

Namakagon Lake Association Meeting Minutes-Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 16, 2014 – Cable Community Center

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by President Greg Dehring. Board members present included Greg Dehring, Jeanne Baxter, Barb Best, Dodo Dumanch, Kent Lage, and Steve Musser. Absent: Jim Krueger.

NLA Member Attendees: 21; Board members: 6; Guests: 1.

Introductions and Minutes of 2013 Annual Meeting: President Greg Dehring introduced board members. Attendees were also given the opportunity to introduce themselves. Secretary Baxter read the minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting. The motion to approve was made by Steve Musser, seconded by Dodo Dumanch. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Submitted and read by Steve Musser. The general accounting balance as of this date is \$38,779.61, The Certificate of Deposit value is \$11,983.20, for a total of liabilities and equity of \$50,762.81.

The preliminary budget for 2014 (portion of expenses covered by various grants) shows: ILIDS - \$7,632.40; NLA Administrative expenses \$2,812.13; FOTW (depended on donations amount) \$1000; Volunteer Appreciation Dinner \$221.75; Total: \$11,666.28 Note: This preliminary budget is based on 2013 expenditures and will be adjusted for 2014. The motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Dodo Dumanch and seconded by Jeanne Baxter. The report was approved.

Elections: Secretaries Baxter and Dumanch explained the election process and conducted balloting on two nominees for three year terms, Jim Krueger and Steve Musser. At its inception, NLA initiated two and three year terms to assure Board turnover in alternate years. Since then, Board members are generally elected for three year terms. When needed to fill an unexpected vacancy, the person nominated may serve out a one or two year term and still be eligible to run for a maximum two (3 year) terms after that. Dumanch reported the election results: Jim Krueger and Steve Musser were unanimously elected to serve new, three year terms on the NLA Board.

Old Business: Barb Best reported on the progress of a new program sponsored by the DNR, *Kids Don't Float*. This state-wide program asks Lake Associations to partner in providing space at landings to house life vests (all sizes) for boaters who do not meet safety standards when stopped by officials patrolling the lakes. This allows boaters to 'borrow' and return vests while at the same time providing needed education on safety. NLA has agreed to partner with our DNR and will build a special box to house the vests at our County D Landing. Greg Dehring is in charge of 'building'.

New Business: A training date for Clean Water Clean Boats has been set for August 21st from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Namakagon Community Hall. NLA needs coverage from Labor Day to Closing to cover County D and Funny Bay landings after Northland Students finish their summer stint. Volunteers will be paid \$12 per hour; Dodo Dumanch will set up the schedule and she can be reached at 715-794-2520.

Clarification was asked regarding the new NLA dues (passed last November to be instituted for 2015.) Baxter clarified several points regarding Membership renewal and dues. They are as follows:

- NLA membership dues follow the calendar from January 1 to December 31 of each year.
- NLA is a 5013C non-profit and members may take appropriate reductions.
- The new dues structure provides a \$25 cap for families that include 2 votes; we are hoping to attract new families as members.
- Additional contributions are always welcomed and members will be reminded of our 5013c status on the renewal blanks that will go out with the next newsletter.

A motion to add a link to the DNR on our NLA website was made by Kent Lage and seconded by Barb Best. Such a link would provide optional but easy access to DNR information regarding our lakes and other environmental issues. Following discussion, the motion passed.

Accomplishments for 2013-2014 In listing the NLA accomplishments for the past year, President Dehring acknowledged the use of ILIDS (cameras at the landings) and the volunteer camera viewers who assist; the Lake Management Grant (our guest speaker will address); the boat landing supervision being provided by Northland students and other volunteers (before Memorial Day and after Labor Day); buoy repair that includes updating and placement in lake, our annual Fun on the Water, and Lakeshore clean-up. NLA is grateful to all who help provide these services.

Secretary Baxter reported membership renewals at 172 with several other memberships to be counted. This compares with 202 last year. A question from the audience, "How many potential members live on our lakes?" The answer may be difficult to pinpoint, but we agreed to check the tax records and other sources to get a better estimate. Past president Linda Fisher reported on FOTW Fun On the Water. Al Stawicki again headed a stellar volunteer group that conducted the best attended FOTW for 2014. This community event provides a fun lunch and a variety of activities for children of all ages as well as a great family time. This year, minnow racing, kayaking, and fishing were among the favorites. All the volunteers were publicly thanked and many are in attendance at this annual meeting that will be followed by our Volunteer Appreciation Lunch. Phil and Kathy Rasmussen of Lakewoods Resort, Reinhardt Foods and Sysco Foods were thanked for their generous food contributions.

Guest Speaker: Randy Lehr President Dehring introduced Professor Randy Lehr, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute from Northland College. Randy gave a comprehensive overview of our partnership with Northland College that involves our Lake Management Grant, currently in its second and final year. Data is being collected from our lakes to provide us with both long and short term information on the decline or improvement of water quality as well as the value and use of shoreline. A survey will go out soon that will help us better understand residents' views on recreational components, wildlife observation and aesthetics of lake living. These have been identified as the three most important reasons why people choose to live on the lakes.

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Taking questions from the audience, Lehr noted that the Namakagon chain is in good shape compared to surrounding lakes that are fighting invasive species. The importance of continuing education and boat inspection work was stressed. There are also opportunities being investigated for funds via DNR and town boards that can help people restore shorelines. As our own Lake Management grant concludes this year, NLA members can expect a comprehensive report from Northland to be shared among our membership. **NEW GRANT APPLICATIONS must be completed to meet a February 1, 2015 deadline.**

Before adjourning at 11:30 a.m., President Dehring acknowledged the many volunteers, plus past and present Board members, inviting everyone to remain for our Volunteer Appreciation Lunch. Volunteers received an NLA 'appreciation mug'.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Baxter, Secretary