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**2019 Annual Meeting Minutes**

**July 12, 2019 at Nicolet College – Rhinelander**

**BOD Present:** Tom Ewing (President), Debby Soberg (Vice President), Anne Kretschmann (Treasurer), Karen Dixon (Secretary), Steve Budnik (Immediate Past President), Carol Warden, Bob Barofsky, Pat Barofsky, Paul Lewandoski, Quita Sheehan (advisor), Carolyn Scholl (advisor).

Absent/excused: Jeff Currie, Celeste Hockings, and Susan Knight (director elect)

Guests: Richard and Mary Jenks, Emily Heald (director elect), Kevin Gauthier, Chuck Wertz, Ann Currie, and past VCLRA board member Allan Drum.

**Call for a quorum:** VCLRA President Tom Ewing confirmed a quorum was present and called the VCLRA annual meeting to order at 12:02 PM.

**Agenda:** reviewed by Tom Ewing; no changes.

**Blue Heron Award Presentation by Carol Warden:** The award was presented to Bob and Pat Barofsky on behalf of the Presque Isle Lake Association for the work done on the stabilization of Presque Isle Lake shoreline stabilization with plantings in Wilderness Park. Bob gave credit to Quita Sheehan, Allan Drum, Pat Barofsky and other volunteers for their work since 2012 on the project. The project received 92 points out of 100. The rock paintings on the award were painted by Leah Ash.



**Secretary's Report:** Meeting minutes from the July 13, 2018 annual meeting were distributed and reviewed by Secretary Karen Dixon. Steve Budnik moved, and Debby Soberg seconded the motion to approve the minutes without change; motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Anne Kretschmann distributed and summarized the 2018 end-of-year financial report, the 2019 income/spending report, and the proposed 2019 budget. Actual 2018 expenditures were \$12,758.79 against \$11,682.27 revenues. The end of year checking account balance on 12/31/2018 was \$10,758.78, versus the previous year balance of \$8770.28 on 12/31/2017.

Actual expenses to date (July 10, 2019) were \$4,041.63 due to the newsletter mailing (\$228.45), purchase of stamps (\$481.85), PO Box rental (\$56), website expense (\$19.99), and 2019 membership dues to WAL (\$350) and River Alliance (\$100). The current year revenue to date was \$2175 in membership income from 22 individuals/families and 25 lake association/districts (59 lakes represented).

## DRAFT

Compared to last year's budget, the 2019 proposed budget included added funds for Post Office Box Rental (\$48 to \$54), Incorporation renewal (\$10 to \$20), Stamps (increased by \$100), High School Senior Scholarship (increased to \$1000).

A motion to approve the reports was made by Karen Dixon and seconded by Steve Budnik; motion carried.

Motion made by Paul Lewandoski, second by Karen Dixon, to approve the 2019 Proposed Budget; motion carried.

### **Old Business – President's Annual Report: July 12, 2019**

Tom began by thanking Steve for serving on the organizing committee for today's workshop.

- Started my presidency with the question: how effectively are we serving our mission to inform and engage stakeholders? Of concern, membership had plateaued and annual meeting attendance was down. It was clear we needed to re-engage with our members and other stakeholders.
- We agreed to again partner with OCLRA to host an annual multicounty workshop. Over the winter, I shared our recent annual meeting attendance break-down assessment that showed low participation from our members in recent years and expressed our emphasis on building a stronger relationship with our membership base. I recommended we hold the next multicounty workshop in the larger meeting space available at Nicolet (since we were near capacity in the old venue) and make a push to grow participation. OCLRA took this to heart as well, realizing that they also had lost connection with their member base. The result was a concerted effort to promote the event to our mutual member bases and the public. A preliminary count this morning showed around 100 participants in attendance (vs. 64 last year).
- Developed and awarded a grant proposal for \$2066 and gathered letters of usage commitment to purchase a state-of-the-art DO meter for use by LA's and others in the county (replacing an older system that failed).
- New website (associated with our 25th anniversary in 2019) rolled out and has >3000 views to date.
- Contributed a letter of support to Vilas Land & Water Conservation for their river planning grant proposal to perform an inventory for Vilas Co of roadway culverts and investigate their function.
- Participated as a judge for the Vilas County Land & Water Youth Poster Contest. Roughly 150 posters were submitted, with the theme this year of "Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper".
- Reprinted "Lake Living" brochures; distributed 150 brochures to Michelle Guilette of Birch Lake Association located in Winchester, WI for a mailing they conducted to their lake residents.
- Engaged with the new shoreland-owners initiative committee, to ensure lessons learned from past attempts were factored into their strategy. A new web page is under development for new property owners, featuring useful content and a free membership offer to VCLRA and WL.
- Presented a VCLRA scholarship to Noah Miller of Northland Pines High School in Eagle River at the Northland Pines HS Scholarship and Awards Night on May 6, 2019.
- Looking at the need for liability insurance to protect our board. Options will be presented next meeting.

DRAFT

**New Business:**

- \$275 share for Water Clarity Fliers (Steve and Quita) Motion made by Steve Budnik, second by Debby Soberg, to spend \$275 as our share of the printing cost of the Water Clarity fliers (with OCLRA); motion carried.
- 2018 Budget Close-out/2019 Proposed Budget (Kretschmann): completed earlier (see above).
- Election of Directors for 2019-2021 (Ewing)
  - Slate: Paul Lewandoski, Tom Ewing, Debby Soberg, Emily Heald, Susan Knight

Motion made by Karen Dixon, second by Steve Budnik to approve the slate of directors as presented; motion carried. Tom thanked board members for serving.

**Adjournment:** Tom Ewing adjourned the meeting at 12:54 p.m. in order to hold a brief board meeting for election of VCLRA officers.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Dixon, Secretary VCLRA

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**2019 Election of Officers**

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President Tom Ewing called the meeting to order at 12:55 p.m.

Motion made by Debby Soberg, second by Steve Budnik, to elect 2019 slate of officers:

- Anne Kretschmann – Treasurer
- Karen Dixon – Secretary

Motion carried.

Tom Ewing adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.