Silver Lake Association

Spring 2022 Meeting Minutes

Saturday May 28, 2022

Board members present: Rob Fillmore, Bob Wellhoefer, Steve Knudson, Randy Harris, Matt Wenzel (via Zoom) and Julie Geason

**Call to order and Welcome -** Rob Fillmore called the meeting to order at 8:40 am with approximately 35 members present in person at Nezzy's Isle Event Center, Cumberland, WI. There were an additional 7 members (approx) present remotely via Zoom.

**Old Business**

**Fall 2021 Minutes** were posted to the website and sent out via email with the meeting notice. Julie Geason briefly reviewed with membership. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried. Approved minutes will be posted to the website.

**Spring 2022 Treasurer’s Report** was presented by Steve Knudson. Current balance of $28,604.44 reflects beginning balance of $25,157.60, cash in from membership dues and DNR grants equaling $5,770.32, and cash out of $2,323.48.

Additional membership dues were collected at the meeting. Thank you to all of the Silver Lake property owners for strong participation in the association.

Cash out of $2,323.48 reflected additional expenses for fall boat monitoring of $732.00. Other expenses consisted of SLA directory printing, SLA picnic, invasive species survey, Buckthorn eradication, and US Postal box rental equaling $1,591.48.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the financial report. There was no discussion and the motion carried.

**Lake Association Activities Updates**

**2021 AIS Survey** - Rob Fillmore reported on the surveys done in 2021 by Matt Berg. The $712 cost of the June and August 2021 surveys were funded by the association. The grant applicaton for Twice Annual Professional AIS Surveys for 2022 through 2025 has been submitted to the Wisconsin DNR for financial assistance.

Quick overview of 2021 surveys found that invasive species consisting of snails and Reed Canary Grass are present in Silver Lake. No Eurasian Milfoil or Curly Pond Weed was observed. There is Dwarf Milfoil present, but it is not considered invasive at this time. The full 2021 Report will be posted to website (a picture of Reed Canary Grass is in the report).

Boat inspections and diligence of lake owners are key to keeping invasive species out of Silver Lake.

A question about Reed Canary Grass was asked. Rob answered that it has the potential to displace native wetland species and can be removed, however the DNR is not too concerned about it at this point.

The primary benefit of doing the surveys in June and August is that we can act quickly, and there is a $5,700 Water Quality Fund allocated in the bylaws that can be spent immediately to respond to any emergent invasive species.

A motion was made and seconded to increase the Water Quality Fund (WQF) to a total of $10,000. The additional $4,300 would come from the Silver Lake Association's General Fund. Motion carried.

After further review of the by-laws, it was discovered that the maximum allowable dollar amount for the WQF is $5,700. Therefore, it was determined that the previous approved motion, being contrary to the organizational by-laws, was invalid.

After further discussion, a new motion was made and seconded, to allow the SLA board of directors the authority, and at its discretion if needed, to spend an additional $4,300 from the General Fund, for WQF projects. Motion carried.

**2021 Clean Boats Clean Waters Program** - Rob Fillmore reported on the boat monitoring program for 2021. The total cost for the program in 2021 was $5,544, consisting of $5,484 for wages and $60 for materials and expenses. Rob attends annual training for this program which is partially reimbursed by the Wisconsin DNR.

In 2021, our boat inspector, Connor Morrison was present for 56 days, 457 hours. A total of 475 boats were inspected, averaging $11.67 per boat. He had contact with a total of 847 people at the beach, educating on the importance of boat inspections. The use of the decontamination station is an ordinance, and boaters must comply.

We are in need of a new inspector for 2022. The DNR will reimburse up to $12/hr. The current competitive wage rate in Barron County is $15/hr. Discussion ensued on what the association needs to do to keep the successful program going. Rob will contact Connor for suggestions and ideas to improve the program. Ideas for recruiting an inspector for 2022 were suggested, including contacting the local charter school, Island Research Academy and Cumberland HS. A recommendation was made by the membership that the board should consider a wage increase or an end-of-season incentive to the inspectors for a job well done.

For 2022, Rob Fillmore has attended the annual training and has 53 days of paid inspections scheduled on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays. Also need to purchase more materials, bleach, sprayers, hats, and t-shirts.

**New Business**

Recognition was made that Ozzie Ostrem passed away last fall. A long-time Silver Lake resident, Ozzie was instrumental in the formation of the Silver Lake Association and served as the first president. Many fun memories of Ozzie were shared by members. Sad news was shared that another Silver Lake resident and previous board member, Linda Goergen, also passed away recently. Linda served as the SLA board secretary and a was a wonderful friend to many. A moment of silence was observed to remember our friends.

* **Canada geese spotting and control** Holli Branch

Only one pair of geese and goslings have been observed so far for the spring of 2022. Email reports of geese observations to silverlakebarroncounty@gmail.com and Holli Branch will keep track of any observations.

* **SLA Directory**  Bob Wellhoefer

Bob passed around the directory listing for directory updates by members. A copy of the current directory was also passed around for updates, especially email updates for accuracy, important for announcements to members on upcoming events.

Zoom attendees should please email updates to: silverlakebarroncounty@gmail.com.

* **Board Position Terms Expiring Fall 2022** (2 positions, incumbents Randy Harris and Matt Wenzel)

Randy Harris has served 2 consecutive 3-year terms, and is willing to step down if anyone is interested in serving on the board. He is also willing to continue to serve on the board if elected.

Matt Wenzel has served one term and is willing to serve another term, but also willing to step down if anyone is interested in serving on the board.

Those interested in serving, please email silverlakebarroncounty@gmail.com, or indicate your interest to volunteer at the 2022 fall meeting.

**Topics from the membership**

* **Internet Service to the Silver Lake Area** Terri Knudson

Terri Knudson reported on findings of her survey on the need for better internet access from current providers. Mosaic will not be increasing access to the lake because Century Link is providing access in the area. However, Century Link is not providing the best service to all areas around the lake.

Another option may be StarLink. Additionally, Verizon may be installing 5G Hotspots in the area in the future, but not immediately.

Rich Janssen reported that they received help from a local Century Link technician with installation of a new modem which improved speed, at no cost. Speeds up to 30 mbps. Rich will provide the name of tech and Rob will email information out to membership.

* **Boat Wakes**

During the summer of 2021, there were dock and shoreline issues caused by large boat wakes made by larger wakeboats. Boating regulations call for closed throttle within 100 feet of any dock. SLA has no regulatory authority, individuals must call the Barron County Sheriff if they are bothered by large wakes. Only repeated and frequent calls will create action. Contact number for Barron County Sheriff is listed on the SLA website [https://www.silverlakebarroncounty.com](https://www.silverlakebarroncounty.com/). (715)637-6737

Suggestion was made to educate yourself, your families, visitors, renters, etc. about boating regulations.

* **Barron County Grant Park**

It has been observed that the Silver Lake public beach and park is in bad shape with evidence of littering and vandalism. Rob will contact Barron County Parks Supervisor about improving Grant Park conditions. Rob recommends that lake association members frequent the park with an occasional drive-through to discourage any negative activity at the park.

* **Lakeland Township**

The township has notified property owners about storing junk on properties. Please clean up any junk piles. Information for disposal can be found on the Barron County website <https://www.barroncountywi.gov/waste>.

* **Water Quality**

Bruce Trimble is interested in contacting the DNR about improving water quality issues created by flooding in the early 2000s. Recent secchi disk reading was 16ft by Bob Wellhoefer, which is excellent.

* **Summer Picnic**

The annual summer picnic will be hosted by the Knudsons, on July 16, 2022 at 4pm. All COVID19 vaccinated SLA members are invited. An announcement will be sent out via email closer to the date.

* **July 4th Boat Parade**

The annual Silver Lake Boat Parade will convene at 2pm on Monday, July 4th, at the north end of the lake. All are invited and urged to participate in this fun, annual event. Boat decorations are encouraged!

* **Silver Lake Association Website**

All are encourged to use the website [https://www.silverlakebarroncounty.com](https://www.silverlakebarroncounty.com/). Please email silverlakebarroncounty@gmail.com for anything you would like posted on the website, including items for sale, recommendations for services, etc. This is a great resource for SLA members.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting at 10:15am. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Geason, Secretary