

High-Fishtrap-Rush Lake Association Annual Meeting

June 29, 2019, 9:00 a.m.

Boulder Junction Community Center

High-Fishtrap-Rush Lakes Room

In attendance were 67 members including board members:

Mark Lavin, Dan Johnson, Alan and Cathy McCully, Linda Pils, Jim Merkowitz, Nicole Wilkin, Gary Tielens, Rich Mathias, Jim and Denise Johnson. (Absent Barb Wiesner)

Welcome and Open Meeting

Mark Lavin opened the meeting and thanked all for their attendance. He discussed the importance of volunteering and appreciation for the time and efforts of the group.

Summary of the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

Nicole Wilkin informed all the members that for this meeting and all future annual meetings, minutes of the prior annual meeting would no longer be read or summarized at the annual meeting, prior to the president requesting approval for such minutes. It was noted that such minutes have been published on the HFRLA website for a period of 30 days prior to the annual meeting and are readily available to the membership. The minutes for the 2019 Annual Meeting, and for all future annual meetings, will continue to be posted on the HFRLA website in the members' only section, at a minimum of thirty days prior to the next annual meeting. The membership will be reminded in the spring newsletter that the annual meeting minutes can be found on the HFRLA website.

Vote for open Board of Directors positions

Mark Lavin and Dan Johnson discussed the voting process and mentioned the open board positions for re-election. Bob Jenkins (High Lake) did not run for re-election and Paul Egelhoff put his name on the ballot in Bob's place. A motion to close the nominations was made and passed. An additional motion was made to accept the slate of nominees listed below. A voice vote was held and passed unanimously electing the Fishtrap positions. A second voice vote unanimously elected the High Lake positions and third voice vote passed unanimously electing the At Large positions.

Dan Johnson	Fishtrap #2
Alan/Cathy McCully	Fishtrap #1
Paul Egelhoff	High Lake #1
Nicole Wilkins/Gary Thielens	At Large #1
Barb Wiesner	At Large #2

Fishtrap Dam Update

Dan Jacoby from the DNR presented on the repairs for the Fishtrap Dam. He provided the details and efforts the DNR is taking to accomplish this. As he gets further details and information on the redesign he will provide updates to Greg Van Grinsven and Ken Wiesner.

Treasurer Report

Dan Johnson presented a summary of the association's financial activity since our last annual meeting on June 30, 2018. He reported that the general fund has a cash balance of \$16,135.68. This balance does not reflect the dues paid by members at today's meeting. Dan also reported that he filed the required Wisconsin Department of Financial Institutions annual report and the 2018 IRS Form 990-N to maintain our tax-exempt status. (See Dan's attached report.)

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WIDNR) Surface Water Grant

Dan Johnson made available to the membership a WIDNR handout (See attachments) that shows all the WIDNR Surface Water Grant monies approved for 2019. HFRLA will receive \$11,009.25 towards our Comprehensive Lakes Management Plan - Implementation Procedures, which covers aquatic plant sampling and AIS inventories to be done this summer. Dan has contacted White Water Associates, Inc. (WWA) to perform these in all three lakes in July. WWA will provide a specialist to do the sampling and plant identification and to write up the report of their findings. HFRLA will provide a boat, driver and a scribe to assist the WWA specialist in the work. The schedule is as follows.

Fishtrap Lake	July 8 & 9,
High Lake and Rush Lake	July 10, 11, 12
Total Cost	\$14,700
DNR grant	<u>\$11,000</u>
HFRLA's portion	\$ 3,700 (covered by volunteer hours and cash payment of approximately \$1000)

The goal is to share all the data obtained from the sampling and inventories on the HFRLA Website and to repeat the process every five years.

History Book

Dan and Leslie Johnson funded the \$17,322.57 cost to print 500 copies of the HFRLA history book *Heavens on the Headwaters*. From the monies received from the sale of 406 books the association has reimbursed the Johnsons the entire printing cost plus the \$453.85 of postage costs. The association will use any future monies collected from the sale of the remaining copies of *Heavens on the Headwaters* to help fund the CBCW program.

Membership Update

Linda reported that we have 106 members. She thanked everyone for their generosity in supporting HFRLA mission of ensuring the quality of our lakes through their dues and additional donations.

She encouraged more members to get involved by volunteering to help with the upcoming lake plants survey and water quality work. She also asked for help from someone with Excel experience to assist with the membership database.

Loon Update

Linda Pils presented an audio of four loon calls, the wail, tremelo, yodel and hoot. She gave the following Northland College website for people to refer to learn more about our amazing loons. <https://www.northland.edu/=loonwatch>

She reported that this season started with 4 territorial loon pairs and the possibility of 8 chicks on High Lake. Sadly, due to high water on Rush Lake, one nest was wiped out. On the second try, the black flies were so bad that the loons abandoned that nest. The loon pair on Frog Island laid only one egg, and then also abandoned it due to the black flies. The same result was experienced with the Battleship Island pair. Luckily, the Bear Island pair, nesting on the other side of the island, indicative of a new male loon taking over the territory, hatched one chick. That family is still thriving.

Black flies were wicked all over the north woods this year, as is usually true with cold springs. Many of the female black flies that feed off the blood of the loon host might wait to begin her breeding cycle, but some still start early. This results in a longer than normal black fly season for loons, meaning less time to eat, preen and keep the eggs warm as they flee from the incessant biting of these voracious flies. (See Linda's attached report.)

Linda further explained that loons die an agonizing death with the consumption of just one lead sinker. She urged all fishermen and women to consider switching to using non-lead fishing materials. (See Roger Larson's presentation.)

Walleyes for Tomorrow/Boat Landing

Jim Merkowitz informed us that this was an off year for Walleyes for Tomorrow but they will need a potential spawning area on High Lake for next year. Gary Tielens and Jim Merkowitz will follow up with the homeowners on High Lake to obtain a spawning site for 2020. Jim also mentioned that the new kiosk is up at the boat landing. There is also an assigned space for handicapped parking. He encouraged all to stop by to see these improvements and to thank any of the CBCW's interns or volunteers who may be working to monitor boats at the High Lake boat landing.

No Lead Jigs

Roger Larson gave an informative report on the importance of using no lead jigs and sinkers. When lead is used and accidentally ingested by loons is it fatal to these beautiful birds. He provided a supply of them for purchase at a discount at the meeting. It was a successful sale as all the ones he brought were sold. Please keep this information in mind making future purchases at your local fishing supply store.

Clean Boat Clean Water (CBCW) 2019 program

Dan Johnson informed the membership that the Town of Boulder Junction was again sponsoring the continuation of the CBCW program for certain township boat landings. Included in this program is the public boat landing for High Lake located off County highway B. The High Lake landing will again receive 200 hours of inspection services in 2019 under this program.

Website presentation

Dan provided the membership with an overview and walk-through of the HFRLA website using the meeting room's overhead projector. He specifically highlighted the access and content of the "members only" section of the website.

Newsletter Update

Mark discussed the quality and importance of everyone's input that helps create a fantastic Newsletter. Please send your pictures and relevant content to Leslie Gauberti via email at lgauberti333@gmail.com

Open Discussions/Future Opportunities

There was a request to have the board look into the possibility of reconstructing the culvert between Rush Lake and Fishtrap Lake to allow bigger watercraft to travel from lake to lake. Significant discussion followed and included topics such as jurisdictional review and approval, cost, and impact on the sensitive wildlife habitat in Rush Lake. To get a sense of the membership's attitude supporting such a project, the Board conducted a straw poll via a secret ballot. The results of the straw poll indicated a strong opposition to any such change in the culvert structure.

Emily Heald Presentation

Bob Jenkins introduced guest speaker Emily Heald who did a presentation on Dragonflies. She gave an informative talk on the history, the growth process and importance of Dragonflies.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 pm.

A potluck followed.

Barb Wiesner, Secretary