

Deer Lake Watershed Association

Board Meeting – Monday June 16, 2022

Virtual Meeting via Facebook™ connection

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Steege at 6:00 p.m. This is a virtual meeting via computer where all members can hear each other and had visuals of members present. The meeting was opened with a reading of the DLWA Mission Statement: *“To protect, maintain and improve the natural resources of the Deer Lake Watershed for current and future generations.”*

ATTENDEES: Board members participating: Bill Cromell, Gail Blackmer, Bruce Steege, Vaughn Duitsman, Todd Reynolds, Travis Mangan , and Mark Smith.

AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL – Prior to this meeting, an agenda of topics to be discussed had been sent via email to board members and all DLWA members who had a listed email address on file. The agenda was approved on a **motion** by Vaughn, **seconded** by Todd.

TREASURER’S REPORT: DLWA Treasurer Vaughn Duitsman provided a written Treasurer’s report listing fund balances as of June 13, 2022:

DLWA General Checking Account - \$8,052.29

DLWA Continuous Flow Savings Account - \$2,905.63

DLWA Water Protection Savings Account - \$1,157.99

Total DLWA accounts - \$12,682.17

Designated funds for website expenses - \$ 274.25

CCC Camp Historical Preservation Savings Account - \$566.26

Vaughn noted that we received a \$300 grant from NIECI’s roundup program which went into the Water Protection Fund. Since our last meeting, a total of \$125 in donations has been received from Keith and Sue Pearson and Bob Streichen, along with annual membership dues from four DLWA member households. Especially appreciated was a lifetime membership from Tony and Missy Ebnet. Expenditures in this period included \$771 cost for the cookbook project, \$1170 out of the continuous flow account paid to Rick Jensen for beaver control, and \$944 for the insurance policy. The Treasurer’s report was approved for filing on a **motion** by Gail, **seconded** by Mark.

SECRETARY’S REPORT: Secretary Gail Blackmer had compiled and sent minutes from the April 11, 2022 meeting to board members for review. Following correction of typo errors, Vaughn

moved, Todd **seconded**, that the minutes be approved for filing and distribution to the membership. Motion **carried**.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

A. Membership Committee – Bruce Steege, as acting Membership committee chair, reported that there are 129 active member households currently and that three members have been removed. Bruce will continue to send out reminders to household and business members when annual terms expire.

B. Events –

- The Flotilla will be held on Monday, July 4th with a boat parade on Deer Lake. We decided to note the 20th anniversary of the DLWA by serving hot dogs and ice cream at Hideaway beach after the flotilla. Vaughn **moved** to approve this expense, **seconded** by Mark.
- Gail reported that the MN DOT roadside cleanup had been completed.
- Discussion was held regarding whether to try to attempt another social gathering this summer. We agreed that it would be better to hold off on a picnic at the Bass Lake picnic area until next year, particularly if the county has plans to improve the site.
- Annual meeting – Discussion held on the process for nominating candidates for the board and which regular or alternate board positions will be open. An email will be sent to members regarding board member positions and inviting all members to attend. A special cake to commemorate 20 years of DLWA has been ordered.

C. Water Sampling 2022 – one test has been completed on 5/24/22 for both lakes being tested this summer. The next test will be done approximate June 16.

OLD BUSINESS

A. DLWA Website update – Vaughn provided website update, noting that he is reviewing messages that come in to the website.

B. Cookbook project – Todd reported that enough copies of the cookbook have been sold to cover the expenses, so we are making money on sales now. Todd and Dawn Reynolds were thanked again for all their work on this project, with Todd noting that it is a success due to submissions from our members that made it possible.

C. Ice Out contest – We noted that the late season ice out date put Emmy Dunlap as the winner. Once again the contest was a lot of fun!

D. DLWA Apparel – Jim has ordered samples of the shirts and hats that we can have available at our events. We discussed the ordering process and if some orders could be available for pick up at the annual meeting. It was suggested that adding \$5 above the price of each item would be appropriate for realizing some profit to the organization.

E. Fun Run – Todd reported, and others agreed that some of our members have asked if there will be another 5K fun run in the future. We can continue to consider bringing this event back, considering the amount of volunteer work involved.

F. Mission Statement – The board had hoped to plan for an in-person meeting this summer to spend more time on considering the mission statement, however we have not been able to find a date that works for all. After review of the current mission statement, the majority of board members individually expressed opinion that it is satisfactory to leave it “as is”, and in fact, feel that it is a good mission statement for our organization.

G. Signs – Bruce and Todd replaced the uprights with 4x6 treated posts that were cemented in. They still plan to replace the shingles on the roof. Thanks for the good work!

H. Banners and flag – The banners for the Flotilla and annual meeting are done and in use, the flag is done and will be on the lead boat in the Flotilla.

I. Life Memberships – the board discussed the life membership category, particularly the aspect of any organization’s responsibility to be cognizant of budgeting and long term planning when a member makes a one-time significant monetary contribution. At this time our bylaws do not have a clause that defines what would happen to the resources of DLWA should the organization ever dissolve. Bill spoke to this issue and will research language that could be added to the bylaws as an amendment to be voted on by the board and full membership.

J. Other – Discussion was held on what type of information could be included in the booklets that have been prepared for public information on fishing regulations and AIS prevention. Bill had provided the board with extensive rationale promoting reduced daily fish limits and size slots. The message comes through that over-harvest of a lake results in poorer fishing as years go by. Travis and Todd agreed to read the articles Bill has sent to edit the information down to easily readable text. Bruce reviewed the information that he has included in the booklets with Todd suggesting that we move along with making them available to resorts, as well as getting a single page sign of suggested size and possession limits to post at the lake access or a handout.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Annual meeting – Expiring board member terms are Bill Cromell and Bruce Steege. Bill chooses to retire from the board, Bruce will run for re-election. Todd Reynolds was appointed and will run for election as a regular member. We currently have 8 Regular Board Members and 3 Alternate Board Members. Valerie Cromell is retiring from Alternate Board Member leaving Jeff Dunlap and Jim Kush as Alternate Board Members. We have approved 9 Regular Board Members and 5 board member terms. Bruce will send out an email with this information as a recruitment effort for additional active board members.

Adjourn – Todd moved, Gail seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Gail Blackmer, DLWA Secretary
