

Berry, Dexter, Wilson Ponds Watershed Association
Minutes of Annual Meeting
July 27, 2024
9:00 AM

President Ed Plourde called the meeting to order at 9:15 am and welcomed attendees. There were 44 people in attendance.

The meeting was held at North Monmouth Beach.

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

Ed noted that there are 264 property owners in or near the watershed and that there were only 35 paid BDW members last year. Ed thanked Donnie for supplying the donuts and coffee.

The minutes of the 2023 meeting and the 2023-2024 treasurer's report were summarized by Doug and accepted as presented.

It was noted that the buoy marking “**Big Rock**” had not been installed this year. Jason Ayer had volunteered to do this but had not connected with the Maine agency to get the buoy and install it. Steve Kolenda said that he would do this and get the proper documentation. The rock is currently poorly marked, and the marker may be in the wrong place.

Jan Kolenda, the Loon Lady, presented **the loon count** for this July and for previous years. This year Glenn and Mary Griswold counted 12 loons and one chick during the allotted time (7:00 am to 7:30 am) on July 13. Past year's counts can be found on the BDW website. Concern was expressed that an eagle would be a danger for the chick.

Jan said that a loon had been coming up on the shore of their property. She reported it to the Warden Service and Karl McCabe rescued the loon and took it to a wildlife rescue service. The loon later died of lead poisoning. It was noted that the use of lead during fishing is illegal.

Susan Onion, organizer of the team of lake surveyors looking for invasive plants, presented information on the past year's surveys for invasive plants in the three ponds along with maps of surveyed areas. Volunteers have been surveying the lakes for 7 years. There were 17 people who have participated. No invasives have been found. She said that 38 hours were put in by the surveyors this past year. If a questionable plant is seen by anyone on the lake it can be taken to Marcia Jackson or Susan Onion who will be able to identify it.

It was noted that bass tournament organizers are required to have their own boat inspectors. The lake courtesy inspector can do a backup check.

After today's meeting, Susan Onion and Alex Dyer, Director of Conservation for Friends of Cobbossee Watershed conducted an invasive plant review session.

Tom Mullen, Executive Director of the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed, reported that the group works with all lake associations in the district. They have a educational leader, Tammy Wilbert who works with the local schools and programs activities that promote caring for the watershed during the school year and summers. Jay Lindsay works with the Youth Conservation Corps on projects to improve lake frontage and reduce runoff.

Wendy Dennis, Cobbossee Watershed District Limnologist, reported on recent events in the watershed. CWD has hired a new watershed specialist to help Wendy with the monitoring of the 28 lakes and ponds in the district.

The Wilson Pond Dam was repaired last Fall with 3 new gates. The Tex Tech Mill Pond Dam currently needs repairs. She said the 200-foot No Wake Zone warning sign had been removed from the Boat Launch and a new one will be put up to replace it.

She reported that the legislature passed a restriction on Wake Boats that requires their use to be 300 feet from shore and in more than 15 water depth.

Currently Wilson Pond is 2.5 inches below full pond. Several storm events over the past year have had an adverse impact on all lakes in the district. They have caused the heavy rainfall that scours the landscape and promotes runoff into the lakes increasing the phosphorus loading.

This year water quality has been better than last year which was a generally wet summer and there have been no severe algae blooms. In the past, 2021 was a year with consistently good secchi disc recordings and in 2018 there was a severe algae bloom on Wilson Pond.

The Best Management Practices that CWD uses don't stand up well with extreme weather events. In general, it is vitally important to maintain good care of the land around the lakes.

Mark Arsenault, Code Enforcement Officer for Winthrop, has been in this position for 9 years. He said that land within 250 feet of a lake is restricted by shoreland zoning and that land within 100 feet of the shoreline has further restrictions.

Mark presentation focused on trees within the 100-foot zone. If a tree is to be cut a permit is needed. If you cut a tree another tree must be planted. High bush blueberry plants are ideal for waterfront protection because of the way they reduce runoff. Trees that present a hazard can be removed. It is OK to trim a tree 1/3 of the way up the trunk.

Mark said that if you buy property that is in violation you buy the violation as well.

If you are unsure and have questions it is best to check with the CEO. Town websites will have information on reaching town officials.

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

Next year's annual meeting will be held on July 26, 2025 at the North Monmouth Beach at 9 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Ludewig – secretary/treasurer