

SECOLA Annual Meeting
July 17th, 2021
Svecia Club

The SECOLA Annual meeting was called to order by President Scott Reynolds at 10:00 AM. A quorum was established.

The minutes of the July 18th, 2020 meeting were approved.

President's report:

Scott Reynolds welcomed everyone to the meeting and affirmed the fact that we were all happy to once again be gathering in person. He reminded everyone what a unique group SECOLA is. We all have a commitment to being good stewards of the lakes and preserving this precious resource. He thanked everyone for their generous donations to SECOLA. He thanked the family of Dr. Ralph and Cynthia Carlson for the significant donation that was made to SECOLA in their memory. He also thanked Joe at Nine Lakes for maintaining and storing the barge, as well as thanking Jim D'Agostino for another successful fireworks display.

Special Guests:

Sheriff Dan Miller:

The Sheriff informed the membership that there are forms available for the residents on the lakes to list your home alarm systems so that the sheriff's office is aware of any alarms being set off. He also let the members know that the Sheriff's office is the only law enforcement agency in Florence County. They operate with 2 full time deputies and 22 employees. They have done many upgrades in the past few years. Some of the upgrades include a new 911 system, a remodeled jail, and acquiring a K9 police dog named Rambo. Unfortunately, they are very busy and are unable to get out on the lakes to monitor the issues that are occurring. Sheriff Miller said he is aware of many of the issues on the lakes as he frequents Spread Eagle on his off days, but due to lack of man power and funding is not able to patrol them. Questions were taken from the floor: A comment was made about the excessive speed of trucks hauling their contents along Montgomery lake road. Unless they witness it happening, nothing can be done.

Tim Bomberg, Florence Township Chair, was unable to attend.

Joe Witynski- Florence Fire Chief:

Joe informed the members that the Florence Fire Department is a 40 member all volunteer fire department. They are currently looking into adding a new fire station in the Spread Eagle area near Lake Elwood Rd. and US 2 on the old dump site property. Having a fire station close to our homes will reduce our fire insurance quite a bit. They are applying for a grant as well as planning to fund raise for this project.

Scott Goodwin-Florence Land Conservation

Scott thanked the SECOLA members for their continued support. He introduced Shawna Broullire who once again is serving as the AIS coordinator. He said it has been a busy year at the landing. Scott asked members to contact him directly if they experience any issues at the boat landing concerning the CBCW workers.

Membership Report:

Katie Reynolds thanked former membership chairman, Jennifer Kellstrom for her service. She also thanked the members for their generous donations. We currently have 233 members. Katie mentioned that there is an associate membership available for those that aren't property owners, but would like to belong to SECOLA. An associate member can attend all events and serve on committees. They may not run for office, however. Katie informed the membership that SECOLA has implemented the new data system, Little Green Light and a new email system, Mailchimp. Katie reviewed the social committee's calendar for the rest of the summer. She reminded everyone that there was a new event added this year, a Legacy of the Lakes party, for the 50 and under age group.

Treasurer's Report:

Dana Colenso reminded everyone that all donations to SECOLA are tax deductible. She also informed everyone that our dues are paid on a calendar year and the association operates on a fiscal year. We file with the IRS and the State of Wisconsin. Dana then reviewed the financial report for the past year. (see attached)

Nominating Committee:

Scott Reynolds reviewed the officers up for nomination, Treasurer: Dana Colenso and Secretary: Cindy Weber. He asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none. A vote was taken and the officers were approved. Dana and Cindy were elected to serve for 2 more years.

Bylaws Revision:

Scott Reynolds reviewed and explained the changes made to the bylaws. (See attached for the updated bylaws). Tom Frisk moved to approve the changes made to the bylaws. Meg Hadlock seconded it. The motion was unanimously approved by the members.

Natural Resources:

Carl Sundberg informed the members of an upcoming speaker that FLCARA is hosting at the Natural Resource Center on raptors. It is being held on August 12th. He informed the membership that 10 people had participated in the Panfish survey. 9 of the 10 liked the limits that were set for panfish.

Invasive Species:

Jay Weber reported that no new infestations of invasive species have been discovered in the lakes during the past 2 years. SECOLA continues to work with Angie Stein of Whitewater Associates to monitor the lakes. Meander surveys are conducted periodically. Angie Stein has mentioned that she is very happy with what SECOLA does to help contain the spread of Eurasian Water Millfoil. Currently there are 12 GPS locations in North Lake of EWM and 1 in Middle Lake. Jay also mentioned that White water crowfoot, which is a native plant, has come to the surface and is growing rapidly this summer.

Grant Committee:

Glen Johnson reported that we currently have one grant for \$25,000 which covers Middle Lake. \$5,000 is our responsibility which is made up in man hours. The work done on North Lake is covered by SECOLA. He mentioned that if anyone is interested in helping with the man hours for this grant, please contact him.

Bass Island:

Chuck Hjerpe continues to mow the island. The wildflower garden which is being maintained by Amy Weber is doing very well. Chuck reminded everyone to please continue to pick up after yourselves and enjoy the island.

Lake Safety:

Jay informed the members that we have managed to get through another 4th of July weekend without any major incidences. He stressed the fact that we need to continue to be aware of our wakes and respectful of others on the lakes. He reminded the members that those individuals that were born on or after Jan. 1989 need to take a boater's safety course in order to operate a motorboat or PWC. Lindley Johnson also spoke on Wake and Boat Safety and reminded everyone that communication is important in helping with wake safety. If you experience a problem, try to talk to that boat owner and express your concerns. Boats on our lakes are getting bigger and heavier and so therefore it is very important to be aware of the boating laws that need to be followed. There was a question asked from a member as to whether we could put signage up reminding boaters of the rules for the Channels. Scott Reynolds reminded everyone that it is their obligation to know the rules of the lake and that it would be difficult to mark every area with a sign. Another member commented that you can video tape anyone that is breaking the law and turn it in to the Sheriff's department. There was also a comment on the fact that the large boats/wakes are causing erosion of the shorelines and they are also a safety issue. SECOLA can not stress enough how important it is to be mindful of your wakes and to know the boating laws.

Boat Landing:

Scott Reynolds informed the members of the proposal by Forestry and Parks to expand the boat landing. He let the members know the SECOLA has been working with them and attending the meetings. SECOLA has informed them that we are against the expansion of the landing but in favor of fixing up the existing site. Scott talked about a lake capacity study that he looked into through the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. We have approximately 12 miles of shoreline and about 330 acres of useable water. This study indicates that we should only have 30 boats on our waters for our capacity. During the 4th of July, certain weekends, and other holidays, we are well over capacity. For this reason

we do not need to expand the landing and encourage more boat traffic on Spread Eagle.

Open Forum:

It was mentioned that because of generous donations by our members, we are able to fund the Clean Boats/Clean Water crew 7 days a week. Thank you for your donations.

Another member gave a thank you for the donation of the basketball on the island. It is enjoyed by many.

It was mentioned that swimming buoys do require a permit to put in the water. Someone asked about the boat landing fee. That was done because of a grant. It is supposed to be used for maintenance of the boat launch.

WE energy hasn't finished their project on the lake. They are behind schedule and currently do not have the money in their budget to finish.

Someone mentioned how amazing the newsletter is. A big thank you to Deb Cini for her continued work on this. If anyone is interested in helping with the newsletter, please contact Deb Cini.

Scott Reynolds thanked everyone for their continued support.

Maureen Howard motioned to adjourn.

Jay Weber seconded it.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:56 AM.

Minutes submitted by Cindy Weber