

SILVER LAKE ASSOCIATION
FALL 2014 MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Wenzel at the Cumberland Branch of the Dairy State Bank Saturday, August 30, 2014 at 9:00 AM. There were 29 people in attendance including Bob Wenzel, Kari Chase, Brian Chase, Rob Fillmore, Wally King, and Steve Knudson, Board members.

Minutes of the Spring, 2014 meeting were read by Secretary Rob Fillmore. A motion to approve the minutes as read was made, seconded and approved by vote of the members.

Steve Knudson, Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's Report. The Association presently has funds totaling \$9491.32: \$8773.42 in the General Fund and \$717.90 in the Water Quality Fund. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted.

Bob Wenzel thanked the members for their contributions. He reported that our funds have increased about \$5,000 from 2013, with over half of the 2014 membership at the Eagle or Eagle+ level, demonstrating the success of the tiered membership levels. Steve Knudson added the reminder our association is a 501c3 organization, so contributions are tax deductible.

The 2014 boat inspection program expenditures report followed. So far \$2,358.00 has been spent from the budget of \$3,000.00. There will be some additional expenditure to cover the balance of the season, but the program will come in under budget. Kevin Jacobson commented on the positive effect that communication of our mission and specifically the boat monitoring program has had on increasing membership.

Kevin Jacobson and his son Ben reported on the Boat Monitoring Program. Now that the program has been in effect for several years, we seem to be increasing public awareness. There were several instances of finding invasive species, more than in previous years. The degree of people moving from lake to lake (many of which have invasive species) provides ample opportunity for transfer. When boaters show up with weeds on their boat, they are told they are not allowed to launch in that condition. Other significant issues are the importance of emptying live wells and removing boat plugs to prevent the introduction of possibly infested water. Bob Wenzel commented that it is against the law to transport aquatic invasive species, knowingly or unknowingly. We have had excellent support from the Barron County Sheriffs, specifically David Moin and Phil Dorn, who provided daily checks. Jim O'Brien commented that his conversations with local fishermen indicate that they appreciate and expect boat inspections. The question was raised as to whether we need to add more hours to our coverage in the future. Kevin and Ben indicated that the existing allocated hours are sufficient. A question was raised as to whether the existing sign is adequate. Kevin Jacobson indicated he is willing to improve the signs and will work through Tyler Gurtzmacher of Barron County.

Bob Wenzel reported the grant for the boat inspection program has expired and that he will to work on seeking additional grant money to meet the application deadline of January.

Concluding the discussion of the topic was the membership expressing sincere thanks to Ben, Sam, and Zach for their service to Silver Lake and the Association.

Bob Wenzel then opened discussion of the Silver Lake Association Directory. The Spring, 2014 issue was incomplete and this has been corrected in the Fall, 2014 printing, available to members in good standing. Bob thanked the Brian and Kari Chase for their work on the directory and for paying for the printing costs. Each directory costs \$3 when printed in color and \$2.50 when printed in black and white. Bob indicated that we know the names of all property owners due to the Barron County records.

There was discussion from the floor as to the cost saving potential of circulating the directory electronically in PDF format. A counter point is that PDF is fairly easy to convert back to data. The existing practice of circulating the directory only in hard copy format will continue in an effort to minimize the misuse of the information. Discussion as to the frequency and extent of directory updates including a range of ideas. A motion was made, seconded and approved to reprint only the address portion of the directory next year, saving the cost of reprinting the fire number portion of the directory, along with annual reprinting thereafter. Kevin Jacobson volunteered to pay for next year's update.

Bob Wenzel reported on the topic of water quality pointing out that publicizing the water quality data collected by Bob Wellhoefer is a valuable service to the Association membership. Brian Chase presented graphs made from Bob's data showing water level and Secchi disc readings over the years. Jim O'Brien indicated he felt that an algae bloom occurred over the summer. Bob's data also tracks other parameters such as chlorophyll content of the water that could provide possible confirmation.

The ditch plug dam closing the 1930's era ditch dug between Sylvan and Silver Lakes was discussed. This is an important feature that blocks the detrimental influx of nutrient rich waters from Sylvan Lake and its watershed. A question was made as to whether anyone had verified that the plug is still in place. While no one could provide confirmation, Jim O'Brien indicated that it would take heavy equipment to remove it.

Bob Wenzel then gave an update on the Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) control project in place of Julie Fetch who chaired the activity. A volunteer team conducted a survey of the reported sites in June and did not identify any CLP. There is some question as to whether the initial reports of CLP in Silver Lake were accurate. It is unlikely that the presence of CLP is intermittent. The DNR investigated a stand of suspicious vegetation reported by Virginia Berglund and found that it was large leaf pondweed, a native species. Meanwhile, if anyone sees anything questionable, they are encouraged to contact Rob Fillmore or Bob Wenzel.

A recap of the summer picnic is that 53 people attended and enjoyed good food and good company. Tom and Felicity Braun have volunteered to host the 2015 picnic the last Saturday in July.

Bob Wenzel reported on the Walleyes for Tomorrow 2014 hatchery activities resulting in 600,000 to 800,000 fry released into the lake during the last week of May. The hatch was good with about an 80 to 90% rate. Failsafe mechanisms have been installed that increase the likelihood of success in the future.

Other items relating to angling were also discussed. Ben Jacobson indicated that some fishermen pull in and turn around when they see the 28" minimum length for walleye possession. Bob Wenzel contacted Aaron Cole and asked why we didn't get extended growth walleye stocking. His answer: Silver Lake population is self-sustaining through natural reproduction and the activities of Walleyes for Tomorrow. Stocking fish risks altering the Silver Lake walleye population genetics and might actually cause problems through stocking genetically inferior fish. Gary French asked why the size limit on Largemouth Bass is not removed in the interest of increasing the Walleye population, which faces competition and predation from bass.

Bob Wenzel reported he will be traveling to Milladore, Wisconsin to defend the modified slot proposal made earlier. As it stands, the 28 inch minimum will sunset in 2016 and revert to the standard 15" minimum length. Bob is seeking to cover the two year gap before the next regular review in 2018 with some kind of regulation that will protect the brood stock.

Fish sticks projects will now target "low energy" sites, such as at Lepak's, in hope of having installations that are not disrupted by ice, wind and waves. Installations in "high energy" sites have had problems despite improved anchors.

Rob Fillmore reported on his progress with respect to the shoreline restoration grant. Jay Michels of EOR was contacted and expressed interest in working on first projects at Rob's and Randy Harris's site to pave the way for additional projects in the future. A meeting on site with Jay is planned for October. Anyone interested in pursuing projects should contact Rob. In order to execute any projects, the Association will need to apply for an extension to the grant which expires at the end of 2014. Obtaining the extension is fairly easy and does not entail additional expense, as far as is presently understood. A motion was made, seconded and approved to authorize the Association to pursue the grant extension.

Bob Wenzel then opened discussion on the topic of the Association's role in enhancing the "lake experience". As Jim O'Brien has wisely advised, we do not want to become "lake cops", but there remain issues with excessive noise, loud parties, shoreline vegetation clearing, etc. Jim indicates that there is no local noise ordinance. It is unknown if there is a state law on the matter. Bob Wenzel will investigate and post the information he finds. Dave Harens brought up the idea of compiling a list of suggested best practices, which others echoed as a possible good idea. Gary French cautioned that we need to be careful of individual property rights and allow people to work out issues themselves. Kevin Jacobson brought up the topic of light pollution and ways to reduce this. He indicated that at one time, there was a program to subsidize shades for outdoor lighting to direct light toward the ground and reduce stray light. The lights at the county park present an opportunity for such modification. Discussion ended with questions about disseminating existing regulations and best practices to members by email.

Discussion proceeded to questions about the quality of local internet service, as this impedes communication and is an obstacle to pursuing Association business. Brian Chase has researched the matter and reported that provider hardware is at its limits. He contacted the local manager and found that upgrades are part of future plans, yet to be scheduled. Grants are being pursued by the supplier. Bob Wenzel encouraged members to contact him expressing their interest so this can be passed along to the provider

The status update on paving of the road was reported by Bob Wenzel. Paving from B to 26 ¼ street is planned for next summer, provided funding is available. The question of the schedule for township budgeting was raised. Bob Wenzel will research and report to the members.

Bob asked the members to express their possible interest in obtaining trees through Barron County next spring as been done in the past with Gary French spearheading the effort. Gary reported that 12 to 14 people participated in 2007 and 2008. The order has to be in by first of year and a volunteer is needed to coordinate pickup and distribution, which occurs during the week, making it a difficult task for "weekenders". Bob will send out an email to gauge interest.

Bob Wenzel opened discussion of the expiring Board terms for Rob Fillmore and Kathleen Hoistad. While Rob is willing to serve again, Kathleen wants to open the opportunity to someone else. The question of term limits was raised, but there is no such restriction in our charter. A motion to appoint Rob was made, seconded and approved. Bob indicated that Linda Goergen is willing to serve. A motion was made, seconded and approved to appoint Linda to the board.

A final topic was inquiry as to interest in asking the county to install a pickle ball court at Grant Park. Bob Wenzel will email members to assess interest and pursue with the County if appropriate.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved at 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Fillmore
Secretary, Silver Lake Association