

Silver Lake Association
Spring 2023 Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2023

Call to Order and Welcome

Rob Fillmore

The 2023 Spring Meeting of the Silver Lake Association (SLA) was called to order by President Rob Fillmore on May 27, 2023 at 8:30am. The meeting was held at Nezy's Isle Event Center in Cumberland, WI and via Zoom. There were approximately 31 SLA members present in person and 10 members present via Zoom. Board members present were Rob Fillmore, Julie Geason, Randy Harris, Steve Knudson, Bob Wellhoefer and Matt Wenzel (remotely).

Rob Fillmore asked Bob Wellhoefer, one of the founding members of the SLA to announce that 2023 is the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Silver Lake Association. Bob Wellhoefer gave a brief history of the lake association and recognized some of the founding members.

Rob Fillmore introduced the 2023 Board Members.

Rob Fillmore announced the passing of a long time lake owner, Leslie Ostrem this past winter. Leslie's daughter Julie shared some fond memories of her mother and growing up on the lake. The board expresses their condolences to the Ostrem family.

Old Business

- Fall 2022 Minutes

Julie Geason

The 2022 Fall Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved. The minutes will be posted to the website.

- Treasurer's Report

Steve Knudson

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Steve Knudson. Steve reported a balance of the general fund of \$24,435.62 as of 5/27/23, the Water Quality Fund balance of \$5721.10, for a total balance of \$30,156.72.

At last fall's meeting, there were ideas presented to improve membership participation by Silver Lake property owners. This spring, the board distributed a spring newsletter, along with a membership form and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to encourage membership participation. It was successful! As of the date of the meeting, 69 paid membership dues had been submitted, a new record! The board thanks all for their support and a strong lake association benefits everyone!

The treasurer's report was approved.

- Biannual SLA Directory

Bob Wellhoefer

The 2023 SLA Directory has been printed and copies were distributed at the meeting to those members present. The Directory is a big accomplishment and thanks go out to Bob and Bridget Wellhoefer for completing this every two years. The information published is from the Barron County Tax Portal and other information offered by the members, such as phone numbers and email addresses. Please remember that the Directory is for the exclusive personal use and convenience of Silver Lake Association members and must be treated as privileged and confidential. It is not allowed to be used as a mailing list.

Lake Association Activities Updates

- Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW)

Rob Fillmore

2022 was another successful year for the CBCW program. The annual cost per boat per inspection and decontamination averaged \$11.67. Per Barron County ordinance, if a sanitation station is present at a public boat landing, boat operators are required to comply.

- Aquatic Invasive Species Surveys 2022

Rob Fillmore

The AIS Surveys were conducted in June and August of 2022. Good news - no new invasive species were found. Past invasive species include snails and reed canary grass, which both appear to be stable. These surveys are important for the health of the lake. If any new invasives are identified, the board has funds available to take quick action against them.

Surveys for 2023 are scheduled for July and August. If any lake owners see something suspicious, please take pictures and send to the DNR for identification.

New Business

1. 2023 CBCW / Boat Decontamination Station Plans

Rob Fillmore

Once again this year, SLA has a state grant for 2023 to help cover the cost to staff and equip the inspection station, which costs about \$5500 annually.

The decontamination station will be staffed by Kimberly Jackson Hayden this year. The station is staffed on weekends and holidays. If you have any concerns, please email silverlakebarroncounty@gmail.com.

2. Aquatic Invasive Species Survey Plans

Rob Fillmore

Surveys for 2023 are scheduled for July and August. If any lake owners see something suspicious, take pictures and send to the DNR for identification. Additionally, if anyone is interested in riding along during the survey, please contact Rob.

3. Canada Geese Spotting and Control

Holly Branch

Email silverlakebarroncounty@gmail.com if there are more geese than have been present the past couple of years. Holly mentioned that there are 3 pairs of loons nesting on the point in front of their property. Another wildlife report of a mother bear with 4 cubs has been seen on the east side of the lake.

4. Boat Ramp at Grant Park

Rob Fillmore

Rob mentioned that the boat ramp at the public landing at Grant Park was damaged by low water levels last fall. There is a 16 inch drop at the end of the ramp. Barron County will fix it.

5. Board Position Terms Expiring Fall 2023

Rob Fillmore

There are 2 board positions up for vote this fall. The 3-year terms of incumbents Holli Priebe and Bob Wellhoefer are expiring. SLA welcomes new board members. If you are interested in being on the ballot at the fall 2023 meeting, please email silverlakebarroncounty@gmail.com.

6. Topics from the membership

a. Beaver Damage in NW Bay Cove was reported by Virginia Berglund.

There is a sizable beaver lodge with activity, which is having a negative impact on property owners. The beavers are chewing down trees causing property damage. Additionally, beavers are known to carry giardia, a parasitic infection that can contaminate water and spread to other animals and people. The beaver lodge activity started about 5 years ago. Some beaver trapping has been done and is allowable per the DNR. In fact, the season has been extended due to the high beaver population.

Anyone with problematic beaver activity on their property can hire trappers to cull the population, but there is evidence that the lodge is growing, despite the trapping efforts.

The DNR reported that the beaver lodge could be broken up with explosives, but they are hesitant to do so without a consensus of approval from the SLA members. A show of hands at the meeting indicated there is some consensus, but also some hesitancy for the board to give approval, due to the fact that beavers are considered a keystone species, native to the area, that support the biological community.

Virginia Berglund will continue to lead this issue. She will report at the fall meeting information on how best to manage the population, with a proposed plan and written description of what can be done. A list of trappers will be published on the SLA website.

b. Wakeboats

Wakeboat noise and their negative impact to shoreline was discussed at the fall 2022 meeting. As a volunteer association, SLA has no authority to create ordinances around the operation of

wakeboats or any watercraft. If wakeboat or any other boat traffic is causing a nuisance, please contact the Barron County Sheriff's office or the DNR to report infractions to boating ordinances.

c. Use of Round-Up on the shore line.

A reminder that the use of Round-Up along lake shore is not allowed. There is a weed preventative that is approved by the DNR.

d. Leptospirosis

Discussion from membership - muskrats carry leptospirosis, which can be fatal to pets. The Walker's small dog has been affected with this disease. Contact your veterinarian about a vaccine available for this specific disease.

e. Common Lake Courtesy

Steve Walker asked for the floor to discuss the topic of lake etiquette.

Boating ordinances - please know and respect the boating ordinances. Would like to see these posted to the SLA website for all to read.

Noise - a reminder that noise carries across the lake. Please be courteous and keep music and conversations at a respectable level.

Outdoor lighting - please be aware of how your outdoor lighting at night may affect your neighbors, including those across the lake.

Fireworks - Everyone loves a good fireworks show! The Country Quiet Campground puts on a great show every year that can be viewed from the lake. Otherwise, be mindful of laws concerning fireworks: a permit is required from the township, fines are up to \$1000 per firework. Contact the Barron County Sheriff if necessary.

f. Pickleball Courts

Barron County is considering installing Pickleball courts at Grant County Park. Please contact the County Board to indicate your interest or your opposition to the courts.

g. Dead Deer Tale

This spring, there was a deer carcass that was floating in Silver Lake. It eventually found its way to the east shoreline, where it was taken care of by Rob Fillmore, Steve Harris, and Matt Wenzel. Everyone enjoyed their comedic retelling of the Dead Deer Water Breakdown! We thank them for taking care of it - not a pleasant task.

h. Water levels

Bruce Trimble will contact DNR to see if anything can be done to manage the fluctuation of lake water levels and will report back at the fall 2023 meeting.

Coming Events for Summer 2023

Annual fireworks show by the Country Quiet Campground on Saturday, July 2, 2023 at dark.

Annual Independence Day Boat Parade - July 4th, 2023 starting at 11am, meet at the north end of the lake. Decorations are welcome and appreciated!

Annual Summer Picnic - Saturday, August 5th, 2023 at 4pm. Hosted by the Braun Family, 1170 26 ½ Ave. Main dish, plates, etc. will be provided, please bring a side dish to pass. BYOB.

Fall Meeting - Saturday, September 2, 2023 at 8:30 am, Nezy's Event Center, Cumberland. Coffee and donuts at 8am.

The 2023 Spring Meeting of the Silver Lake Association was adjourned after a motion and second carried.

Have a great summer!

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Geason, Secretary