

## SECOLA Annual Meeting - July 15, 2017

President Ed Patrick called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Gretchen Paupore moved and Joe Buchanan seconded to approve the minutes from the July 16, 2016 Annual Meeting. Passed.

**President's Report:** Ed Patrick thanked the many individuals and groups who have helped out over the past year including-Svecia Club for hosting this meeting, the SECOLA Board, Joe Plourde for maintaining the barge, Florence Fire Dept. for standing by during the fireworks, Deb Cini for her work on the newsletter and social committee, Katie Reynolds for setting up Pay Pal page on our website, and Cathy Curran and Joyce Melin for their work on the boat parade and ice cream social.

Ed also reminded those in attendance of upcoming events: July 18 Chippewa dinner, August 21 family picnic, September 18 El Capitan dinner, and the August 4 floating workshop.

**Treasurer's report:** Dana Colenso gave the treasurer's report. See her printed reports for detailed assets and spending. Each year we are coming up between \$3000 and \$4000 short as we strive to defend the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes against invasive species, thus using up our general fund. Extra donations are greatly needed. She reminded those in attendance that SECOLA is a 501-C organization, and that donations are tax deductible. A vote was taken and the financial report was accepted.

**Membership Report:** Jennifer Kellstrom shared information regarding the numbers of paid members. Over the last 6 years the average members who have paid by this annual meeting were 151. In 2015 when we went paperless, we had only 88 paid members. SECOLA members were encouraged to reach out to neighbors who are not members. Share with them how valuable this Association is and all that is offered. Deliver a newsletter to them. Jennifer also requested that members email her any changes in contact information.

**Grant Committee Report:** Darlin Verley shared information about the grants obtained that assist us in protecting the Lake. One grant was just completed and will provide us with \$14,000 when the remaining paperwork is completed. Another grant will end in December. At this time Darlin and her committee are looking for additional grants to support our efforts. There are two grants that we can apply for, and Darlin requested permission to pursue them. Todd Colenso moved and Joe Buchanan seconded the motion. It passed. Members also voted to authorize the board to move forward if another grant opportunity should arise before our next annual meeting.

**DNR Representative Report:** Carl Sundberg shared about the upcoming Floating Workshop which will be held on August 4. This experience will be an educational opportunity for members desiring to learn more about invasives and the protecting of the Chain. Additionally, Carl reported on FCLARA status. He has agreed to serve as president. This organization coordinates the county lakes and sometimes obtains grants. Carl also reported on new fishing regulations and shared several hints about successful fishing in our area.

**Nominating Committee:** Cathy Curran reported on nominations for Treasurer (Dana Colenso) and Secretary (Joan Will). Passed.

**Board Recommended Dues Increase:** The board recommended an increase in dues from \$20 to \$35. Because of grant regulations, dues has remained at \$20 since 1992. It was moved and voted on to increase dues to \$35 for 2018. Passed. It was noted that this dues increase will not solve our long term financial obligations to fund protection from invasive species. Additional donations will be needed.

**Whitewater Report:** Gary Weber shared information concerning Whitewater surveys. On June 5 and 6 Gary along with Angie Stine and Carolyn Starling (AIS coordinator) conducted this year's survey. They observed 4 sites that had previously contained Eurasian Milfoil. 40 plants were observed with only 1 new site discovered in North Lake. On June 23 Angie, Tracy and Jay Weber hand removed the invasives. The removal efforts have paid off as during the first year of the survey 400 pounds of plants were removed, 70 pounds were removed the second year, and less than 20 plants pulled the third year.

**Clean Boats, Clean Waters and the Health of our Lakes:** Carolyn Weber Starling, AIS Coordinator from the Florence County Land Conservation Department spoke about lake protection and strategies to keep the lakes healthy. Carolyn supervises a Clean Boats Clean Waters staff of 7 who man boat washes and educate boaters around Florence County. She helps conducts surveys of over 20 lakes throughout the County, determining PH levels, conductivity, clarity, etc of those lakes. Invasives on the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes include zebra mussels, Eurasian Water Milfoil, Chinese Snails, rusty crayfish, yellow iris, and forget me nots. If you should discover plants that may be Eurasian Water Milfoil, bring a bag to Carolyn or Scott Goodwin for identification. Maintaning a healthy shoreline contributes greatly to the health of a lake. Carolyn recommended a "take the no mow approach" to the majority of your shoreline. Encourage the growth and plant native species of aquatic plants, grasses, shrubbery, trees along your shoreline. This approach provides a buffer for toxins and prevents erosion. Leave fallen trees in the water, as they provide shelter for fish and water life. Fertilizing lawns and plants is not good for our lakes. What we do as individuals and property owners greatly affects our lake system. Contact Carolyn if you are interested in shoreline restoration.

Open Forum: 1) Carl Sundberg shared about our musky population. The DNR has stocked approximately 100. 2) Joe Buchanan reiterated the need for diligence when it comes to the invasive species challenges. We will need help in this endeavor, as \$8,000-\$10,000 is needed every year. 3) James ? , owner of a tree remedy company can help with tree infusions and advise. He will donate 10 percent of his earnings to SECOLA. 4) Maria Caviani shared her concerns about the number of Spread Eagle property owners who are not SECOLA members. It is hoped that our website will make it easier to join. Emails will be sent indicating what you can do to further help with this issue. 5) Jane Patrick encourage members to obtain additional newsletters to share with new folks. 6) Marcia McGregor brought up the issue of wake board boats impacting our shorelines. Jay Weber shared the State regulation, stating that water craft are required to be at least 100 feet from the shoreline or a raft. If you witness someone not abiding by this law, take a picture and report it to Kelly Crotte.

Submitted by Joan Will-Secretary