

Friends of Lake Eau Claire  
Board Meeting Minutes  
November 2, 2019 at 9am at the Town of Bridge Creek-Town Hall

1. Meeting called to order by President Lori Bechtel at 9am. Present: Lori Bechtel, Duane Ives, Cathy Lea, Pam Hanson, Todd Hanson, Al Hendricks, Nathan Smith, Al Weisenbeck, Joe Vydrazil, Fred Poss, Angel Zimmerman, Amy Quella. Guests: Mike Lea, Marlo Orth, and Dean Boehne. Absent: Dan Marcheske, Tad Ries, and Dale Zank
2. Review of previous minutes dated September 7, 2019: A motion was made, with a second, to approve the minutes. Minutes were approved.
3. Treasurer's Report - Financial report was presented by Pam Hanson. The craft fair profits and craft-fair-specific donations were discussed. Year-to-date receipts are up and year-to-year receipts are up. \$40,000.00 will be committed to the Muskrat Project and paid in a lump sum. \$500.00 will go to the Eau Claire Watershed Project Coalition. A motion was made, with a second, to approve the report. Vote was unanimous, report was approved.
4. Public Comment (3 Minutes) No comments
5. Lake District Update (presented by Mike Lea)
  - a. The county will apply for a grant for funds to be utilized for bank stabilization and erosion control. The target time period will be next fall. The estimated cost is \$25,000.00 to \$50,000.00. The process will use fabrics and rip rap.
  - b. The road to the Muskrat Creek trap has been completed. Bids are due by November 18th. An alternative completion date of December 31st can be used as one of the criterion for selecting a bid.
6. Lake Management Plan Update
  - a. The first meeting with Buzz Sorge and the Lake Eau Claire Partnership Team was held in Augusta. The mission statement and goals were discussed. The next meeting will be November 19th and steps to accomplish goals relating to water clarity, sedimentation, and overall awareness of the lake will likely be approved at that meeting. It was discovered that the Lake Management Plan does not need an update. However, ongoing collection of necessary scientific data will continue.
7. President Lori Bechtel provided an update regarding the Youth Leadership Water Quality Project, headed by Vicki Reed. The group has been monitoring lake clarity and oxygen levels and will consolidate the data and create and present informational brochures. In addition, Vicki and Mark Reed, along with Rod Zika, will be leading equipment cross-training related to testing for water quality.
8. A discussion about winter fish crib installation was led by Fred Poss. The advantages discussed included: the protection afforded to fish from the formation of ice in shallower areas. The disadvantages include: the cost of components for the winter crib construction and the difficulty of transporting the necessary materials. There was discussion about the potential use of plastic cribs, and the cost-effectiveness of alternate materials. The board will research options pertaining to costs and allowable materials.
9. 2019 Fundraiser Updates/Planning
  - a. Lori presented a summary of recent fundraising activities. A summary of the net profits of the golf outing, compiled by Leann Balliett, was distributed. The receipts from the craft sale were discussed. Raffles were found to be the best fundraising option.

- b. The gun raffle was completed. Further gun raffles will be limited to once per quarter, as there has been some difficulty selling tickets.
- c. 1500 calendars are ready and available for the 2020 Calendar Raffle. These will be available to sell at the holiday party, handed out to local taverns, and other target venues/events.
- d. Clothing Sale update: Duane Ives informed the board that there is a credit at Fleet Feet. It was decided that it will be reinvested. Discussion included: the possibility of selling shirts at the holiday party. Cathy Lea suggested ordering youth sizes for this year.
- e. Other fundraising opportunities discussed included: a cooler raffle and raffling ice fishing poles, built by Joe Vyrzal, at the ice fisheree. There was discussion regarding the necessity of eliminating unsuccessful fundraising options and focusing on the most effective projects. The idea of “raffle fatigue” and public image were discussed, and the idea that smaller fundraising projects and sponsorship are necessary for core fundraising, if larger project ideas do not come to fruition.

10. Committees and Leadership - Lori handed out committee and chairperson assignments. Fred expressed the importance of the political action committee for effective lake advocacy. Duane presented the idea of a Welcome/Membership Committee to build relationships with new residents, potential members, and/or sponsors. Amy Quella will chair the committee. Amy brought up the potential of raising membership fees. The current fees are \$25. Marlo Orth reminded the board that state law limits the membership fee to a maximum of \$50.

11. Other Business:

- a. Robin Walsh, with the DNR, completed 30 tree falls.
- b. There was no update on the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant, but the DNR is aware that the organization will be applying for the grant.
- c. The DNR filled in the low spot on the south boat landing. Lori is still working on the process of obtaining high-water signs.
- d. Duane has been looking into alternative website hosting proposals. The current platform, provided through FYI Studios, has been difficult to update and modify, and there have been security issues. The need for an updated, optimized website, and its benefit to potential fundraising and distribution of important information, was discussed. There should be proposals by the next meeting.
- e. Cathy Lea and Angel Zimmerman informed the board that they have a date (January 11th), venue, and menu for the holiday party. Tugger Francel will cater the event. A section for dietary requests/restrictions will be added to RSVP forms. It was decided that the food quantity should be increased. Board members will be donating baskets to be used as gifts/door prizes. Cathy led the discussion, and it was agreed upon, that donations from the holiday party will be given to the Good Neighbor Fund and the food pantry. Augusta K-9 fund and other potential youth funds were also discussed.
- f. Lori informed the board that the association was asked for assistance with a benefit for Leann Balliett, to be held in January, to help raise funds needed for her long-term rehabilitation following a serious auto accident. Lori will provide updates.
- g. Lori updated the board about a solar energy company that is analyzing the pump site for potential solar power suitability.
- h. The emergency calling tree, in partnership with Kenny Zich, has been completed.

- i. Fred Poss presented the need to clean sand traps at Beach and Bedpost Creeks. A motion was made, with a second, to approve up to \$1500.00 to arrange the cleaning of sand traps on Beach Creek and Bedpost Creek. Motion was approved with a unanimous vote.
- j. The next meeting of the board will be on January 11th, 2020

President Lori Bechtel moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:54 am.  
Submitted by Nathan Smith, Secretary