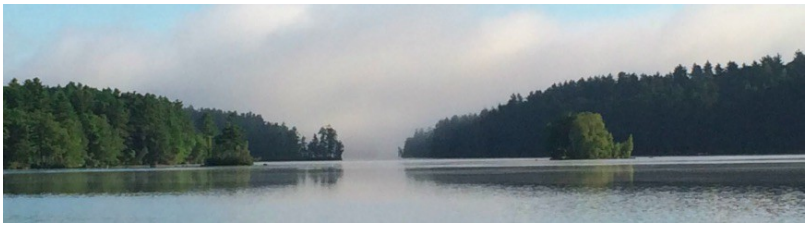

Dexter, Wilson Ponds' Watershed Association
Minutes of Annual Meeting Saturday, July 25, 2026, 9:00 am
Ladd Center in Wayne
Donnie Isaacson, President;
Ed Plourde, Vice President;
Doug Ludewig, Secretary/Treasurer

Berry,
President Donnie Isaacson called the meeting to order at 9:15 am and welcomed attendees. There were 28 people in attendance. Officers present were Donnie Isaacson, President, Ed Plourde, Vice President, and Doug Ludewig, Secretary/Treasurer.

Doug Ludewig presented the **Treasurer's report** and a summary of last year's meeting minutes.

Since the last meeting checks were written for:

Annual Filing with Secretary of State	$35.00
USPS for PO Box Rent	$130.00
Friends of Cobbossee Watershed	$2,724.77
TOTAL Expenditures	**$2,889.77**

Current Balances in Great Falls Credit Union in Monmouth

PRIME Shares (Savings Account)	$1,721.09
Checking Account	$3,112.93
TOTAL	**$4834.02**

Membership report - Donnie Isaacson, President
There were 42 attendees.
In 2025 we raised $6889 and our expenses for 2026 are $7303.
There are over 250 properties on the 3 ponds and we only have 52 paying members.
We send out over 150 emails and have a Facebook page and website.
Donnie asked everyone to talk to their neighbors about joining.

Donnie noted that Jason Ayer has placed the buoy at "Big Rock". It was stated that the buoy presence there needs to be documented every three weeks and a report sent to the State. Also, a sign is needed at the boat launch that says that not all hazards are marked.

Donnie said that this year BDW will resume donations to the Lake Stewards of Maine, Maine Lakes, and Cobbossee Watershed District.

He reported that there are courtesy boat inspectors at the Wilson Pond boat launch on holidays and weekends. He said that he has been a volunteer inspector and reported that it's an easy way to spend a couple of hours helping while at the same time reducing the amount that we provide Watershed Friends.

He thanked Molly Karp for sending out our emails and Jan Kolenda for her work on the BDW website and Facebook page.

Invasive Plant Patrol Update - Susan Onion, Team Leader. Marcia Jackson reported on the invasive plant

patrols since Susan Onion could not attend the meeting. She said Cobbossee Lake (one of the 26 water bodies in Cobbossee Watershed) currently has 5 different kinds of invasive plants. So far none have been found in Berry, Dexter, or Wilson Ponds. BDW pays Watershed Friends $9,000 for courtesy boat inspectors and 96 hours searching for invasive plants in our 3 ponds. If interested in being a CBI, please contact Pat Lawson who volunteers as the organizer.
Marcia showed maps of the 3 ponds with areas marked that need volunteer inspectors.

Loon Count on July 18 - Jan Kolenda

Jan reported that last Saturday, on the Audubon Loon Count Day that takes place all over Maine from 7:00 to 7:30 am, 8 adults and no chicks were counted. Mary Clark counted 4 adults on Dexter. There was no report from Berry Pond.

Watershed Friends: Keith Coulling, Acting Executive Director of Watershed Friends, said that this year invasive plant surveys are ahead of schedule and that costs are down a bit. The annual increase in costs of 5% is, as always, based on the areas of the lakes. This year Watershed Friends received $43,000 from the State, which is about half of what was given last year. Cobbossee Lake with its 5 invasives is using herbicides and divers to reduce the invasive plant population. It is very costly.

Cobbossee Watershed District: Wendy Dennis, limnologist, reported. She said that CWD was created by the legislature as a special purpose district with the purpose of protecting and conserving the water quality and controlling the depth of the 26 lakes and water bodies in its designated area.

The water depth of BDW is controlled by the Tex Tech dam on Wilson Pond. Currently the water level is 2.8 inches below full pond. It hasn't been quite as dry this year as last year, so the rate of decline hasn't been as fast as it was then. There was a 4 inch decline last year at this time in July; however, it has been abnormally dry as it was last year. She said the dam operators try to keep the water level as even as possible during the loon breeding and nesting season.

This year it is planned that the Mill Pond will be lowered so that the dam there can be repaired.

Wendy discussed the water quality monitoring conducted by CWD. It is done bi-weekly. Currently the Secchi Disc reading for Wilson Pond is 5.8 meters or about 19 feet. Wilson Pond's average reading is 14 feet. There has been and continues to be concern about the water quality in Wilson Pond. There is no concern for Berry or Dexter Ponds as they regularly have very good water quality. Wilson Pond has its phosphorus levels checked annually, and Dexter and Berry are done every 3 years. Wilson's readings were about 18 ppb, with 15 being the desired level. Berry and Dexter are below the desired 15 ppb, so they are both good.

Wendy also discussed the CWD Technical Assistance Program in which Bill Monagle attends select board and planning board meetings regarding land development and shore land projects. CWD does not enforce any zoning or other regulations but lets the local Code Enforcement Officer know of violations.

CWD also assists in Pollution Control Assessments. They provide property owners with information on best practices, and they do site visits to talk to property owners about how best to protect shoreland and lake health. Older camps likely have primitive and older types of septic systems which likely need updating to insure the lake is not endangered by sewage leakage.

Finally, Wendy said that CWD works to advocate for funding from grants in various ways. She mentioned the statewide Lake Protection Coalition that works to protect water bodies throughout the state.

Election of Officers: Donnie called for the election of officers for the association. He said that he and Ed would

be willing the stay on as president and vice-president. It was asked if there was anyone who would like to take Doug's position as secretary/treasurer. MaryAnn LePage volunteered to take this role but would first take on the treasurer's position and then, next year, take on the secretary's position as well.

At 10:45 a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and passed.

Next year's meeting will be held on July 24, 2027, at 9 am, location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted, Doug Ludewig, Secretary/Treasurer