

SECOLA Annual Meeting - July 16, 2016

President Glen Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Deb Cini moved and Lois Sundberg seconded to approved the minutes from the July 18, 2015 Annual Meeting. Passed.

President's Report: 1. Glen Johnson thanked the numerous individuals who volunteered and helped throughout the past year. Those appreciated included: Svecia Club for hosting our annual meeting, Joe Plourde for the care of our barge and boat wash assistance, the SECOLA Board, and the Country Kitchen Restaurant and Ski-Ters for their recent donations.

Treasurer's report: Dana Colenso gave the treasurer's report. See her printed reports for detailed assets and spending. She reminded those in attendance that SECOLA is a 501-C organization, and that donations are deductible. Presently, we are spending more money on our boatwash and invasive species than we are taking in. It was proposed that we initiate a campaign to raise additional money to fund these valuable expenses.

Town of Florence Comments: Tim Bomberg from the town of Florence gave an update on two county issues affecting the Spread Eagle Chain roads. First, he addressed the North Lake Road reconstruction. There is a 1.4 mile section that needs to be rebuilt. Fill is needed from homeowners' properties, and this requires time to obtain proper approval. Construction is now at a standstill. The second issue addressed was the speed limit along North Lake Road and Montgomery Lake Road. When there is not posted speed, the limit is 55 mph. Speed limit signs could be posted for 45 mph, and Tim will bring this issue up at the next board meeting. In order to reduce the speed limit to a slower than 45 mph, a highway traffic safety study would be required. The sheriff would need to be contacted about starting this process.

Fishing Biologist Comments: Greg Matzke, fish biologist in Florence, reported on his fish survey work on our Chain of Lakes and fishing regulation changes. In 2011 a comprehensive study was done, with a follow up comprehensive survey to be done again in 2019. Walleye and bass regulations have changed as a result of his survey work.

Status of Invasive Species Work and Public Landing Issues: Jay Weber reported on the status of our invasive species work. SECOLA purchased a boatwash that is kept at the public boat landing. Individuals have been hired to man the boatwash during most days during the summer season. To date this year, those manning the boatwash have had contact with approximately 1,100 people and have inspected 579 boats in order to minimize additional invasives infestations to the Chain. North Lake is the only lake on the Chain in which Eurasian Milfoil has been found. It was discovered four years ago and has been harvested each year since. Much progress has been made since then. Three years ago 480 pounds of Eurasian Milfoil was harvested, last year 44 pounds were harvested, and this year only 7 pounds were harvested. It's imperative that we continue these efforts, as there are other invasive species that exist and are a potential threat to our lakes. Joe Buchanan continued the invasive species discussion and encouraged SECOLA property owners to continue the fight by contributing extra money to the invasive

species fund when sending in yearly membership dues. There are approximately 350 residences around the Chain, but only 220 residents are paying members. This year, our efforts have cost about \$13,000, but next year it could be more. We've been fortunate to receive grant money from the DNR, but these grants are only covering around a quarter of the needed money, and we can't be sure they will be available in the future. Florence County owns the boat launch and is presently charging a \$3 fee. This amount could be increased to \$10 but it cannot be specifically used to help pay for the manning of our boatwash. There are approximately 32 invasive species here in the Midwest, so we must be diligent about protecting our beautiful lakes.

Grant Committee Report: Darlin Verley thanked the many members who have been instrumental in working for the good of our lakes. Beginning in 1998, the grant committee has been established for 18 years to develop relationships with the DNR and the Town of Florence. When we obtain a grant, SECOLA typically pays 25% of the project, with the grant covering 75%. At this time, the grant committee is looking for new grants. Roberta Anderson moved that when a grant becomes available, and the committee and president approve it, we can move forward in applying. Ray Burgess seconded and the motion passed.

Nominating Committee: The nominating committee thanked Glen and Kathy Johnson for their efforts over the last few years. Ed Patrick was nominated for president and Gary Weber for vice president. Both were elected by attendees.

Open Forum: 1.) The question was asked concerning raising our association dues to help cover the additional costs of protecting our lakes from invading invasives. Darlin Verley reported that grant regulations place a limit on the amount of fees that can be required; therefore, it would be better to make an extra donation. 2.) A question arose concerning the monitoring of septic systems. More research will be needed to answer that question.

Carl Sundberg presented Glen Johnson with a plaque and gift certificate, thanking him for his service to SECOLA. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Submitted by Joan Will-Secretary