

Berry, Dexter, Wilson Ponds Watershed Association
Minutes of Annual Meeting
July 25, 2015
9:00 AM

President Marcia Jackson called the meeting to order at 9:10 am and welcomed all attendees. There were about 30 members in attendance.

Officers attending were: Marcia Jackson, President and Doug Ludewig, Secretary/Treasurer.

The **minutes of last year's meeting** were read and approved by members.

The **treasurer's report** was read and approved.

The June 2014 balance was \$820.55. Income for the past year was: \$680 from memberships and \$1,663 for the Lake Protection Program. Expenditures for the year were \$2,324.

Marcia reported that last year we funded Friends of Cobbossee Watershed (FOCW) - \$1,500, Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (MVLMP) - \$300, Cobbossee Watershed District - \$200, and Maine Lakes Society (previously known as the Maine Congress of Lakes or COLA) \$150, \$88 – PO Box rent, Use of Ladd Center - \$50, Bank Fees - \$36.

Marcia reported that Don Isaacson, the vice-president has been very sick through the winter and continues to need medical care.

Marcia asked for **nominations for officers**. Marcia was nominated and elected as president, Doug Ludewig was nominated and elected secretary, and Don Isaacson was chosen as vice president. Sarah Ladd offered to serve as treasurer. Marcia will continue to receive bank statements, Sarah to collect funds, and Doug to write checks.

Marcia reviewed the **goals of the organization** which were to:

Create a sense of community.

Educate others about our lakes.

Support our partners: Maine Lakes Society, Friends of Cobbossee Watershed, Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, and Cobbossee Watershed District.

Doug Ludewig reported on **lake water clarity** in Wilson Pond which has been declining over the past few years. This year Wilson was one of only 2 lakes of the 20+ in the Cobbossee Watershed District that had poorer water clarity this year than last. All other lakes had better water clarity this year.

This year's Secchi disc readings for Berry and Dexter have been in the 5 and 6 meter range while Wilson's have been between 3 and 4 meters. Cobbossee Watershed District's director Bill Monagle is continuing to look for causes for the loss of water clarity in Wilson. He is looking into runoff from a farm on Pisgah Road and the illegal boat

launch near Tempe Bridge. Wayne plans to extend the guardrail on the bridge to prevent its use. CWD will work on shore land stabilization in this area.

Tammy Whitmore of the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed presented a program on reducing lake pollution. She said there were a number of sources of pollution: fertilizer, manure and pet waste, pesticides, oil and gas, septic, acid rain, and soil.

Added to these are 5 other sources: roof run-off, trails and paths, sitting and recreation areas, lack of sufficient shore land buffers, and camp roads.

Tammy stated that one inch of rainfall on a 1,500 sq. ft. roof results in 850 gallons of runoff. Roofs with no gutter need infiltration trenches to stop run-off from hitting the soil with force, picking up particles, and carrying them to a body of water. Roofs with gutters need rain barrels, dry wells or rain gardens to collect run-off.

Trails and paths need to be meandering, narrow (3-4 feet), with a surface of wood chips, crushed stone, the use of water-bars, and infiltration steps. Sitting and recreational areas need less grass with a surface that slows water run-off.

Shore land buffers need to be as natural as possible, with short trees or bushes, a duff layer, rip-rap near the shore using angular stone and geotextiles or gravel.

Camp roads need to be designed to get water off the road and slow its flow as soon as possible. A suitable surface is recycled asphalt. The road needs to be crowned and have water diverters with ditching, culverts, plunge pools, and settling basins.

FOCW participates in the Lake Smart Start program. Free plans for roads and lakeshore stabilization are available from Jay Lindsay of FOCW. Shore land work can be done by FOCW's Youth Conservation Corps with the land owner supplying materials.

Lloyd Ireland, a Wayne forester, presented information on the **Wayne Town Forest project**. It is considered a gift to Wayne's future. The property has an ideal ecosystem with old growth trees. Hunting and the use of motorized vehicles will be allowed on certain areas but the major purpose will be to preserve the area. Lloyd said that information is available on the Wayne town website. The project group would appreciate letters to the town manager and selectmen that promote the project and its benefits to the town and lakes.

Doug Ludewig reported that this year's **loon count on Wilson Pond** was the poorest in the 15+ years he and his wife have done it. Only 2 loons were seen. Other members reported counting 9, 6, 5, and one said she had seen 16 at previous times. In June there was a nest near the dam, but it was abandoned after a heavy rain and a rise in the lake's water level. This year Joe Steiner drove the boat.

Members again agreed to allow BDW officers to decide on amounts to donate to CWD, FOCW, MVLMP, and MLS. Any additional contributions to these organizations toward their work on lake preservation will be greatly appreciated.

The meeting was adjourned at 11am.

Please pass copies of these minutes to neighbors. If they are willing to give you their email addresses, copies will be sent to them, as will notifications about future events, lake concerns, and meetings.

For information on our partners: Cobbossee Watershed District has a Facebook page, Friends of Cobbossee Watershed, Maine Lakes Society, and Maine Volunteer Lake Monitor Program all have websites to visit. Lots of information is available.

Many thanks to the businesses who donated raffle gifts: Jack's Traps, Hannaford, Head to Toes, Audette's Hardware, and Wayne County Store.

Membership dues are **\$25.00 a year** and may be sent to:

**BDW Watershed Assoc.
PO Box 234
Winthrop, Maine 04364**

All donations to help defray the cost of efforts to keep our lakes healthy are welcomed and much appreciated. We also accept donations for the ***Lake Preservation Fund***.

Next year's meeting will be held at the Ladd Center on Saturday, July 30, 2016.

Carl Albrecht and Doug Ludewig installed the buoys this year and will remove them in the fall. Buoys will be stored at the Jackson camp.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Ludewig, secretary