

Silver Lake Association
Fall 2023 Meeting Minutes **DRAFT**
September 2, 2023 8:30 AM

Call to Order and Welcome

Rob Fillmore

The 2023 Fall Meeting of the Silver Lake Association (SLA) was called to order by President Rob Fillmore on September 2, 2023 at 8:30am. 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 Rob Fillmore-president, Julie Geason-secretary, Randy Harris-vice president, Steve Knudson-treasurer, Bob Wellhoefer and Matt Wenzel-members at large, were in attendance.

Old Business

- **Spring 2023 Minutes**

Julie Geason

The Spring 2023 Minutes were approved as distributed and will be posted to the SLA website, silverlakebarroncounty.com

- **Treasurer's Report**

Steve Knudson

The Treasurer's Report was given by Steve Knudson. Great news! We had a very successful membership drive this last spring with a record 81 members paying association dues! That is about 80% membership participation of current Silver Lake property owners.

The current cash balance on hand is \$27,402.94. The major expenses incurred this year were in the categories of boat monitoring, summer picnic, and the new association membership directory, along with a few miscellaneous expenses, totaling \$4334.63. There will be some additional boat monitoring expenses to be paid out this fall. The Treasurer's Report was approved and will be posted to the SLA website.

Lake Association Activities Updates

- **Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW)**

Rob Fillmore

After a few hiccups at the beginning of the summer boat season, the Clean Boats Clean Water program was again very successful. The new boat inspector this year, Ben Cunningham, did an outstanding job. A huge thanks to Kurt Jacobson for referring Ben. There was very good compliance reported with boat decontamination, even when the boat landing at Grant Park was unattended. The SLA will continue to fund CBCW in 2024, along with a grant from the state.

- **Aquatic Invasive Species Survey**

Rob Fillmore

Two water surveys were conducted this summer. Rob was happy to announce that again this year, there were no new invasive species discovered. There are a few non-native species that exist in Silver Lake, namely the snails and reed canary grass, which appear to be stable. The association funds 1/3 of the cost of these inspections annually, with a grant covering the other 2/3 of the cost.

It is important to continue to monitor for invasive species, as there are invasives existing in lakes surrounding Barron County. Notably, zebra mussels are present in lakes in Burnett and Polk counties. The CBCW program is one piece of our prevention strategy and the lake surveys are the second piece. A third piece of the strategy is vigilance of our lake owners in looking for anything that seems suspect. If anything suspicious is noticed, please take a picture and send it to the DNR for immediate action.

- **July 4th Boat Parade**

Rob Fillmore

The annual Independence Day Boat Parade was held this year. There was great participation at this always fun event. Everyone loved the pirate pontoon! Arrgh!

If you have any pictures from the parade, please email to the silverlakebarroncounty@gmail account to post on the website.

- **SLA Picnic**

Randy Harris

The 2023 annual SLA picnic was held on Saturday, August 5th, 2023. Many thanks to our hosts, Adam and Keem and the Braun family! We had a great turnout, and it was fun to see many families, especially those with young kids. Nice to see the next generation participating. The invitation that was sent electronically with RSVP was successful, and we also mailed invites to members with no email listed.

There was a call for a volunteer for next summer and Virginia Berglund graciously volunteered. Thank you! The date for the picnic will be posted to the website as soon as it is set.

- **Directory Update**

Bob Wellhoefer

Thank you to Bob and Bridget Wellhoefer for compiling and printing the biannual directory. If you have not picked up your directory in person at a meeting or at the picnic, please make arrangements to pick up your directory from Bob. You can email silverlakebarroncounty@gmail.com if you need Bob's contact info.

- **Silver Lake Water Quality Report**

Bob Wellhoefer

Bob reported that the Silver Lake water quality continues to be good, with the least clear secchi reading at 10.5ft in spring, when the water was higher, and lately a secchi reading at 14 feet. The secchi disk readings are for water clarity.

Bob also measures dissolved oxygen in the lake. There is dissolved oxygen all the way to the bottom of the lake, which is indicative of a healthy lake. The water temperature at the bottom of the lake was 42 degrees this summer, with the top of the lake in the 70's and low 80's during the warmest days. Bob thanked Roz Rockman for assisting him this summer.

Bob also explained the phenomenon of lake turnover which occurs every fall, in late October to early November. As the lake cools, the water on the top of the lake will become colder than the water on the bottom of the lake. The cold water is more dense and full of oxygen, and sinks to the bottom. This is healthy for the lake, as the top water will aerate the bottom of the lake.

If you are interested in more lake information, you can access the Surface Water Integrated Monitoring Systems (SWIMS) database on the DNR website which is available to the public. A huge thanks to Bob for 22 years of providing this valuable service.

- **Canada geese spotting and control**

Holly Branch

This summer there were 5 families of geese, with a total of 24 geese regularly on the lake. A high goose population is not desirable, mainly for water quality. There were instances of swimmers itch reported on the south end of the lake this year, for the first time in the history of the lake, as far as the longest lake property owners know. Geese are known spreaders of swimmers itch. Unfortunately, the DNR will not do a goose round up unless there are more than 30 geese total on a lake, no matter the size of the lake. Other ways to remediate the goose population are hunting during the fall goose hunting season, and egg oiling in the spring, if nests can be found. SLA will continue to monitor the goose population annually.

New Business

- **Board Nominations**

The Silver Lake Association board terms are three years. This year, the board terms of Holli Priebe and Bob Wellhoeffer are ending. Both are willing to serve again, but will stand aside if others would like to participate.

Rob Fillmore called for nominations for the open board positions. Bob

Wellhoefer nominated Roz Rockman for one of the open positions of board member at large. Roz accepted the nomination.

Shane Grivna also indicated interest in the other open position and nominated himself to serve as a board member at large for the next three years.

With a unanimous aye vote of the association membership present, Roz Rockman and Shane Grivna were elected. SLA thanks Bob and Holli for their service on the board and welcomes the new board members.

- **DNR Walleye Stocking**

There was a lively discussion about the general fish population in Silver Lake. Historically, the Walleyes for Tomorrow program was only slightly effective and very labor intensive. What else can be done to improve the fish population? There is a slotting program still in force. Please check the Wisconsin Licensing website for specifics. Another way to improve the fish population is to keep shorelines in natural condition. There is interest in having a guest speaker at the meeting about this topic. John Berthiaume will check with the DNR and report at the spring meeting.

- **2024 SLA Picnic**

The date for the 2024 summer picnic will be posted to the website. Virginia Berglund and family will host.

Items from the Membership

- **Beavers**

Virginia Berglund reported on beaver activity and the beaver den in the northwest cove on the lake. The DNR recommendation to control beaver population is to trap ice out to ice in and they are not in favor of exploding the den because the beavers will just rebuild it. There are two local experts who have been hired by lake property owners to trap the beavers, but trapping needs to be consistent to be effective. Currently, a few property owners are paying for the trapping service, but beavers can affect the entire lake. Virginia put forth a potential motion for the SLA to allocate \$1000 per year to support trapping efforts on the private properties of those affected. Most beaver activity is in the fall, so she feels it is important to pass this motion at this meeting. There was much discussion about whether or not the SLA should take responsible to fund activity on private properties and the potential liability.

Board member Matt Wenzel will talk to Jeff Streeter, one of the trappers, to get an idea of the scope of the problem and the effectiveness of the trapping program and its impact on the beaver population. He will also ask about what

would be involved in a proposal from them.

The beaver problem will be included on the Spring 2024 Meeting Agenda.

- **Buckthorn**

Virginia Berglund also spearheads the Buckthorn treatment program. It is important to keep Buckthorn in check. There will be another Buckthorn treatment offered in October 2024. Contact Virginia in May 2024 if you want your property treated.

- **Social Opportunities**

Terri Knudson indicated that there are association members interested in gathering for social activities. If you are interested in gathering socially, reach out to others to find like interests and fun activities, i.e., kayaking, play dates, whiskey tastings, card games, pickleball, etc. There are two Silver Lake pages on FaceBook - the Silver Lake Association page, and a new page formed during the Silver Lake Summer Picnic, called Silver Lake Social. Please reach out if you desire opportunities to meet your neighbors all around the lake and get together for fun activities.

- **Internet Service**

Lakeland Township Internet Access Survey to be completed by September 15, 2023.

- **SLA Bylaws Update**

Gary Schettle would like to lead a small group, 2 or 3 committee members, to make recommendations for bylaw revisions to be presented at the Spring 2024 meeting. This should only require 2-3 meetings total. Please contact Gary if you would like to volunteer to serve on this committee.

- **Silver Lake Attire**

If you are interested in hats, sweatshirts or teeshirts with a Silver Lake theme, you can contact Kathy at United Team Elite in Cumberland, located across the road from Louie's Finer Meats. unitedteamelite.com

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Geason, Secretary