

(Unapproved)
SECOLA Annual Meeting
July 16th, 2022
Svecia Club

The SECOLA Annual meeting was called to order by President Scott Reynolds at 10:03 AM. A quorum was established.

The minutes of the July 17th, 2021 meeting were approved.

President's Report:

Scott Reynolds welcomed everyone to the annual meeting.

Stewardship of the lakes: Scott discussed the fact that a year ago the North Lake Boat Landing was not a big deal and then shortly after we met for our annual meeting it became a major issue. He praised the fact that the SECOLA Board and the membership stepped up to the plate and made a huge impact by attending the Florence County Board meeting and voicing their disapproval of Florence County buying the adjacent property and expanding the boat landing and its parking area. There were over 80 people representing the lakes at that meeting. It was decided by the Florence County Board that they would not buy the adjacent property and expand the landing and would instead work with SECOLA to come up with a plan that would fit on the current property.

Who we are: After receiving the responses from the survey that was sent out to the membership, Scott cleared up some misconceptions of who the SECOLA board is. SECOLA is a 501 C3 charitable organization. The SECOLA Board cannot write laws or police the lakes. The board can write dialogue and have the tools available to act and influence issues that arise on the lakes. He voiced the fact that the survey showed that most of the membership appreciated the work being done by the board and had confidence in the board's work. Scott also thanked the current board members for their hard work. He said that the current board members are a cohesive group, they put in much time and energy, and are respectful of each other. They are serious about the concerns that arise on the lakes.

Special Acknowledgement:

Katie Reynolds presented a plaque in honor of Ralph and Cynthia Carlson for their generous donation to fight invasives on the lakes. She also gave a short history of the Carlson family. The plaque will be placed on Bass Island.

Special Guests:

Scott Goodwin, Florence County Land Conservation: Scott informed the members that Clean Boats/Clean Waters has 6 staff members working this summer. So far this summer they have talked to 1800 boats and cleaned 150 boats. He thanked the membership for providing funds to support this program. He talked about a new invasive that has been identified in Marinette County called European Frog Bit. It has heart-shaped leaves and resembles miniature lily pads. He wanted the members to be aware of this. There was a question of whether or not you could remove invasives near your shoreline. They do need to be identified first. As far as zebra mussels are concerned, however, they can be removed by picking them out of the water and disposing of them. Another question was asked about fertilizers on our lawns. Scott said that fertilizers on our lawns which contain phosphorus and nitrogen, run off quickly into the lakes and will feed the algae. It is recommended not to use fertilizers, but if necessary, he suggested using a slow -release product.

Kelly Crotty, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: Kelly Crotty has been working for Florence County for 19 years. His office is at the Resource Center in Florence. He reviewed some of the boating regulations and concerns that he has noticed on Spread Eagle. The current boating regulations can be viewed on line.

1. Anyone born after Jan. 1, 1989 must have a boater safety course which can be taken on line. Any 10-15 year old may drive with an adult.
2. Every person must have a life jacket with them in the boat as well as in a Personal Water Craft. A boat 16ft or longer must have a throwable as well. He suggested having a rope attached to your throwable.
3. When pulling a skier, you need a spotter or a mirror to view the skier.
4. Lights are required on your boat at night, but bright docking lights are not advised as they are blinding to other boats. These should be used for docking.
5. The buoys in Railroad Lake are there to direct traffic away from the shoreline. You must stay in the middle of the channel if producing a wake. Skiers must stay in the middle as well.
6. Anyone 16 years and over needs a license for fishing.
7. He encouraged everyone to be courteous of your wake when boating. Communicate with others if there is a problem or contact Kelly if a problem is not resolved.
8. You may not install your own buoys. Installing buoys is

an illegal violation of navigation laws. He encouraged those people that have put them in to remove them.

Kelly also reviewed some of the regulations concerning UTV's/ATV's. 1. When a person turns 16 years old, they need to have a safety class which can be found on line. 2. Anyone under 18 must have a helmet. Bike helmets are not legal. 3. Every person needs a seat and seat belt. 4. Headlights must be on.

He also noted that many are installing rip-wrap on their shorelines. Some of this is legal and some is not. He encouraged everyone to go to the DNR website before making any changes to their shoreline.

Nominations:

Cindy Weber presented the slate of officers to be nominated for a 2- year term. President: Scott Reynolds, Vice-President: Deb Cini. There were no nominations from the floor. The vote was taken and all were in favor. A big thank you to both Scott Reynolds and Deb Cini for committing to 2 more years in their current positions. Thank you both for all the time and energy you put into helping make SECOLA run smoothly and effectively.

Membership Report:

Katie Reynolds thanked Martie Muzzy for her help with membership. She also thanked the members for their generous donations. The Yeti fundraiser brought in \$25,000 this year. Katie reported that we currently have 245 paid members. 70% of the property owners are members. Katie also mentioned that 21 members are associate members. SECOLA does not get notified when a house or property sells, so she encouraged the members to notify someone on SECOLA if they know of any new property owners, so that a lake rep can provide them with a welcome bag. In the past the Spread Eagle Directory was done by Norie Neff. Norie has decided to step away from this job and SECOLA will be taking over producing the directory hopefully in a couple of years. Katie thanked Norie for her hard work in producing the directory for so many years. Katie thanked those members that completed the survey. There were 175 responses. Overall, the results showed that SECOLA was working on issues that the members felt were important. Katie will be posting some of the results of the survey on the SECOLA website.

Treasurer's Report: (please see the attached report)

Dana reminded everyone that when you pay through paypal that you are able to specify where you would like your donations to go. If you do not specify, then \$35

is taken for dues and the rest goes in the general fund. Dana then reviewed the budget that the SECOLA board has set up for next year.

Natural Resources:

Carl Sundberg reported that Bass fishing is good right now. He stated that fishing for Northerns is better in the fall. Fishing for walleye in our lakes is currently not so good. He informed the members that the DNR will be restocking walleye in October (2,750 fish) and that SECOLA will be matching that number for a total of 5,000, 7-8-inch walleye . Carl is also planning on stocking walleye next year as well. He will be using funds from the SECOLA fish fund. Carl also informed the membership that there would be a talk on Loon's at the Resource Center, Thursday, July 21st at 7:00 pm.

Invasive Species:

Jay Weber reminded the members that we have been dealing with invasives since 2012, specifically zebra mussels and Eurasian Water Millfoil. Since 2013 Aquatic Biologist Angie Stine, who is an employee of Whitewater Associates, along with the assistance of Jay Weber and others have pulled 932 lbs of EWM out of North and Middle Lakes. In late spring a meander survey is done of all 9 lakes. Once EWM is located they either rake, snorkel, or dive to remove and dispose of the EWM. This year no new locations were discovered. If you see something that you think could be Eurasian Water Millfoil (EWM), please contact Jay Weber.

Grant Committee:

Glen Johnson informed the members that the North Lake grant, which supplied funds for locating and removal of invasives in North Lake, has ended. The Middle Lake grant will end June 30th, 2023. If invasives are located in other lakes we can apply for another rapid response grant otherwise it is the responsibility of SECOLA to pay for the work being done on North Lake and then eventually Middle Lake. He encouraged everyone to donate to the invasive species fund as we will be fighting this problem forever.

Bass Island:

Scott Reynolds thanked Chuck Hjerpe for taking such great care of the island by mowing and weeding it when needed. The butterfly garden which is tended by Amy Weber looks beautiful! Thank you Amy. He also mentioned how frequently the basketball court is used.

Lake Safety:

Britt Reynolds reported that there were only a few complaints over the 4th of July weekend and most of them were directed toward Personal Water Crafts and large wakes coming from Wakeboard boats. The committee has been working on updating the best practices for all boats and PWC's. Britt informed the membership that we all need to be aware of traveling in our boats at transition speed which is anywhere from 5-15 mph. We either need to eliminate that speed or only use it when farther out in the lake. Traveling at this speed is extremely hard on the shoreline and the bottom of the lake. He reminded everyone to review the current boating laws with our family members and guests and to be courteous when boating. Refer to the SECOLA website for all the current information concerning boating safety and the slow/no wake map.

www.spreadeaglechain.org. We have a lot of boats on our lakes with a relatively small amount of water. Let's make it enjoyable for all of us to use the lakes.

Current Project and Issues:

Boat Landing: Scott Reynolds let the membership know that representatives from SECOLA met with a special committee in the fall to plan for the North Lake Boat Landing. Just recently Coleman Engineering came out to do the survey of the Landing. The committee should be meeting soon to review the survey and come up with a plan. They then will need to apply for grants before any work can begin. Scott said most likely work won't take place until 2024-2025. Scott thanked Charles Kellstrom our District 6 Commissioner for keeping an eye on issues concerning Spread Eagle.

Boutique Hotel: Trina Rahm spoke on her plan to buy the old marina on Spread Eagle and build a small boutique hotel. She has been working with an environmental consultant and architect. Currently the project is on hold as negotiations continue.

Fire Station: Florence Township has approved the building of a fire station in the Spread Eagle area off Lake Elwood Rd. This fire station would not only help with our safety but would lower insurance rates. Right now they are in need of funding so no date has been set to start the building. Charles Kellstrom encouraged the membership to keep on top of Florence and encourage them to seek out grants and funding for both the North Lake Boat Landing and the Fire Station.

North lake Rd: Scott reported that paving should begin on a section of North Lake Rd. next month.

South Lake Dam: Repairs were recently made to the South Lake dam thanks to the town of Florence. Bacco Construction completed the work.

Short term rentals: Scott reminded the members that those property owners who are renting out places on the lake need to abide by the rules set by the state of Wisconsin. Rentals must have a 6 night minimum.

Events:

Scott Reynolds thanked the Social Committee for all that they have done this summer. He also thanked Dave and Stephanie Brule for their generous donation to the fireworks fund. He apologized to the members for making the call to start the fireworks early but due to the impending storm he thought it was necessary.

Open Forum:

A question was asked about the Wisconsin Electric project to bury the power lines. The last Scott Reynolds heard is it is on hold due to lack of funding. Kris Leonard let everyone know that they found a swimming mat near their dock. If anyone is missing one please notify the Leonards.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 pm.

Minutes submitted by Cindy Weber