

**Berry, Dexter, Wilson Ponds Watershed Association
Minutes of Annual Meeting
July 30, 2016
9:00 AM**

President Marcia Jackson called the meeting to order at 9:05 am and welcomed attendees. There were about 35 members attending.

Officers present were: Marcia Jackson, president, Donnie Isaacson, vice-president, and Doug Ludewig, secretary. Sarah Ladd, treasurer was absent.

Marcia introduced Bill Monagle, executive director of Cobbossee Watershed District. Bill talked about CWD's work on the three ponds, especially on Wilson Pond, which is on the State's list of the impaired waterbodies because of declining water quality. He reported that the latest secchi disc reading for water clarity on Wilson is the best since 1993 at 6.95 meters (23-24 feet clarity). Cobbossee Lake latest reading is also historically exceptional at 8.28 meters (27 feet), the best in years. Bill suggested that these readings are a result of the reduced rainfall that we've had. A greater than average 45 inches has been the standard for the last 10 years.

The cotton candy appearing algae that's present in some locations is a metaphyte and not related to an algae bloom. Bill talked about the water table and how its level affects seepage of materials that support filamentous green algae in the lakes. He discussed internal recycling from the bottom of the lakes; how iron and phosphorus unite in the presence of oxygen, but when a layer of water in the lake goes anoxic phosphorus separates and promotes algae growth.

CWD has hired Ken Waggoner to do an analysis of zooplankton, chlorophyll, and oxygen levels in Wilson Pond, Pleasant Pond, Cochnewagan Pond, Annabessacook Lake, and Cobbossee Lake. The Onion Foundation is supporting this extra level of monitoring in Wilson Pond. Bill also told of how large zooplankton eat algae. Northern Pike eat fish that eat zooplankton, but there's no way to do a fish survey of the lakes to determine how this works.

There was a question about the old gravel pit in Wayne which was used as a town dump for a number of years. Bill didn't believe that any seepage from this affected water quality because Berry and Dexter Ponds are nearest this area and have had consistently good water quality. Both flush about 7-8 times a year while Wilson Pond flushes only 2 times a year.

Bill said that at the Wayne Town Meeting voters decided to close the dangerous boat launch at Tempe Bridge by extending the guard rail and have the shoreland there stabilized with riprap.

He discussed problems on Merganser Lane and a big gully (a bad problem) that comes down from Cranberry Rock Farm on Pisgah Road as well as places that show evidence of soil washing into the lake. He said there are numerous problems on Merganser, but not all of them can be addressed. CWD will provide funding on a 75% (CWD) to 25% (road association) cost sharing basis for work on all camp roads.

There was a question about the low water level in the lake. Bill said that we are in drought conditions with only 11 inches of rain since April 1. This spring and summer have been the driest in 15 years combined with a low amount of snowfall last winter. All lakes in CWD (28 lakes and ponds) are low. Dams cannot be completely closed because Fish and Wildlife requires a certain level of flowage for water life. The amount of water currently flowing out of Cobbossee's dam is 34 cubic feet per second, which Bill said is minimal.

Marcia introduced Tamara Whitmore, executive director of the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed, who spoke on invasive plants and the general importance of aquatic life to maintain good water quality. She said that invasive plants reduce water quality and thus property values. For boater's transporting invasive plants fines are involved.

FOCW uses a 3-pronged approach with courtesy boat inspections, plant surveys, and the removal of invasive plants. 48 or 49 of Maine's 6,000 water bodies are infested with invasives. Tamara showed a film on the DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvester) method of removing invasive plants. She said a license and permit are needed for this process. Annabessacook Lake Improvement Association has about 30 volunteers who survey designated zones of the lake looking for invasive plants.

It was reported that Steve and Jan Kolenda have taken over the loon count for Wilson Pond. Doug and Nancy Ludewig had done it for about 15 years. This year Steve and Jan counted 3 pairs of loons (2 with babies) and one solitary loon for a total of 9. They said that they've noticed that planes practicing take-offs and landings upset the loons.

Susan Onion reported that she would like to coordinate a plant patrol for next summer. Patrol members would be assigned areas of the lake to keep watch of for invasive plant. FOCW will provide invasive plant survey training.

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

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

Balance June 30, 2016: \$210.10. Income for the past year was: \$2,870 from memberships and the Lake Protection Program. Expenditures for the year were \$3,159.45.

Marcia reported that last year we funded Friends of Cobbossee Watershed (FOCW) - \$1,500, Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (MVLMP) - \$600, Cobbossee Watershed District(CWD) - \$500, and Maine Lakes Society (previously known as the Maine Congress of Lakes or COLA) \$200, PO Box rent \$172.00 (2 years), Ladd Center - \$50, Bank Fees - \$36, State Filing fee - \$35, Meeting Supplies \$66.45.

Marcia asked for **nominations for officers**. The current staff of officers was nominated and elected to serve another year. Marcia as president; and Don Isaacson as vice president; Sarah Ladd as treasurer; Doug Ludewig as secretary. 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.

Marcia thanked Donnie Isaacson for doing this summer's mailings and Susan Onion for doing the website setup.

On August 25 at 6:30 pm, Mary Dennison will be conducting a workshop on how to form a lake association in the Winthrop Town Office meeting room.

On August 27 at 10 am, Bill Monagle will show a demo project on Woodland Road on the east shore of Berry Pond. To get there, take the road to the Berry-Dexter bridge off Pisgah Road in Wayne, and then go left up the shore of Berry Pond.

Nancy Ludewig asked members who knew stories of past happenings on Wilson Pond to tell or send them to her for her to use in the Monmouth Museum's Newsletter.

Next year's meeting will be held on July 29, 2017.

Respectfully submitted, Doug Ludewig, recording secretary