

Berry, Dexter, Wilson Ponds Watershed Association
Minutes of Annual Meeting
July 24, 2021
9:00 AM

President Steve Kolenda called the meeting to order at 9:05 am and welcomed attendees. There were 38 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.

The minutes of the 2020 meeting and the 2020-2021 treasurer's report were read and accepted as presented.

Susan Onion, the leader of the **search for invasive plants**, gave a report. She said 14 volunteers participated and no invasive plants were seen. About 23.5 hours were used for the survey. She said that Cobbossee Watershed District staff spent 42.75 hours on Wilson and Dexter Ponds. Today's meeting will be followed by a workshop on searching for invasive plants.

Jan Kolenda presented 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, and this year there were 7 adults and no chicks. This year on Dexter Pond, 3 adults were counted. Glen Shivel reported seeing 17 in a group near his camp. A resident reported seeing a dead loon on Berry Pond but was unable to get any State Agency take interest in checking it out or to search for a cause of the death of the bird.

Steve Kolenda reported on his work in trying to get the Department of Environmental Protection to investigate the **Howard property** near the north end of Wilson Pond. He said that 697 days ago the camp owner took out a permit to do work on his land, and then violated the permit. Steve contacted DEP and it took them 14 months to investigate and respond.

It was suggested that a civil suit be brought against the owner to try to prevent him from further abuses of the land and water.

There was a discussion about forming a committee to investigate this. Scott Ladd was an attorney mentioned.

It was voted for BDW to form a committee to take legal action against the Howards. Volunteers were asked for. Marcia Jackson took the names of those volunteering to be members of this committee.

Chris Jones, a member of the **100 Acre Woods Area in Wayne**, made a presentation. Chris said that there was a committee formed with some members who were members of the Natural Resources Council of Maine and of Kennebec Land Trust. She said a one mile and a 3-mile loop trails have been constructed. There is a parking area off House Road in Wayne.

Tony Pied of the Friends of Cobbossee reported on the activities of FOCL. She said the organization was founded to 2001 and deals with 28 lakes, ponds, and streams in the watershed. They work closely with Cobbossee Watershed District. They provide an education program that works with area schools, a landscaping program that shares costs for work on waterfront properties, an invasive species detection program to help volunteers search for invasive plants, and a program to eradicate these invasive plants when they have been located. They use the Youth Conservation Corps to do labor on projects.

A motion was made and passed to label BDW's donation to go toward funding the boat inspectors at our boat launches.

Another motion was made to fund an increase in the time boat inspectors are on duty. Currently inspectors are on duty from 7 am to 7 pm on weekends. Costs for increasing this time frame need to be investigated. Bass Tournaments also need coverage.

It was suggested that volunteer inspectors could be provided by shore-land owners.

Bill Monagle, executive director of Cobbossee Watershed District, reported on lake water quality. He said that lake water quality in the three ponds has been good so far this year with secchi disc readings of 16+ feet. Only Dexter and Wilson are monitored by CWD with Wilson Pond receiving the most attention. Rainfall and snowfall amounts have been low during the past year until recently during July when there has been an increase in rainfall. Both Berry and Dexter Ponds have high turnover rates and internal recycling rates while Wilson Pond does not.

Wilson Pond continues to be listed as an impaired waterbody. A steering committee has been formed to develop a lake water survey which is necessary to receive grant funding from DEP. The survey will be conducted next Spring, likely in June 2022. A Watershed Base Plan will be developed from this and sent to the DEP for approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 pm.

Susan Onion, Leader of the Invasive Species Searchers, took a group of volunteer searchers for a workshop on inspections on the area they are assigned to.

Next year's annual meeting is planned to be held on July 23 at 9 am at the North Monmouth Beach area.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Ludewig, recording secretary

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Treasurer's Report for July 24, 2021

In 2020 and 2021, checks were written for:

Annual filing Secretary of State	\$35.00
Meeting announcement Signs	\$110.71
USPS Postal Box	\$92.00
Kennebec Land Trust	\$200.00
Maine Lakes Society Donation	\$200.00
Friends of Cobbossee Watershed	\$2,200.00
Lake Stewards of Maine (VLMP)	\$200.00
Total	\$3,037.71