

Silver Lake Association  
Fall 2022 Meeting Minutes  
September 3, 2022

**Call to Order and Welcome**

Rob Fillmore

The 2022 Fall Meeting of the Silver Lake Association (SLA) was called to order by President Rob Fillmore on September 3, 2022 at 8:32am. The meeting was held at Nezy's Isle Event Center in Cumberland, WI and via Zoom. There were approximately 32 SLA members present in person and 9 members present via Zoom. Board members present were Rob Fillmore, Julie Geason, Randy Harris, Steve Knudson, Bob Wellhoefer and Matt Wenzel (remotely).

To begin the meeting, Rob reminded everyone of the purpose of SLA in our bylaws. Meetings are held twice annually to exchange information and more importantly, for the membership to give direction to the board. All SLA members are encouraged to be engaged and know that the viewpoints of all SLA members are welcome and valued in order to be an effective association.

**Old Business**

- Spring 2022 Minutes

Julie Geason

The 2022 Spring Meeting Minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes carried. The minutes will be posted to the website. Additionally, the DRAFT minutes for the 2022 Fall Meeting will be posted to the website.

- Treasurer's Report

Steve Knudson

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Steve Knudson. Steve reported an ending balance of the general fund of \$19,834.12, the Water Quality Fund balance of \$5720.78, for a total balance of \$25,554.90.

Expenses for the summer consisted of \$5200 for boat monitoring, \$505 of miscellaneous expenses such as picnic expenses, printing expenses, etc. A portion of the boat monitoring expenses (\$3000) will be reimbursed by the DNR.

Steve reported total membership dues of \$5010 were collected in 2022 from 66 members, out of an approximate 100 possible. Thank you for your contributions to SLA!

There was discussion from the membership about ideas to recruit more property owners to join the SLA. The board will consider an additional mailing next summer to inform everyone, members and nonmembers, about the annual picnic and the opportunity to join SLA along with the membership dues structure, with a return envelope.

There was also discussion about increasing the membership dues. They are currently set at \$30 general membership, \$50 Loon level, and \$100 Eagle level. Rob reported that our general

membership dues cannot be more than \$50 annually to get state funding from grants, etc. All members may contribute at the higher levels voluntarily. No motions were made to change membership fees at this time.

The motion to approve the Treasurer's Report carried.

### **Lake Association Activities Updates**

- Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) Rob Fillmore

Rob reported another successful summer of boat monitoring. The boat landing at Grant Park was staffed on Saturday and Sunday all summer beginning the opening fishing weekend in May. Friday and holiday coverage was added Memorial Day weekend for the rest of the summer. The boat landing was staffed by Connor Morrison, along with Kimberly Jackson Hayden during the last weekends in August. They both reported successful use of the decontamination station without any incidences of noncompliance.

The use of the decontamination station is required by county ordinance.

- Aquatic Invasive Species Survey Rob Fillmore

Silver Lake is inspected twice annually, spring and fall by Matt Berg. The first inspection is conducted specifically to look for curly leaf pondweed in spring, and eurasian milfoil and zebra mussels in August. Thankfully, there is nothing new to report this year. The final report from the August inspection is pending and will be posted to the website when available.

- Grant Park Condition Update Rob Fillmore

The park seems to be in better condition this summer. A big thank you to the lakeshore owners on the south shore who occasionally walk over to the park and pick up trash.

- July 4<sup>th</sup> Boat Parade Rob Fillmore

Another fun boat parade was held on Monday, July 4th this summer. There was some discussion from membership about possibly holding the parade on a Saturday or Sunday, on the weekend before or after the holiday to increase participation. For example, with the holiday being on a Monday this year, some people left for home before the boat parade at 2pm. While most people would like to keep the boat parade on the actual holiday, the idea of moving the time earlier, around 11am, may be a good compromise. We will discuss further during the 2023 spring meeting.

- SLA Annual Picnic Randy Harris

A very nice picnic was hosted by the Knudson's this year. A huge thanks to the Knudson's and to all who volunteered and participated. One of the challenges to planning the picnic is that there is no RSVP and it is hard to predict amounts for food, paper products, etc. Ideas for improving picnic were discussed.

Traditionally, the picnic is held on a Saturday afternoon, with the date set by the host. This year an announcement of the date was sent out via email, however, some members reported not receiving the announcement. Communication will be improved for the 2023 picnic.

Additional discussion about the annual picnic was held later in the meeting. See minute notes below in New Business.

- Directory Update

Bob Wellhoefer

The SLA Directory is published every 2 years, with the next printing and distribution in Spring 2023. Bob passed out a page of new updates to the current directory, with changes. If you have a copy of the 2021 Directory, please check to make sure your information is correct. Please submit any changes to [silverlakebarroncounty@gmail.com](mailto:silverlakebarroncounty@gmail.com).

New owners will be added from the information on the county information portal, or you may also submit your information via email to [silverlakebarroncounty@gmail.com](mailto:silverlakebarroncounty@gmail.com).

Calling all photographers! We would love to have a photo for the cover of the directory. Submit photos for consideration to Bob or [silverlakebarroncounty@gmail.com](mailto:silverlakebarroncounty@gmail.com).

- Silver Lake Water Quality Report

Bob Wellhoefer

Bob reported on his monthly water surveys for 2022. Water clarity is measured with the secchi disk. The 2022 average measurement is 13 ft, down slightly from 15 ft in 2021. The 2022 average of 13 ft is compared to the average of 9.4 ft from other lakes in our region, which is an indication that Silver Lake is very healthy with clear water.

Water temperature and depth is also measured. The depth of the traditional deep hole is now at 75 feet (91 feet 21 years ago), and the shallow hole is 77 feet. The depth of these holes is affected by the current water level, along with increased sedimentation of the lake bottom.

Bob sends all of his readings to the DNR. Additionally, the DNR monitors Silver Lake for dissolved oxygen, phosphorous and chlorophyll. The chlorophyll level of Silver Lake is at 3.2 mcg/l compared to 15.6mcg/l from other lakes in our region, another indication of a healthy lake.

Silver Lake has measurable dissolved oxygen all the way to the bottom of the lake, which is an indication of a healthy lake. Good news - phosphorous and algae are trending down. Silver Lake is a mesotrophic lake, characterized by moderately clear water.

SLA has not had a working dissolved oxygen meter for a few years. Bob would like to purchase a new one as this gives him the ability to do better quality lake monitoring. A motion to approve Bob to spend up to \$2500 to buy a new meter was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Bruce Trimble brought up the issue of trying to get permission from DNR to allow Silver Lake the ability to monitor and adjust the water level with an outlet culvert. Rob Fillmore and Bruce will follow up with the DNR.

## **New Business**

- **Board Nominations**

The current three-year terms of Randy Harris and Matt Wenzel are ending. Both are willing to serve again, but also will stand aside if others would like to participate on the board.

No nominations were brought forward from the attendees for new board members. Motions were made and seconded to nominate and approve both Randy and Matt to serve another three-year term. The motions carried.

Any members interesting in serving on the board in the meantime, please contact Rob.

- **2023 SLA Picnic**

We need a volunteer to host and/or coordinate the 2023 picnic. Randy Harris has offered to coordinate the food and communication. The Braun's volunteered to host in 2023 unless there is another volunteer.

There was considerable discussion about the SLA annual picnic. Should it be a membership recruitment event? Should all property owners or just dues paying members be invited? It was agreed that it should be an all-inclusive event, and Rob and Julie will work on an appropriate mailing for invite and date, along with dues information. An evite could also be sent for electronic RSVP. Additional ideas were discussed about having a set date every year or every other year, perhaps alternating the first or second weekend in August, to improve planning and attendance.

A motion was made and seconded that the Silver Lake picnic be open to all property holders, not just paid SLA members. The motion carried.

Another motion was made and seconded that the picnic will be held on the first weekend in August on odd years, i.e. 2023, and the second weekend in August on even years, i.e. 2024. The motion carried. The proposed date for the 2023 Silver Lake Picnic is Saturday, August 5, 2023 at 4pm.

- **Shoreline Erosion from Wake Boats**

Holly Branch reported on research she has done on shoreline erosion caused by large wake boats.

Holly reviewed evidence from studies that large wakes cause shoreline erosion. Specifically a study was conducted by the University of Minnesota on wake surf boats vs non-wake surf boats and shoreline erosion. This study measured wave height, wave energy and wave power of the 2 types of boats.

Wake surf boat waves are 2-3 X higher, generate 6-9 X more energy, and 6-12 X more wave power than regular boats. Wakes are highest at 10 mph at high trim, which is the optimal speed and trim for wake surfing.

Study conclusion - Wake surf boats should be operated at least 500 feet from the shoreline in order for waves to have the same effect on shoreline erosion as non-wake surf boats at 200 feet.

The obvious harms of shoreline erosion are damage to fish spawning, loon habitats and resedimentation of the lake bottom at a depth of 16 to 33 feet. Also there is a potential to contaminate lake water when wake surf boats empty their water ballast from one lake into another lake.

Some towns and townships and lake districts are beginning to create ordinances to extend no wake zones or banning wake surf boats altogether.

We will post a link to this study on the Silver Lake website. Education is key to limiting the harmful effects of shoreline erosion from any cause.

<https://conservancy.umn.edu/handle/11299/226190>

Action item - Rob and Holly will do more investigation into this issue and what is being done at the county and township levels and will report back. Randy Harris will also help with this issue and report back in the spring.

- **Items from the Membership.**

Jim o'Brien asked if SLA has any access to legal resources with the Wisconsin Lake Association. Rob Fillmore will follow up.

Awareness was made about the new Barron County ATV Law which goes into effect May 1, 2023. The new county ordinance allows ATVs and UTVs access on all county roads, with the exception of state highways. Be careful out there!

Rob Fillmore called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 am. The motion was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Geason, Secretary