

Berry, Dexter, Wilson Ponds Watershed Association
Minutes of Annual Meeting
July 23, 2022
9:00 AM

President Steve Kolenda called the meeting to order at 9:05 am and welcomed attendees. There were 36 people in attendance.

The meeting was held at the North Monmouth Beach.

Officers present were Steve Kolenda, president, Donnie Isaacson, vice-president, and Doug Ludewig, secretary/treasurer.

Steve reviewed the purpose of the organization as written in the by-laws. He reported that there were 24 paid members as of today.

The minutes of the 2021 meeting and the 2021-2022 treasurer's report were read and accepted as presented.

Jan Kolenda reported on the results of **Loon Counts** since 2016. In 2016, 7 adults and no chicks were counted, in 2017 there were 10 adults and one chick, in 2018 there were 9 adults and 2 chicks, in 2019 there were 11 adults and no chicks, in 2020 there were 9 adults and no chicks, in 2021 there were 7 adults and no chicks and this year there were 8 adults and no chicks. On Dexter Pond, 2 adults were counted. Some attendees said that the nest on Ladd's Island had a loon on a nest, but no chick was ever seen. Another nest was reported, but again no chick was ever seen. Jan reported that a grant might be available for building a floating nest. A lakeshore property owner wondered about a correlation between the increase in the eagle population and the loss of loons with chicks.

Susan Onion, the leader of the BDW **search for invasive plants**, gave a report. She said 14 volunteers participated and no invasive plants were seen on the 3 lakes. About 45 volunteer hours given by the BDW team and 40 + hours by the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed's team. She said that today's meeting will be followed by a workshop on searching for and identifying invasives.

Steve Kolenda reported on his work in trying to get the Department of Environmental Protection to take action concerning violations of Shoreland Zoning Laws at the **Howard property** near the north end of Wilson Pond. He said that since becoming president of BDW he has contacted DEP several times with poor results. Three years ago, Steve reported the violations to the DEP and also sent pictures showing that Howard had brought in a bulldozer and loads of sand to construct a beach at his for-rental camp. Steve reported that it took 14 months for them to investigate and

respond to the violation. After several further delays by the DEP and then allowing Howard an additional year for correction of the violation, the DEP chose not to fine him for the violation.

Marcia Jackson reported on the **volunteer courtesy boat inspectors** at the boat launch. She said the FOCW has inspectors staffing the launch from 7am to 7 pm on weekends, but there is a lot of boat launch traffic on Fridays and that could use coverage by volunteers as well.

Bill Monagle, Executive Director of Cobbossee Watershed District, reported that CWD is working on developing a Watershed Based Plan for Wilson Pond since the previous one elapsed. CWD has mailed letters to all waterfront landowners requesting permission to survey their land. Wayne's list of shoreland property owners has been shown to be outdated. Results will be available once the survey is completed.

Currently water quality in the lakes is good with Secchi Disc readings of 20 feet on Wilson Pond, 21 feet on Dexter Pond and about 20 feet on Berry Pond. Water levels are declining because of the moderate drought conditions. Bill said that there is about 20" of loss just from evaporation. Currently the lakes are about 10 inches below full pond. TexTech operates the dam that controls the depth of the three lakes and uses some of the water in their manufacturing process. Bill reported that they said they have reduced their water usage by 75%. They also maintain the Mill Pond water level for fire protection use.

A resident from the north end of Wilson Pond was concerned about how water runs off the hill near Tempy Bridge. Bill said CWD would pay up to half the cost for redirecting the run-off if the Town of Winthrop wanted to modify the way rainwater comes down the hill.

Tony Pied of the **Friends of Cobbossee Watershed** reported that FOCW's primary purpose is conservation and education. FOCW provides school programs, field trips, the Tadpole Patrol, and nature day camps all year long. They have this year introduced a lake history program which has been popular. They work with lakeshore landowners on a landscaping program that shares the cost of work on waterfronts in a "Slow the Flow" program.

FOCW also is greatly involved in surveying and trying to control invasive species.

This year at the Wilson Pond boat launch FOCW courtesy boat inspectors have spent 147 hours, with 7 volunteer hours and have provided 245 courtesy boat inspections. No invasive species have been found in the three lakes.

There are three kinds of invasive species that have been found in CWD lakes and streams and these are primarily what teams of surveyors are looking for. Three teams have been formed for the district with another three teams focused on Cobbossee Lake. This year, FOCW has hired additional staff to meet the needs of the watershed. She said that once there is an infestation of invasives it takes lots of time and money to control and try to remove them.

Election of officers for the next year was held and it was moved and seconded that the present officers continue in their positions.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am and Tony Pied took a group of interested attendees for a workshop at the beach on identifying invasive species.

Next year's meeting will be held at the North Monmouth Beach at 9 am on July 22, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Ludewig, recording secretary

Berry, Dexter, Wilson Ponds Watershed Association

Treasurer's Report for July 23, 2022

In 2021 and 2022, checks were written for:

Annual filing Secretary of State	\$35.00
USPS Postal Box	\$92.00
Kennebec Land Trust	\$200.00
Maine Lakes Society Donation	\$200.00
Friends of Cobbossee Watershed	\$2,400.00
Lake Stewards of Maine (VLMP)	\$200.00
Total	\$3,127.00

The current balance in the MFCU account is:

\$2,717.22 in a Prime Share Savings Account

\$1,172.03 in a Share Draft Checking Account

Total \$3,889.25