

Berry, Dexter, Wilson Ponds Watershed Association
Minutes of Annual Meeting
July 27,2019
9:00 AM

President Marcia Jackson called the meeting to order at 9:05 am and welcomed attendees. There were 35 people in attendance.

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

The minutes of the 2018 meeting and the 2019 treasurer's report were accepted as presented. It was noted that BDW received donations of \$1,360 in memory of Robert Ladd.

Susan Onion reported on the lake patrol which has begun looking for invasive plants on our lakes. She said that there were 10 volunteers with 26 hours of survey time put in. She posted maps of the areas surveyed. She said that no invasive types of plants were found. For those interested in joining the plant patrol, Friends of Cobbossee Watershed will offer 2-hour classes, and the Lake Stewards of Maine will offer 6-hour classes. Susan also reported on her experience and observations of the osprey-eagle conflict over the ospreys' nest, the birth of the 2 eaglets, the nest collapse, and the eagle parents' behavior throughout the time.

Tamara Whitmore of the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed reported that the Eurasian milfoil in Cobbossee Lake has been treated with an herbicide by the DEP. This is the first time this particular herbicide has been used in Maine. It is said to be selective to milfoil, but some restrictions about the use of lake water during and after the spraying were noted. Surveys since the spraying appear to show that it is working.

The invasive frogbit on Cobbossee will be removed manually since it floats on the surface with no root structure. Both invasives are at the north end of the lake.

The invasive variable leaf milfoil on Annabessacook Lake is being removed using DASH (diver assisted suction harvesting). The DEP has provided "surface use restrictions" for the infested area of Annabessacook and Wilson Steam. Anyone using this area can be summonsed and fined.

Marcia presented a report from Wendy Dennis, limnologist, of the Cobbossee Watershed District. Wendy said that April, May, and June were months of above average rainfall with high water levels on the lakes, but lake water levels have subsided since then. Water clarity, as monitored by CWD, has been typical for late spring and early summer with water clarity between 13-15 feet. Additional chemical testing has shown that Wilson Pond's algae levels were low to moderate in May and June, but the level of phosphorus (fertilizer for algae) available, might lead to increases in algae growth. Neither Berry nor Dexter Ponds have experienced the algae growth and water clarity problems that affect Wilson Pond.

Wendy reported that water clarity is improving in July, as usual, and this week's Secchi disc reading on Wilson Pond showed 17 feet of visibility. The concern is that this level of clarity will decrease in August as it did last year and then continue into September. Water clarity during that time last year was reduced to 7 feet visibility because of algae growth.

It is hoped that 2020 Federal funding will provide more grant money to assist residents with their projects to reduce run-off. Wilson Pond with its steep banks in many places, make it crucial that landowners be especially careful about disturbing landscape.

CWD continues to look for a volunteer on Wilson Pond to take over the bi-weekly monitoring of the water quality. A boat, an anchor, and 75 feet of rope are required. CWD will train you for this.

Residents at the meeting noted that the cotton-candy type of algae, metaphyton, is present, but it was stated that it is essentially harmless to lake water quality. It appears after ice-out and then disappears in August or September.

Steve Kolenda reported that he investigated the ownership of Joe's Island. It is apparently State owned. Robert Sands and Susan Ferlott are stewards of the island and periodically go out and clean up anything left behind by users.

Jan Kolenda reported that the loon count for the Audubon Society, conducted on July 20, showed 11 adult loons and no chicks during the 7-7:30 time allotted for loon counting. Last year 9 adults and 2 chicks were counted.

The owner of property on the east shore of Wilson Pond, north of Tappan's Camp, reported on the cleanup of damaged trees on their land. They are involved in a healthy harvest program and will be replanting to reduce run-off and preserve water quality. Winthrop Code Enforcement is involved, and necessary permits have been obtained.

Election of officers took place. Marcia is stepping down as president and Steve Kolenda volunteered to become the next president. Donnie Isaacson, vice-president, Doug Ludewig, secretary, and Sarah Ladd, treasurer, will all continue in their present positions.

Ken Spaulding of the Wayne Conservation Commission reported on the status of the Wayne Woods land at the northwest end of Wilson Pond. The area contains about 118 acres with approximately 1,000 feet of shore frontage and was acquired through a tax lien. The Conservation Commission will present five options on what to do with the land to the selectboard. These involve the sale of some land to abutters and then it is expected that the selectboard will likely decide on long-term conservation of the land with it probably being placed in the Kennebec Land Trust. The decision and plan will take about 2 years to work everything out. Then trails will be constructed with a parking area for users.

Gary Lowell, a boat builder from Greensboro, North Carolina spoke about what boat builders are trying to do to reduce the amount of material carried on boats and trailers when they are removed from the water. Gary is a marine surveyor who inspects boats and works with the American Boat and Yacht Council (ABYC) which sets standards for the safe construction and maintenance of pleasure craft. 90% of boat builders use these guidelines. He also mentioned the problem with wakeboard boats which place water in tanks for weight to create a large wake but create a problem by possibly transporting invasive organisms to other lakes when these boats are used on another lake. The procedure of "clean, drain, dry" to stop invasive hitchhikers was mentioned to reduce the chances of transporting invasives to other lakes for all boat owners to observe.

Check out BDW's website (www.BDWPonds.com) and CWD's Facebook pages for more information about our lakes.

Next year's meeting will be held on July 25, 2020 at the Ladd Center in Wayne.

Dues and contributions to the Lake Preservation Fund can be made by check and mailed to BDW Watershed Assoc. PO Box 234, Winthrop, Maine 04364

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Ludewig, recording secretary

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Treasurer's Report for July 27, 2019

In 2018, checks were written for:

2018 Meeting Supplies	\$181.22
Ladd Center User's Fee	\$75.00
USPS Postal Box	\$88.00
Kennebec Land Trust	\$200.00
Maine Lakes Society Donation	\$100.00
Friends of Cobbossee Watershed	\$2,100.00
Lake Stewards of Maine (VLMP)	\$400.00
Cobbossee Watershed District	\$400.00
Total for 2017	\$3,544.22

In 2019, checks were written for:

Annual Filing with Secretary of State	\$35.00
Maine Secretary of State (Agent change)	\$15.00
Total for 2019	\$50.00

The current balance in the MFCU account is:

\$75.11 in a Prime Share Savings Account

\$1,643.69 in a Share Draft Checking Account

Total \$1,718.81

Of this amount \$1,360 was donated in memory of Robert Ladd

