

HFRLA Annual Meeting - June 28, 2014, 9:15 am
Boulder Junction Community Center
High-Fishtrap-Rush Lakes Room

DRAFT

Approximately 50 people attended the annual meeting, including Board of Directors (BOD), Dan Johnson, President, Bill Daley, Treasurer, Leslie Gauberti, Secretary, Joanne Ader, Mary Van Grinsven, Jim Merkowitz, and Sally Rathke.

1. Introduction. Dan Johnson welcomed members, introduced board members, and summarized the meeting agenda.
2. Summary of 2013 annual meeting minutes. Leslie Gauberti reviewed meeting minutes from the previous year. A motion was made by Bill Daley, seconded by Jim Merkowitz, to approve the 2013 annual meeting minutes. Motion passed.
3. HFRLA Special Meeting Results. Dan Johnson explained that the amendment to the association's bylaws related to changing the membership cycle, was unanimously approved at the special meeting on July 29, 2013, that members were notified about.
4. Election of 5 Board of Director positions. Dan Johnson and Fred Rathke explained the election process. Dan asked for additional nominees from the membership (none were made), nominees gave personal introductions (Dan read Ken Wiesner's in his absence), and changes to the ballots were reviewed (Ken Wiesner will stand for position HL3 on ballot 1, leaving position AL3 vacant). Lake association members cast ballots, and the ballots were counted. Results: All nominees were elected unanimously as follows: H2-Jim Merkowitz, H3-Ken Wiesner, F3 -Mark Lavin, AL3-Vacant, and AL4-Mary Van Grinsven.
5. Enduro Dual Sport Motorcycling Information. Members Bob and Tora Hellyer reported on their interest and concerns related to the promotion of this growing sport in the Boulder Junction area by a newly formed local club and the local Chamber of Commerce. Bob and Tora encouraged members to contact them if they would like additional information or are interested in collaborating with them.
6. Board Member Service Recognitions. Dan Johnson presented previous board members, Helen Schott, Fred Rathke and Sally Rathke, with commemorative plaques, thanking them for their extraordinary service as founding board members of the association.
7. Update on Lake Management Planning Study. Dan Johnson briefed members on the status of the Lake Management Planning Study activities and finances, including the \$50,000 in DNR Lake Planning Grant funds awarded to the lake association for Phase 1 and 2 of the study. He also discussed how the lake association committed to using member volunteers in study activities to offset the association costs of the study not covered by the grants. Dan also discussed the following study activities:
 - a. Angler's Journal – Dan explained the Angler's Journal activity and asked members with an interest to participate in journaling about their fishing outings. Dan indicated that he and Greg Van Grinsven are developing an electronic journal format for those interested in entering their results directly on computer versus manually on the journal form.
 - b. Stakeholders Survey – Dan alerted members to and described a stakeholders survey that would be mailed to members later this year. The survey will ask about many topics and issues related to our lakes and our use and enjoyment of them.
 - c. Littoral Zone/Riparian Area Workshop – Dan informed members about an outdoor workshop that Dean Premo will be conducting on pontoon boats on both High and Fishtrap Lakes related to shorelines and their habitats. Dan asked interested members to indicate their interest on sign-up sheets.
 - d. Other Activities – Dan discussed the shoreline photo survey that will be conducted in August or September and he reported that this year's frog and toad survey is underway.
8. Reports on Association Activities
 - a. **Membership and Billings.** Mary Van Grinsven reported on the lake association's successful transition to a calendar year membership basis. Mary explained that she mailed out membership appeals to 325 property owners within 1 mile of the lakes. She received 106 new member and

renewal membership requests accompanied by many generous donations. Mary also reported on the updated Member Directory that would be distributed in August.

- b. **Newsletters-** Leslie Gauberti reported on the successful Fall and Spring newsletter publications that will continue to be produced. She thanked members who contributed articles and photos for the newsletters.
- c. **Financial Report.** Bill Daley began his report with a thank you to Ken Wiesner for his years of service as the HFRLA's treasurer. Bill stated that the association is in good financial condition. He reported on HFRLA's financial status using the "HFRLA Statement of Financial Activity" that was available to members at the meeting. He reviewed the lake association's income and expenses as they relate to operations and the DNR Grants and Lake Planning Study.
- d. **Turtle Pond Update.** Dan briefly talked about the history of the dam and roadway at Turtle Pond and emphasized the benefit of the lake association having a voice in what happened related to the pond and dam prior to the washout. Joanne Ader reported on the recent washout at the site of the dam and subsequent culvert replacement and road repair work done by the Town of Boulder Junction in cooperation with Vilas County and the DNR. Other members living out by Turtle Pond described their personal experiences and observations during the road washout event. Members agreed that the Town, in particular Supervisor Dennis Reuss, should be commended for their quick actions in averting a disaster.
- e. **Water Quality Update.** Dan thanked the members who participate in the volunteer water quality monitoring activities. Jim Merkowitz discussed his experience monitoring water clarity the past 28 years on High Lake as well as his observations this year. He commended Ken Wiesner for his terrific technical work in interpreting water quality data for the lake association. Members discussed questions related to the relationship between increases in lake water level, groundwater, and water quality. Members also asked about whether the water quality data for the lakes can still be found on the internet. Leslie agreed to list the website address in the Fall newsletter.
- f. **Fishtrap Dam Monitoring.** Greg Van Grinsven reported on the lake association's efforts to monitor water levels and the dam structure at Fishtrap Dam, owned by the DNR. He explained the history of the dam, the size of its watershed, how they take water level measurements, how they inspect the dam, and what they observed this Spring. Greg also explained how the dam is used to manage water levels through the use of stop logs. Their goal is to provide data to the DNR and alert the DNR to possible emergencies to help prevent events where massive runoff might take place. Their efforts have resulted in the DNR visiting the dam more regularly with the goal of keeping lake levels at optimum flow at the weir structure. For the future they are expecting to improve their measuring equipment and take water level measurements at other locations in the lakes and creeks. They are also hoping that higher lake levels will decrease the growth of Southern Naiad in the lakes.
- g. **Walleye Stocking** – Leslie Gauberti reported on recent conversations with Steve Gilbert, DNR Fish Biologist out of the Woodruff Office, about the stocking of walleyes in the three lakes. The late Spring has pushed the stocking timeline later to mid-July. She indicated that the Spring Newsletter contained information about stocking locations, numbers of fingerlings to be stocked in each lake, a fall electrofishing survey effort, and an evaluation of the stocking effort due out early in 2015. Members agreed that the Walleye Stocking Committee formed during last year's annual meeting would remain inactive until after the walleye stocking and evaluation occurs.
- h. **Lakes History Project** - Leslie Johnson gave an update on the progress being made in gathering resort information and stories for the history book. She indicated that while she and other volunteers have had some difficulty in getting some of the stories, a lot has been accomplished in the last 3 years of the project. The hours logged by volunteers on the project will apply to the volunteer hours applied to the Lake Study Planning Grant. Leslie also described an addition to the history book allowing lake association members to submit stories in 500 words or less about their own properties and enjoyment of them along with one photo. She encouraged members to submit their stories to her by next May.
- i. **Southern Naiad** – Dan briefly mentioned that given the lakes' higher water levels they will be monitoring the growth of Southern Naiad this season. The hope is that higher water levels will slow

and in some cases even thwart the vegetation's growth.

- j. **Ratification of Prior Actions of the HFRLA Board of Directors.** A motion was made by Linda Pils, seconded by Greg Kruckenberg, to ratify prior actions of the Board of Directors during 2013-14. Motion Carried.

9. Open Discussion - there were no open discussion topics raised by members.

10. Loon Ranger Presentation – Member and Loon Ranger Linda Pils gave an entertaining and educational presentation, including her photos, on the Loon Watch Program, the common loon, and her experiences as a Loon Ranger on High Lake.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.

Some members stayed for the 6th annual potluck picnic.

Leslie Gauberti, Secretary