

Lake Eau Claire Association, Inc
Annual Meeting
August 17, 2024

1. Call to Order. President Lori Bechtel called the meeting to order. She thanked everyone for attending.
2. Review and approval of last year's meeting minutes. Lori asked if anyone needed more time to review the minutes. No changes. Mike Conner made a motion to approve the minutes as stated, seconded by Cathy Lea. The motion carried.
3. Financial report. Jill Weisenbeck reported on the financial activity for 2023 with comparison to 2022.
 - a. Balance Sheet. Jill said that cash was strong in both years, with ending cash balances of \$191,296 for 2022 and \$187,059 for 2023. Jill stated that in 2023 she started a cash-on-hand fund of \$200 for startup cash for events. The association uses "fund" accounting as a means of making sure that donations are applied as directed by the donors. The main funds for 2023 are: general fund (sponsorships, raffles, 50/50s, dues), fireworks, Lake Rehab, and this year there was a Skid Row Cleanout fund. She also noted that the fireworks fund had a balance of \$10,203. This higher balance was due to not receiving the 2023 fireworks bill from the Lions Club until 2024. The 2023 fireworks bill was \$5,360. The 2024 fireworks bill was \$5,620. Including donations received to date, we now have about \$1,300 in the fund for 2025. Jill also pointed out that \$950 in deferred contributions is for dues for the year beyond 2023. Jill is reporting this liability to properly distribute the dues to the applicable year.
 - b. Statements of Contributions:
 - i. Dues: 2023 \$3,870 compared to \$2170 for 2022
 - ii. Skid Row: 2023 36 donors with amounts ranging from \$50 to \$5000 for a total of \$22,250. 2022 \$71,454 with one major donation from Marlo Orth.
 - iii. Sponsorships: 2023 \$13,550, 2022 \$11,400
 - iv. ARPA grant: 2023 \$14,747, 2022 \$27,765
 - v. Raffles and 50/50s: 2023 \$34,360, 2022 \$26,924
 - vi. Community fundraiser: 2023 \$485 backpack program, 2022 \$435 Community Cupboard.
 - c. Statements of Disbursements:
 - i. Dredging/rip rap: 2023 \$52,891 mostly for the Skid Row project, 2022 \$68,311
 - ii. Boats, motors, equipment: 2023 \$31,410, 2022 \$28,865. One boat and the equipment payments came from the ARPA grant.
 - iii. Operating expenses: Include insurance, postage, and various filing and license fees.
 - d. 2023 fundraiser events summary:
 - i. Fisheree \$4,515
 - ii. Calendars \$8,705
 - iii. Golf \$5,544
 - iv. Annual meeting \$693
 - v. ATV race raffle \$835
 - e. Richard McHugh made a motion to accept the reports as presented, seconded by Phil Kalscheur. The motion carried.

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4. 2023 audit report. Lori Bechtel reported Dean Boehne conducted the 2023 audit. He had one suggestion for a reporting item, but otherwise said everything looked in order. Thank you to Dean!
5. President's report by Lori Bechtel.
 - a. Thank you's:
 - i. To the Lake Eau Claire Protection and Rehab District board (Lake District). Lori said that the Lake District and our association work well together and support each other.
 - ii. To the association board members. This team is approved for 12 to 15 members. Currently we have 13 members.
 - iii. To the picnic donors. Cathy Lea, Duane Ives, Angel Zimmerman, Josh Zimmerman for donating beer, Woodland for donating the ice cream, Al Hendricks & Lori Bechtel for the water and soda, raffle prizes by Duane Ives, Jill Weisenbeck, Heidi Connor, and Joe Vydral.
 - b. 2024 report on contributions. We typically have three or four main fundraisers.
 - i. Sponsorships. There are three sponsorship levels, most of the sponsors are businesses, although there are some individual sponsors. The association promotes the businesses throughout the year. Lori encourages members to patronize those businesses. In 2024 we had the highest number of sponsors – 54, with the total amount of \$14,000. There were 44 Muskie level sponsors (\$300), 4 Northern sponsors (\$200), and 5 Walleye sponsors (\$100). The sponsorship starts in June and runs through May.
 - ii. Memberships. We ask for \$25 per household for each membership. Not all members live on Lake Eau Claire. We have received about \$3,000, which is about standard for a given year. Lori encouraged us to reach out to others – neighbors, community members – to invite them to join. There is no set date for paying dues. Many people use Member Planet and are on auto-renew.
 - iii. Calendars. In 2024 we sold 1,200 calendars! Our profit will be \$8,500. This is our 6th year of selling. Since its inception in 2016, we have netted about \$60,000 for this fund raiser.
 - iv. Golf Outing. 2024 marked the 10th annual golf outing, held in July at Hickory Hills. LeAnn Balliett has chaired this event but announced that this is her last year. To celebrate LeAnn added fireworks and a band to this year's event. We will have the golf event next year with new leadership.
 - v. Ice Fisheree. We do not conduct this event, but we do have a raffle and a 50/50 drawing. This year we could use the Sportsman's Club. We netted \$5,400 from this event. The date for next year is February 1, 2025.
 - vi. Fireworks. Collections are ongoing for the 2025 show.
 - c. Lake enhancement.
 - i. Small creek cleanouts are done in the fall. Last year Joe Bechtel and Al Weisenbeck coordinated this effort. There were four trucks from various government sources who hauled without charging us. Our only cost was for the excavator.

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- ii. Fish cribs. There was a crib build/install event held on 6/22/4. Eight deep water and six shallow water cribs were installed with ten volunteers helping. The next crib event is on 9/14/24.
 - iii. Aeration system. Rod Zika, Joe Vydrzal, Joe Kirst, and Joe Bechtel worked on fixing lines this year due to muskrat damage. We needed a diver to retrieve the lines and Earache Whyland volunteered. Thank you, Earache! Note: Rod Zika said the muskrats are looking for nesting places and have found an entry that needs to be blocked. He has purchased some steel reinforcing materials and would like or organize a team in September to install this.
6. Lake District report. Mike Lea, Chairperson, reported on the Lake District activities. He said they did their standard cleanout of the existing traps and that they are making good progress on capturing the sediment. The big project for 2024 was the Skid Row boat landing and area east of the boat landing. With funding from an ARPA grant, County support, and the Lake Association, the area near the boat landing was dredged, with a sediment trap made just upstream from the boat landing. The excavator removed 34,000 cubic yards of sediment. In addition, the area on the short side was cleaned out to allow homeowners access to the lake. The next project is the Eagles Nest trap which is upstream from the Skid Row trap. Right now, the district is looking for a new deposit site, since the one they applied for was not approved. The north shore boat landing is done. Next the county will work on the tricky design of the south shore boat landing.
7. Next year's picnic will be on 8/15/25 following the Lake District meeting.
8. President's Award. Each year the association president chooses one person who demonstrates commitment to the lake. This award started in 1994, so this is the 31st year of the award. This year Lori awarded the president's award to Fred Poss. He has done many things for the lake – including being involved in fish cribs, dredging plans, grant writing, the aeration system. He always helps whenever he can. He was also president of our association for five years, from 2011 to 2016. Congratulations to Fred!
9. Election of board members. Angel Zimmerman led this portion of the meeting. There are four people whose terms expired: Lori Bechtel, Duane Ives, Al Hendricks, and Al Weisenbeck. Each of them has agreed to serve another 3-year term. Additional nominations were taken from the floor: Cheryl Claude, and Jill Benzschawel. Cathy Lea made a motion to close the nominations and conduct a yay/nay vote, seconded by Mary Wagner. All six people were approved for the board.
10. Other business. Dean Boehne thanked all who were involved with the tornado cleanup. He was grateful for the help and noted that the county and township were also involved.
11. Lori adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Weisenbeck, note taker for the meeting.