**LAKE WAUSAU ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**October 4, 2017**

**Trail’s End, 6:30 pm**

**Call to Order**

Russ Graveen, President of the Board, called the meeting to order. Board members also present were Holly Kohl, Rick Parkin, Mark Peter, Jim Wagner, Sherri Wagner. There were 40 members in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the previous annual meeting on September 7, 2016 were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. Motion was approved.

**Treasurer’s Financial Report**

Holly Kohl, Treasurer, presented the annual financial report. The report detailed cash inflows and outflows and compared 2017 YTD with 2016 YTD. The balance of the general checking account is $62,947.39. The balance of the restricted project fund account is $14,406.02. The total is $77,353.41. A motion to accept the treasurer’s report was made and seconded. Motion carried.

**Election of Directors**

3 board member seats are open for election this year. Theresa Graveen, Allen Weinkauf, and Jim Wagner’s term will end this year. Theresa and Allen have decided to not run for re-election. Danno Hoff has submitted a nomination consent form. Additional nominations were called for from the floor. Dan Weilep was nominated and accepted the nomination. After receiving no other nominations from the floor there was a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for these members and it was seconded. The motion carried.

**Committee Chairperson’s Reports**

**Finance Committee**

Holly Kohl, Treasurer of the Board and Chair of the Finance Committee, presented a summary of the activities of the finance committee. The annual budget will be set before the end of February for 2018. The major event for the committee is the annual fundraiser. The net proceeds from the 2017 fundraiser was approx. $23,500. In 2016 it was $23,000. Since the first fundraiser in 2013, $91,330 has been generated. Each year it continues to grow. We sell 400 tickets for the event. Last year there were 55 volunteers. A big thank you to all the volunteers, the many sponsors, and the donors who help to make the event a success. The fundraiser for next year is scheduled for Friday, May 18. We do not have a venue for the event at this time but are looking for suggestions that would hold at least 300 people. There was some discussion of possible places.

We have had two St. Croix musky rods and reels donated by members and we will be raffling them off for a $10 ticket for chance to win one. One will be on display at Trail’s End and one at Gulliver’s. Each is valued at about $500. The winner will be drawn at our Member’s Social in February 2018.

If anyone is interested in being a member of the finance committee or the fundraising planning committee let Holly or one of the board members know.

If members are interested in donating items for our fundraiser or knows people who may be interested in donating items, please let us know.

**Membership Committee**

Sherri Wagner, Secretary and Chair of the Membership Committee, reported that our total membership for 2017 was 180 members. For 2016 the total was 183 members. Again it was noted that many people think that the LWA is only for people who live on the lake but many of our members do not. A formal survey has not been done to see what percentage lives off the lake but may be of interest to do in the future. If anyone has any ideas of how to grow our members we are open to them. We again placed an ad in the Central Wisconsin Water Walkers Ski magazine and sponsored popcorn at two of the ski shows. We try to get our name out to the community to increase awareness of the association.

**Weed & Algae Committee**

Rick Parkin and Holly Kohl Co-Chairs of the Weed and Algae Committee, reported on the progress and background concerning the lake evaluation project and development of a lake management plan. The study began in 2012 and was thought to be completed by the end of 2014 but has been held up due to delays from the Army Corp of Engineers to conduct a hydrodynamic study on Lake Wausau. This study has just been completed. There will be a public meeting with the Army Corp on Saturday, October 21 in Wausau to report on their findings. There was an Aquatic Macrophyte Survey that needed to be done this year in order to re-license for weed harvesting. Previously, a Bathometry and In-Lake Habitat Study was done in 2014. A Shoreland study was completed in 2017. A Socio-Economic Value Study was completed between 2014 and 2015. All these studies are needed to collect data that is used to develop our Lake Management Plan which should be completed by the end of the year. We have had several technical meetings with the DNR, the water scientists from UWSP, representatives from the local municipalities, and the board members to review the results of the various studies. The cost of the study is up to $198,700. The majority of the cost has been covered by DNR and federal grants. All the municipalities have donated toward the cost of the study totaling $26,500. Our time working on the project will be counted as “In-Kind Services” toward the cost and we will need to pay approximately $8000. We also have a series of public meetings to review the studies and hear recommendations from the resource specialists concerning aquatic plants, fishery, water quality, shorelands, etc. and hear public concerns and get their input that will be used to put the plan together. One meeting was held on September 27. There is another one scheduled for October 21 with the Army Corps and the last one will be scheduled for November 28 where we plan to review the draft of the Lake Management Plan. The plan should be adopted at the December board of directors meeting. Going forward an Advisory Team will need to be formed to help implement the recommendations of the Lake Management Plan.

We have harvested weeds in 2014, 2015, and 2016. The bulk of our fundraising has covered the cost of this. It cost $7600 in 2014, $15,000 in 2015,and $15,300 in 2016. We removed 50 tons of biomass the first year, 180 tons the second year, and 250 tons in 2016. This is removed to help reduce the phosphorus and nitrogen that fuels the algae growth. We did not do weed harvesting this year. There didn’t seem to be the weed growth this year that we have seen previously. It may be due to multiple factors: a colder spring and summer, heavier rains and increased water movement, and possibly the drawdown which we were told would not affect the weed growth. We did not feel it was worth spending the money.

Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council is teaming up with Wausau East to do invasive species identification on Fern and Oak Island on Friday, October 13. They are looking for volunteers.

**Open Issues for Discussion**

* There was a question if there were any reported cases of blastomycosis after the drawdown. Russ talked to the head of the county health department and no cases were reported.
* There is a concern of more floating debris since the drawdown. Pulling or marking these hazards would like to be seen by citizens. If there is a question of whether something is a hazard, the DNR can be called.
* Many improvements have been done to the Whitewater Park on the river in downtown Wausau. Please check it out.
* The power boat races that were held at Blue Gill Bay this fall. The LWA was contacted about possibly selling food at the event but we did not think that we were not able to organize that effort in time. They estimated 5000 spectators.
* The 90 ft floating dock that was used for the races may be sold in sections at a discount. Please see Roger Deffner if you are interested.

**CALENDAR**

* The next annual meeting will be held in Fall 2018.
* The member social meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7 at Gulliver’s Landing.

**Meeting Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

Sherri Wagner, Secretary