

Berry, Dexter, Wilson Ponds Watershed Association
Minutes of Annual Meeting
July 29, 2023
9:00 AM

President Steve Kolenda called the meeting to order at 9:03 am and welcomed attendees. There were 40 people in attendance.

The meeting was held at 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 11 paid members as of today.

The minutes of the 2022 meeting and the 2022-2023 treasurer's report were summarized by Steve and accepted as presented.

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. No invasives have been found. She said that 49 hours were put in by surveyors this past year.

Jan Kolenda, the Loon Lady, presented the loon count for this July and for previous years. This year 5 loons were counted during the allotted time (7:00 am to 7:30 am) on July 15. Some meeting attendees reported that they had counted more than 5 loons at various times, and some reported seeing a chick. Past year's counts can be found on the BDW website. There was an account of an eagle nest on the west shore (an osprey and eagle had fought over the nest). Concern was expressed that the eagle could be responsible for the decrease in this year's count. Jan reported that a person from the Audubon Society had visited the lake and spoke of using a man-made floating nest. There was a discussion of a good location for this nest.

Steve spoke briefly on violations of Shoreland Zoning that had occurred on Wilson Pond. Currently no concerns were expressed.

Steve reported that a buoy could be obtained for \$75 from State Parks and Recreation that would be used to mark the dangerous "Big Rock" near Joe's Island. Jason Ayer volunteered to put the buoy in and take it out each year. Using this buoy would absolve BDW of any liability for damage caused. Jason said that a hole had been drilled in the top of the rock which possibly could be used to anchor the buoy.

Steve publicly thanked Donny Isaacson for purchasing the donuts and coffee for today's meeting.

Tom Mullen, the newly hired Executive Director of the Friends of Cobbossee Watershed, spoke on the goals of the organization involved in protecting the watershed. He said there were no ongoing Youth Conservation Corps projects underway on BDW lakes, but to contact FOCW to get on the calendar for next year. FOCW will hold their annual celebration at the YMCA Camp in Winthrop on August 24.

Bill Monagle, Executive Director of Cobbossee Watershed District, reported that the newly updated watershed-based plan, needed to receive federal funds, will be good until 2032. 25 non-point pollution sites were found and ranked from low to severe. He mentioned the Pisgah Road drainage problem where CWD and Winthrop

Public Works worked together to reduce a major run-off problem. 80 feet of culverts were installed, and the cost of the project was shared by Winthrop and CWD.

Wendy Dennis, CWD's limnologist, reported overall water quality has declined since pre-1990. The internal loading problem that Wilson Pond is experiencing is very expensive to remediate. The CWD team that monitors the lakes is now back to normal levels after a staff shortage last year.

The increase in intense rain events increases the run-off into the lakes which increases the pollution amount.

Currently Wilson Pond's Secchi Disc reading is 17-18 feet, 25 feet for Dexter and 21 feet for Berry, all are good for this time of the summer, especially considering the amount of rainfall.

Lake levels have been a concern and are currently at full pond because of the 20" of rain this Spring. On May 1 this area received 5 "of rain in a very short time. While working to keep the water level within the desired range, TexTech found that the east gate of the dam was broken. They hired commercial divers to work on temporary repairs while three new gates are being constructed. They hope to have them installed later this summer. When they do this, a coffer dam will be installed, so water level will not be adversely affected. It was noted that the Mill Pond dam is in poor shape also.

All the lakes in CWD are at full pond or more because of the weather.

Concerns

Members expressed concerns about boaters observing the 200 feet from shore wake speed requirement. It was suggested that there be a sign about this posted at the boat launch as well as shoreland owners posting signs on their waterfronts.

The need for longer concrete pads at the boat launch was expressed. Currently it drops off too quickly when boats are launched. Two additional pads would be needed.

Elections

Officers were selected for the next year. Ed Plourde was chosen as president, Donny Isaacson remained as vice-president, and Doug Ludewig as secretary-treasurer.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30. A workshop was conducted on the beach for people interested in becoming water plant surveyors.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Ludewig, recording secretary.