

SECOLA Annual Meeting - July 20, 2019

President Gary Weber called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Over 100 residents were in attendance.

The July 21, 2018 annual meeting minutes were approved.

President's Report: Gary Weber reported on several accomplishments achieved throughout this year and thanked the many individuals and groups who have helped out over the past year. He also communicated appreciation to: the Svecia Club for hosting this meeting, the SECOLA Board and numerous committees, Joe Plourde and his staff at Nine Lakes Marine for maintaining the barge, Jim D'Agostino and the Florence Fire Dept. for standing by during the fireworks, Cathy Curran and Joyce Melin for their work on the ice cream social and boat parade, Deb Cini for her efforts on the newsletter, Jay Weber for maintaining the boatwash and efforts to remove Eurasian Millfoil, Dan Cecconi for taking a leading role in maintaining Bass Island, Jay and Amy Weber for their continued maintenance of the Bass Island butterfly garden, Chuck Hjerpe for assisting Carl Sundberg on the DNR committee and for mowing Bass Island, Katie Reynolds and Scott Reynolds for their fund raising efforts, Scott Reynolds and his Wake Safety Sub-Committee, and all of the individuals who worked so diligently to help us protect and enjoy Spread Eagle. Gary thanked Darlin Verley for her 25 years of grant writing which produced thousands of dollars of grant money used to protect our lakes and presented her with a gift certificate to Maxsell's Restaurant.

Treasurer's report: Dana Colenso gave the treasurer's report. See her printed reports for detailed assets and spending. Dana specified the large amount of money required for protecting against invasives and thanked members for contributions. Approximately \$25,000 is spent each year. Pay Pal has been helpful in collecting contributions. A vote was taken and the financial report was accepted.

Nominating Committee: Donna Fattes moved to elect for Treasurer (Dana Colenso) and Secretary (Joan Will). Joe Buchanan seconded, votes were taken, and these individuals were elected to office.

Membership committee Report: Jennifer Kelstrom reported that as of today 198 members have paid dues. This number is about 60% of our residents. Last year 207 individuals paid.

Grant Committee Report: Darlin Verley shared status information about the ongoing grants that provide invaluable financial assistance in protecting the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes. We completed one grant in December and are awaiting a check for \$6,511.50. The committee is presently working on a Surface Water Grant which should be awarded to us in June, 2022. When we receive a grant, the State pays 75% and SECOLA pays 25%. When this particular grant is completed, the state will pay \$26,000 and \$6,529 will be SECOLA's responsibility. Darlin has served as chairperson of the grant committee for 25 years. She shared the history of grants received, and she thanked those individuals who served with her through the years (Carl Sundberg, Jack Fortier, Ray Burgess, and Dana Colenso). Glen Johnson was introduced as the new chairperson of this committee.

North Lake Road Report: Tim Bomberg was present to update residents on the North Lake Road Project. Due to the severity of our winter, work has been slower than planned on this project. More space is needed, as the State requires 66 feet of right of way. Property owners will need to be contacted and loggers brought in to start work at the Dunn's Point and North Lake Rd area.

DNR Representative Report: Carl Sundberg reported that fishing has been good and encouraged residents to make donations to the invasive fund, rather than the fishing fund. He reminded boaters to review the laws and be sure to stay at least 100 feet away from canoes, kayaks, fishing boats, and pontoon boats.

Florence County Land Conservation Department: Scott Goodwin and Ashley Reitter were present to update residents on the work they are doing to prevent the spread of invasives in the lakes of Florence County. Ashley reminded us to avoid driving boats through areas suspected of having Eurasian Millfoil. Pieces of plants can be broken off and easily spread to other areas. Phragmites is another invasive plant which was recently found in Cosgrove Lake. Thistle and wild parsnip are two other terrestrial invasives to watch for. Contact Ashley if you see any suspicious plants in our lakes.

Bass Island Update: Gary Weber reported on the progress made on Bass Island. Many volunteers have participated in this endeavor to selectively clean out overgrown vegetation, burn debris, and plant native species, create a butterfly garden and replace signage. Individuals are presently searching for the right basketball hoop to be installed on the island. The cleaning/cutting will continue this fall and volunteers are needed. The efforts of many are greatly appreciated.

Invasive Species Report: Jay Weber reported on the work he is doing with Angie Stein from White Water Associates to locate and remove Eurasian Millfoil. The invasive is easiest to view in early June, so at that time they GPS locate plants and dive to remove them in July. This season they harvested at 11 sites in North Lake and 1 site in Middle Lake. Feel free to contact Jay if you see any suspicious plants.

Invasive Fund Drive: Scott and Katie Reynolds reported on the recent funding that will help build up our funds to protect our lakes from invasive species. Scott discussed the \$100 Club, a challenge for members to contribute an extra \$100. 130 members contributed and raised \$13,000. Katie also discussed the present fund raiser, which offers a Yeti Tumbler to those residents contributing \$250 or more to SECOLA.

Lake Safety Report: Jay Weber shared about ongoing concerns regarding lake safety. He clarified which passages on the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes were Slow No Wake channels. Slow No Wake channels include: West Lake Channel, the West end of Eagle Island, the West area of Bass Island, and the channel going into East Lake. Four channels on the Chain are exempt from the no wake laws: North Lake to Middle Lake Channel, Middle Lake to Long Lake, Railroad to Bass Lake, and Middle Lake to Bass Lake. A Slow to No Wake is defined as maintaining the slowest speed possible while still remaining able to steer your watercraft. Wisconsin Law also requires boater safety certification for anyone born on January 1, 1989 or after. During a boat safety discussion, it was recommended that residents review water safety regulations and be sure our guests are educated as well.

Wake Boat and Wake Safety Joint Subcommittee: Scott Reynolds reported on concerns brought to the SECOLA Board concerning wake boats and wake safety and the creation of a subcommittee to address these issues. The goal of this subcommittee is to continue to research wake boat and wake safety and to create a code of conduct in order to educate residents and visitors boating on the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes. Both Wisconsin Law and common sense will be addressed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Submitted by Joan Will-Secretary