

**DEER LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
22nd ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 2023
CARPENTER TOWN HALL**

Preliminary - To be approved at the 2024 Annual Meeting

The 22nd Annual Meeting of the general membership of the Deer Lake Watershed Association took place at the Carpenter Town Hall on the first Saturday of August, as stated in the bylaws of the organization. The meeting was open to all members of the DLWA. Twenty-four members signed in at the meeting. At 5:00 p.m. a pot-luck dinner was made available with a variety of food provided by members. Copies of the minutes of the previous year's annual meeting, a Treasurer's report, and an agenda for this year's meeting were handed out to attendees.

DLWA President Bruce Steege called the annual meeting to order at 5:43 p.m. He introduced himself and other current regular and alternate board members: Travis Mangan, Jim Clarke, Gail Blackmer, Todd Reynolds, Vaughn Duitsman, Mark Smith, Bob Gibbons, and Jim Kush. The agenda for this meeting was approved on a motion by Audrey Johnson, seconded by Jim Moffet.

REPORTS

Treasurer's report- a written report of account balances, revenue, and disbursements for the fiscal year of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 was reviewed. Revenue sources included the recurring sustaining categories of membership dues, contributions, and website sponsor advertising. This year additional revenue was realized through initiatives developed by the board of directors including a donation request to Carpenter Township specifically designated for water quality testing; publishing and selling a regional cookbook; apparel sales; and the Ice-Out contest. Disbursements included dues to partner organizations; an annual insurance premium; newsletter and office expenses; special events; laboratory fees for water quality testing; and continuous flow expenses, primarily beaver dam control.

The CCC Camp Savings account remains in effect as a separate account. Questions on the financials were invited, the status of the fund raising project towards purchase of a mud motor and boat was clarified with a statement by Bruce S. that he has purchased a similar unit for himself that can be used by the DLWA group until sufficient funds are available. As a reminder, this type of boat is needed for getting into the creeks to deal with beaver dams. The financial report was approved for filing on a motion by Jim Kush, seconded by Audrey Johnson.

Secretary's report - Secretary Gail Blackmer presented the minutes taken at last year's annual meeting held 8-22. The minutes were approved as written on a motion by Dawn Reynolds, seconded by Denny Carlson.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Updates on the activities of various committees and events were presented to members as follows:

- Membership committee – Bruce is tracking paid household memberships as they come in and Gail is assisting with reminders for annual dues. There is a master membership list prepared by Valerie Cromell which Bruce and Gail are collaborating on to keep current. We thank all members for sending in their annual dues and are attempting to send out reminders as needed. As new households come into the area, we hope to introduce them to benefits of a lake association.
- Events – Gail reported that the MN DOT Adopt a Highway program has continued, with volunteers cleaning up a two mile stretch of Hwy #1. This is typically done the first Saturday of May, weather permitting. The annual Fourth of July DLWA Flotilla was held again with a boat parade on Deer Lake followed by fellowship with hot dogs and ice cream on the beach at Carlson's Hideaway Resort. We thank the host family for allowing this event to be held on their property each year.
- Water sampling – Bruce reported that water quality sampling had been accomplished on Deer, Mirror, and Mead Lakes this year. He described the

sampling process and requirements for getting samples to the laboratory. This year the lab fees were partially covered by funding from Carpenter Township. Each year at the annual township meeting there is opportunity to request donations to help local organizations fund their programs. Bruce was successful in describing the water sampling project and the need to continue establishing baselines on area lakes. Discussion on this topic included how to best interpret and utilize the data collected through sampling. The board appreciates any of our members with experience in graphing and interpreting data to join in with this project. Secchi disc monitoring continues on selected lakes where volunteers can do this, Denny Carlson was noted for having done it for 25 years! Deer Lake had clarity to 9 feet deep this summer, while Mirror Lake had a reading of 18 ft.

- Outflow update – The beaver population seems to have been controlled in recent years, however area trappers did remove 53 beaver in the past season. There hasn't been a dam totally blocking flow on Deer Creek for a couple years and this season the water level on the gauge at the bridge by Camp Deer has been stable at approximately 4.6. It was noted that the creek coming from Lorraine Lake into Deer is nearly closed off by cattails. A permit from DNR would be needed to open the creek to better flowage. Board member Todd Reynolds was asked to check on this as liaison to MN DNR.
- Ice Out Contest – Mark Smith organized this fun event which ended when Deer Lake was free of ice on May 7, 2023. Entry fees were split with DLWA receiving half as a fund-raising effort and two winners sharing the other half.
- Apparel update – The board is looking into other companies to produce logo apparel as prices have gone up significantly.

ELECTIONS

The annual meeting is also the date for elections for the Board of Directors of DLWA. Two board members, Mark Smith and Jim Clarke, are retiring from the board and not running for reelection. The regular board positions held by Gail Blackmer, Vaughn Duitsman, and Travis Mangan are expiring, these incumbents

have been nominated for reelection to another two-year term, 2023-2025. A ballot with these names and two other nominations which were forwarded to the board, Andy Gregorich and Sara Gregorich was distributed to the full membership. Bruce Steege called for nominations from the floor, calling three times for any other nominations. Audrey moved to close nominations, seconded by Loey Master. Audrey then moved to elect the ballot to the board of directors, seconded by Tom Boland, motion carried.

The floor was then opened to nominations for Alternate Members. Alternate members attend board meetings and may vote in the case there is not a quorum of regular members. Bob Gibbons and Jim Kush have served as alternate members. No other nominations were received from the floor. Bob and Jim K. will continue as alternate members.

Bruce thanked Mark and Jim C. for their time and efforts serving on the board and continued volunteerism. The organization's bylaws state there may be up to nine regular board members, anyone with an interest may contact him.

OLD and NEW BUSINESS

No other business was brought before the group. It was noted that residents along CR 533 are appreciative of the posted 30 mph speed limit and are hoping it is enforced. Also a statement was made hoping that a porta potty could be located at the Deer Lake public access, as sanitation issues are a concern. It's believed that this would be a DNR decision.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Audrey, seconded by Tom B.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Gail Blackmer, secretary