

Minutes of the Lake Owen Association Annual Meeting
July 8, 2006, 9:00 AM
Cable Community Center
Cable, WI

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM by Acting Chair Patty Anderson.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the 2005 Annual Meeting were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bill Hannaford reported income for the past 12 months of \$6015.52 and expenses of \$928.65. There is \$11560.54 in cash (checking account) and a costs value of \$169.94 in T shirt inventory. Total assets are \$11730.48.

Bylaws change: Because past Annual Meetings have occurred late in the summer and have hampered many committees from meeting, it was moved (Ken McKivett) and seconded (??) that the Bylaws be changed as follows: deleting the second Saturday in August as the date for the Annual Meeting, and replacing with giving the Board the authority to set the annual meeting date. Passed unanimously.

Board nominees: The following slate of nominees was presented for 2-year board member terms: Ron Anderson, Will Danker, Stacey McKinney, and Ralph Owen. Passed unanimously.

Acting Chair's Report: Patty Anderson informed the members that President Steve Gall has taken a new job in Vail, Colorado as publisher of the Vail Daily. He was unable to attend today's meeting. Patty read a letter to the group from Steve in which he expressed thanks to LOA members who had assisted him during his presidency. Steve's letter assured the group that LOA was in good hands and though he will miss the area much, he was confident for the future of Lake Owen.

Patty also outlined the actions taken by the Board in the past year and suggested that it will be even more active in the future.

Committee Reports:

Social: Terry Miller noted the Summer Solstice party on June 17 was something of a washout due to weather issues, so it will be reprised tonight (7/8/2006). The Ice Cream Social on 7/1/2006 was well attended. July 22 will be Lake Owen Day at the Drummond Museum starting at 10 AM, and all are urged to attend to see logging exhibits, etc. The annual Buff-A-Wool Ranch visit is scheduled for September 2, at 1:00 PM. The Ryder Cup Golf Match featuring Lake Owen vs. Lake Namakagon is scheduled for August 19 at noon at Lakewoods, to be followed by a picnic dinner for players, spouses, and non-players alike. Cost for golf and picnic is \$55, picnic only is \$10 per person.

A Namakagon River canoe trip is not possible this year due to low water, but is under consideration for next year.

Fisheries: Gary Nei reported that the Red Cliff tribe got a tub full of walleye eggs from spearing on Lake Owen last spring and made them available to LOA. The 160,000 fry are being raised in a tribal pond, but it is becoming weed choked and the fry need to be netted and released into Lake Owen very soon. Gary expects a mid-July stocking date and we should have perhaps 20,000 fry at that point to be released into the lake. Volunteers are needed to help fin-clip the fry so that the forthcoming DNR Creel Census does not count these new fish in the census. The census is scheduled for next spring, the day after ice-out.

The tribe speared 100 walleyes last spring. Walleyes therefore are under pressure and should be caught and released. Largemouth bass are displacing smallmouth bass and should be caught and eaten. All other larger fish should be released, Gary noted.

Buoys: Ken McKivett noted that the Buoy Committee was having its first meeting today. Ken noted that speeding violations should be reported to the sheriff/DNR, which is effective control for tight areas.

Water Quality: Dorothy Kerekes reported that biologist Jim Bartlett found no Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) at any of the 4 landings he monitored in 2005. The Committee will resume water quality monitorings/clarity samplings this year. Joe Dorava had done them in 2004 and 2005 as part of the Vierbicher & Associates study.

The Committee recommends that LOA participate in the Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) program to monitor for invasive species like EWM and zebra mussels. Dorothy indicated that we have been lucky thus far to have none, but we must take action to ensure this record continues. EWM is in the Pike Lake chain, Chippewa Flowage, Big/Little Round Lakes, and others. CBCW trains volunteers in watercraft inspection and reporting, and has developed an education program. Volunteers are sought to help with personal contact, signage, and boat landing inspections. There are 2 CBCW Volunteer Workshops for training left this summers: on July 20 (Minocqua) and August 11 (Rice Lake). A DNR grant will be pursued to fund our monitoring efforts for next year. Questions and comments followed, and the committee will consider all suggestions. Dorothy noted that the committee would welcome additional members.

Snowmobile/ATV trail update: Patty Anderson noted that the Bayfield County Tourism & Recreation Committee had passed a resolution that would allow the use of private property for recreational trails. The Bayfield County Board of Supervisors defeated that recommendation on a vote of 8 to 5. The Johnson family also has a legal effort underway to defeat any such proposed use of private property for public trails. It appears this might be the end of the matter.

Sound Committee: Bruce Hendry indicated that the only issue is the gym camp boats. Three boats circle every day. Quieter boats are available, but costly. Bruce has met with camp owners on the matter. The camp is a for-profit concern and has apparently little interest in new boats.

Old Business: none.

New Business: Ed Ronkowski proposed a resolution be sent from LOA commending the Drummond and Cable Fire & Rescue squads and the US Forest Service for doing a commendable job in containing the major forest fire that broke out on Carter's Island on July 7, apparently due to camper negligence. Passed unanimously.

Bruce Hendry proposed a resolution be sent from LOA to the Johnson-Louis families thanking them for their annual July 4 fireworks displays. Passed unanimously.

It was noted that the issue of dock size continues to be a confusing matter. The Wisconsin Supreme Court just last week upheld the DNR's rather restrictive position on allowable dock sizes. Stacey McKinney volunteered to be a resource for more information as the realtor's group has been active in monitoring the matter.

Program: Ralph Owen introduced Jim Crandall, Drummond Town Clerk, who discussed the proposed reassessment of Town of Drummond property. Since 90% of Lake Owen lies within the town, it is a matter of importance to most lake residents. He gave a background of town data and explained what the property tax funds and how the assessment and appeal process works. Revaluation every so often is mandated by the state when rising property values create a disparity. The last reassessment was in 2002, and the next will be either this year or next year. The Town Board will decide when to do it at their July 12 meeting. Jim noted that while property values have tripled in the last 10 years, tax revenues have "only" grown by 80%. Jim ended by fielding questions and comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Hannaford, LOA Secretary for the meeting