

Lake Eau Claire Association, Inc.

Board Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2023 at 5 pm, Zoom Virtual Meeting,

1. Call to Order– Lori Bechtel called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm
Present: Al Hendricks, Lori Bechtel, Nathan Smith, Cathy Lea, Al Weisenbeck, Angel Zimmerman, Joe Vydrzal, Kim LaLonde, Jill Weisenbeck, Dale Zank. Absent: Duane Ives, Jody Shong, and Fred Poss. Guests: Mike Lea and Rod Zika
2. Review of previous minutes dated December 20, 2022. A motion was made by Jill Weisenbeck and seconded by Nathan Smith to approve the minutes. Vote unanimous, motion approved.
3. Treasurer’s report was provided by Jill Weisenbeck. Year-to-year balance sheet was examined. The Skid Row beginning year balance was \$71,400 thanks to generous donators. Further discussion included: the need for a comprehensive equipment holdings list and ARPA funding update and financial record requirements. A motion was made by Dale Zank to approve the treasurer’s report. A second was offered by Angel Zimmerman. Vote unanimous, motion approved.
4. Public Comment: Rod Zika touched upon several points including: the equipment “wish list” provided by Joe Kirst for the use of bathymetric equipment, cost sharing with Lake Altoona and insurance coverage issues. Rod will report back to the board when he receives additional clarity concerning the insurance requirements for equipment and operators involved in watershed association activity.
5. Lake District update (Mike Lea)
 - a. All of the main traps have been cleared, 15,000 yards total were removed. Since 2013 there have been 225,000 cubic yards of sediment removed from the lake.
 - b. The delta of Sugar’s Landing was mechanically scoured of 8-10,000 yards of sediment. Mike mentioned the instrumental assistance of Willie Thomas, who donated his time to clean the road and landing and increase parking space.
 - c. Mike Lea and Joe Kirst surveyed for a new sediment deposit site in non-flood plain areas in the Eau Claire County forest. Authorization for the sites is currently in progress.
 - d. Other: The partnership between Lake Eau Claire and Lake Altoona continues in multiple areas. Dredging permits are due for renewal and the process of submissions with the DNR is underway. Among the areas outlined in the re-issued dredging permits will include the northwest bay of the lake.
6. The Hay Creek area was cleaned out mechanically and the additional funds required for the project were \$16,000. An official motion was made by Dale Zank to approve the \$16,000 additional funds. It was seconded by Cathy Lea. Vote was unanimous, motion was approved.
7. Member Planet website discussion: Funds that were being collected by Member Planet were not being deposited into the LECA bank account. Jill and Duane conducted follow-up with Member Planet and the funds were eventually deposited. There was discussion concerning possibly using a different membership platform and assessing the benefits of the Member Planet platform versus its shortcomings. The issue was tabled for later discussion.
8. Membership mailings will be used as a follow up to emails sent to members who have not renewed their dues.

9. Fireworks are ordered and the show will happen on July 4th, 2023. Volunteers are needed for: preparation of the island (clearing, weed whipping, etc.), transport of the shooter and to and from the island, transportation of the fireworks and equipment to and from the island, and next day clean-up of the site. Lori will send email to the membership to try to find a volunteer to lead this effort.
10. Fundraising Updates:
 - a. The 2023-2024 Sponsorship drive is underway. Several new sponsors have already committed/contributed. Lori encouraged board members to solicit potential sponsors at one of the donation levels.
 - b. The Annual Golf Outing will be held on July 15th, 2023. Leann Balliett will organize the event again this year. Hickory Hills will serve as the venue. In addition, Hickory Hills donated a golf membership which was recently raffled to raise funds this year.
 - c. Calendar raffle sales have been ongoing, board members that haven't picked up their calendar packets from The Woodland were encouraged to do so.
 - d. Cathy Lea suggested having a clothing sale in the near future.
11. There are currently two open board positions and members should be on the lookout for potential candidates.
12. Other Business:
 - a. Lori encouraged board members to submit articles for the newsletter. Additionally, board members were asked to submit short biographies.
 - b. Eau Claire County is aware of issues concerning the boat landings on the lake. The Highway Department will be repairing and patching areas at all boat landings and are currently repairing the south-side landing. The county has also applied for a grant which would enable them to perform permanent repairs on all the landings in the future. If the plan proceeds, all the boat landing on the lake should be repaired by the end of 2024.
 - c. Lori suggested the idea of creating an "Oktoberfest-style" Fall celebration/fundraiser.
 - d. Summer Picnic-LECA and Lake Eau Claire District will have a combined picnic. Mike Lea will verify whether the clubhouse is still a viable venue or not based on demolition/construction plans. Cathy Lea will inquire with Tugger concerning catering the event.
 - e. Website is still under construction with a myriad updates. Lori suggested that board members peruse the site and provide any suggestions for content, ease-of-use ideas, etc.
11. The Next meeting date is tentatively set for June 19, 2023 at 5pm.
12. President Lori Bechtel moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 6:14pm.

Submitted by Nathan Smith, Secretary