zimmerman to approve the minutes. Vote unanimous, motion approved.
3. Treasurer’s report was provided by Jill Weisenbeck. The financial report will transition to a new format. \$113,666.16 cash balance. \$14,256.62 in restricted funds. \$8595.00 in committed funds. A motion was made by Al Weisenbeck to approve the treasurer’s report. A second was offered by Cathy Lea. Vote unanimous, motion approved.
4. There was no public comment.
5. Lake District update (Mike Lea)
  - a. The walkway from the lake aerator that contains the aeration pipes was repaired. There was a good turnout and everything went well.
  - b. Dredging permits are up for renewal and must be current to continue dredging operations.
  - c. Fifty trees are marked for drops and the project will be led by Mike Lea and Robin Walsh.
  - d. Mike informed the board members that the Eagles Nest/Skid Row project has an \$85,000 shortfall.
  - e. Joe Vydrzal has been exploring funding through Ducks Unlimited.
6. Annual meeting had a 50-60 person turnout. The new bathymetric equipment was displayed. Plans are being discussed to include the Lake District next year to create a bigger event.
7. Lake projects/Proposed costs: There is a \$85,000 shortfall for the Eagles Nest/Skid Row trap project. Trap dredging is critical to ongoing maintenance. Without increased funding, dredging may have to go to an alternating, once-every-3-years schedule. Mike Lea provided the board with maps with associated costs at each proposed location.
  - a. President Lori Bechtel called for ideas for raising the funds necessary for these large scale projects. Ideas discussed included: direct phone calls, committee on funding large scale projects, cash party fundraisers with larger prizes, creating subset committees to further explore fundraising ideas, handling objections, providing information, and targeting lake residents that haven’t traditionally contributed.
8. Fred Poss requested funding for northside creek dredging. A motion was made by Duane Ives to fund \$2000.00 for the dredging of the northside creeks. The motion received a second from Nate Smith. Vote unanimous, motion approved.
9. Grants update (Cathy Lea) 6 grants are in progress or undecided: included a denied grant for \$50,000, a tabled recreational boating grant, and the grant towards Skid Row being reworked and needing new dredging permits to proceed. With a match from Eau Claire County this will provide \$61,500.

10. Website is back up and running. A bill was received for \$1700 from the website company which included 10 hours of development time that hadn't been previously discussed. Lori will follow up with JB Systems regarding the matter. A motion was made by Angel Zimmerman and seconded by Joe Vydral to pay the outstanding bill for website hosting, maintenance, and development time. Vote was unanimous, motion was approved.

11. Other business:

- a. A manager at Scheels selected the Lake Eau Claire Association as his non-profit of choice for a program through his employer that allowed him to provide the association with a \$500 donation. It was very generous of him to choose the LECA.
- b. High water signs were ordered and received by Joe Vydral and Cathy Lea. These will be placed at boat landings to encourage slow speeds and awareness of high-water issues on the lake. There will also be signs available to place in the channel.
- c. Life jacket stations: A station has been placed at the Skid Row boat landing. Funds remain for the construction and placement of a fourth station which can be placed at the South Shore boat landing.
- d. Fish Cribs will be placed in the next few weeks.
- e. Water Rescue Training conducted by Augusta/Bridge Creek Fire Department has been pushed out until Spring of 2023.
- f. The historical monument is now in production.
- g. Discussion concerning the Ice Fisheree was tabled until the next meeting.
- h. The Northern Wisconsin Ice Racing Club will host a atv ice race on Lake Eau Claire on January 14, 2023. It will offer a fundraising opportunity for the association.
- i. Membership Mailing: Discussion involved: folding membership mailings into a larger fundraising effort next spring. In addition, The association received gift cards from Festival Foods which can potentially be packaged with a couples membership to Hickory Hills Golf Course and raffled off. Ideas for the fundraising effort included: 100-square boards and a fundraising day held, if possible, at the Buckhorn Bar on a Badger Football day.
- j. Board positions: There will potentially be 2 open board positions. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
- k. Al Hendricks addressed the board and asked for discussion and research regarding a rapid increase in sedimentation in the northwest bay of the lake. Discussion included the potential for dredging. Fred Poss will survey the site and report back to the board as to what can be done.

11. The Next meeting date will be sent via email. Lori also requested that anyone with articles submit them for the upcoming newsletter.

12. President Lori Bechtel moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm. Submitted by Nathan Smith, Secretary