Wizard Lake Watershed
&
Lake Stewardship Association

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2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

August 17, 2024

Jubilee Park Campground – Overflow Parking Area

- Blake opened 2024 AGM by welcoming everyone and stating that *'as per our bylaws, we require 15 members in attendance for the AGM to move forward. I see we have 15 plus; therefore, our WLWLSA 2024 Annual General Meeting shall proceed.'*
- Blake introduced the Board of Directors in attendance.
- Blake asked for a motion to accept the 2023 Annual General Meeting minutes. Donna Andres made a motion to accept the minutes, second by Shane Hammell.
- John Hrynkow, Treasurer, presented the June 01, 2023-May 31, 2024 fiscal year financial report and gave recognition and thank you to our accountant, Baker Tilly [bakertilly.ca] Baker Tilly accounting firm takes care of the Registered Charity filing and GST filing. John explained he is in charge of e-transfer and tax receipts were required. John made mention and thanked Bryan Mason for his past years of doing the financial records for WLWLSA. John thanked Kathie and Corey Drynan for reviewing the 2023-2024 year's financial records and confirmed that they will assist with the 2024/25 fiscal year audit going forward.
- Blake presented the Chair's update which brought forth a number of discussions from the attendees on not only current concerns but also historical information.
- Bryan Mason made mention of income tax benefits on donations.
- Bryan Mason put forth a suggestion to adopt a 'budget format' for WLWLSA which was taken for information.
- Bryan Mason made a motion to accept the Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association, Financial Information, Year Ended May 31, 2024 with Gerd Andres seconding.
- Bryan Mason suggested a 2025 Cost Budget Plan be developed. John mentioned that this would need to be taken to the Board to prioritize and categorizing projects such as water quality sampling.

WLWLSA Chair update by Blake Bartlett

BioHaven Floating Island Project update – Blake explained the purpose of the floating island project including the maintenance aspect along with the $50.00 AEP licensing fee along with the DLO Licensing. Discussion took place around type of aquatic plants in the island and that the islands stay in the water winter and summer. Blake has noticed little to no wear and tear on the islands which have been in water since 2017. Each of the 5 AEP licensed locations have a legal survey location. An explanation of the benefit to protect shoreline was given. Having an island in front of each house could be a long-term goal to slow down the wave action was suggested. Blake made mention of the new floating islands at the beach area of the Jubilee Campground.

2024 Tributary Sampling was completed in the spring of 2024. WLWLSA has the results from the laboratory; however, no analysis has been done by the consultants at this time for year 2022/2023/2024. Board will discuss future Technical Memorandums by Associate Environmental Consultants next year. WLWLSA volunteers sample 11 locations with 7 samples at each location collected. There is a cost to doing this volume of testing. Bryan Mason volunteered to assist with this cost of sampling for the 2025 season of up to $3000.00 Blake thanked Bryan for his generosity. Blake will contact a lab for a quote as the sampling season approaches in the spring of 2025. John Hrynkow made mention of the volunteer time that is required to do the Tributary Sampling Program at 11 locations.

Blake made mention the **Trail System signage** which WLWLSA has partnered with Land Stewardship Association and Leduc County will have 7 additional signs installed by the end of August/September. Linda B showcased a binder with copies of the variety of signs WLWLSA was involved with through a Land Stewardship Centre grant. Recently received signs for the Long Trail 1.6 km "Alberta Species at Risk" will be installed by the end of August. Blake thanked John Ipsen for his contribution to the history 'book' sign on the Historical Trail at Jubilee Campground. Blake showcased the sign binder put together.

The **NSWA Regional Lake Stewardship Project** on a Leduc County municipal reserve at the east end of Wizard Lake in the Wizard Lake Estates area partnering with NSWA, Leduc County and New Humble Community School year 4 and 6 students who assisted with the planting of approximately 250 plants. New Humble Community School teachers, parent volunteers and students enjoyed the opportunity to engage in this community event at Wizard Lake. WLWLSA's participation in this project was to engage with the New Humble Community School staff with WLWLSA supplying water/granola bars for the students; thus meeting our WLWLSA goals "educate watershed residents and lake users about individual stewardship and sustainable practices regarding environmental, wildlife and aquatic conservation" : 'promote a healthy shoreline' along with 'build good relationships with all jurisdictional bodies' and 'build community with residents and users to work toward common interests"

Blake addressed and explained the **concept of nutrient loading** to Wizard Lake. Blake is in conversation with three landowners on three areas around Wizard Lake ; south side, north side and west end. These projects are at various stages and are currently considered confidential.

Communications update by Donna Andres Donna gave an update on informing Mike Lake, our MP for this area and Rick Wilson, our MLA for this area.

Blake made mention that he had the opportunity to take Mike Lake and family on a short tour of Wizard Lake on his pontoon boat Park Day and had a great conversation about lake capacity. This was the second time that Blake has had an opportunity to discuss, in-person lake capacity and safety on the lake with Mike Lake. Donna Andres,

John Hrynkow, Blake Bartlett, Linda Bartlett had the opportunity previously to meet at our MLA Rick Wilson's office to discuss Wizard Lake.

Elise Pallard who is the WLWLSA website volunteer suggested anyone wanting to add pictures to the website could send them to her. Mention was made that the front cover page gives the latest updates.

Shane Hammell, who is the Edmonton Nature Alberta representative and WLWLSA's representative spoke about the Nature Alberta Program which has a membership fee of $15.00 which entitles you to the Nature Alberta magazine along with an excellent website of information on a variety of topics and kid's programs.

Election of Board Members by Shane Hammell

Shane Hammell handled the election of the WLWLSA Board of Directors procedure with those requiring re-election to a two year term as follows:

LeVerne Ellsworth	**Kevin Cummings**	**Kate Daniel**	**Linda Bartlett**
Elise Pallard	**Corey Drynan**	**Kathie Drynan**	**Shane Hammell**
Richard Ipsen	**Bryan Mason**	**Robert Skwarok**	**Donna Andres**
John Hrynkow			

All were appointed by acclamation. Thank you.

Those not requiring re election are:

Blake Bartlett	**Brian Clemo**	**Ray Assaf**	**Linc Drynan**
Albert Kamp	**Linda Hutchinson**		

Richard Ipsen nominated Reg McKinney to become a WLWLSA Director. LeVerne seconded that Reg McKinney become a WLWLSA Director. Blake welcomed Reg McKinney to the WLWLSA Board of Directors.

Gerd Andres made a motion to close nominations. Seconded by LeVerne Ellsworth.

Blake mentioned that the 2024 Try It Event had 28 WLWLSA volunteers. A suggestion of posting a list of job duties for volunteers required along with a description of the project could be helpful when volunteers are considering donating time. Taken for information.

LeVerne requested to be given time to talk to attendees about the history significance of the black gophers in a watershed field. Thank you LeVerne for this 'nature lesson' at our AGM.

The highlight of the AGM was the drawing for the wooden bear carving for which the WLWLSA Board of Directors sold raffle tickets under the AGLC License #681067 for a cost of $2.00 per ticket with a limit of 500 tickets being printed. All tickets were sold.

Blake invited Josh Bishop, Reeve for County of Wetaskiwin #10 to draw the winning ticket. The winning ticket drawn was Trevor Bartlett.

A motion was made by LeVerne Ellsworth and seconded by Brian Clemo to close the 2024 Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association Annual General Meeting at approximately 1:20pm

Additional topics of interest brought forth.

The attendees at the AGM had conversation about a variety of topics, both from a current perspective and a historical perspective concerning Wizard Lake watershed area and Wizard Lake itself with respect to water quality and safety on the lake. Summary as follows:

Discussion arose about the County boat launch. Residents have concerns about safety on the lake with not only the size of boats but the number of boats along with how the disturbance of the sediments at the bottom of the lake impact which may/or may not affect the blue algae in the lake. Bryan Mason spoke about a meeting held a number of years ago at Pipestone regarding phosphorous at the bottom of the lake which is stirred up from wave action.

Linda Hutchinson made mention of the 'green slim' they are seeing at the east end of Wizard Lake in the Wizard Lake Estates shoreline.

Riad Assaf spoke about a summary from the Uof M – summarized by Riad : "The Wake Responsibly campaign by the Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA) recommends wake boats maintain a distance of 200-300 feet from shorelines to minimize environmental impacts and shoreline erosion. A recent University of Minnesota study (2022) has shown that wake boats should operate at a distance of about 400-500 feet from the shoreline to reduce the wave impact to levels comparable to traditional recreational boats. Wizard lake is 0.34 miles at its widest (or 1,800 feet) and about 0.21 miles in the narrower sections (or 1,100 feet)."

Therefore, based on these figures, it would be best practice to advise wake boat operators to operate closer to the middle of the lake. Although in the wider sections, a quarter of the distance from the shoreline should still be fine, to keep a consistent message, best to advise to operate closer to the middle of the lake regardless of the width. This will be a good a solution for minimizing impact to the shoreline as well as allowing other users of the lake to enjoy their activities.

We need to educate locals and visitors including those testing new boats to be purchased from places like Wizard Lake Marine.

Question was asked as to why Wabamun can control the number of boats?

Bryan Mason made mention that Cactus Lake controls the number of boats but they have only one access point.

Historical information re limitation of boats was brought forth by Archie Roberts. Archie Roberts along with Rainville Kent would like to do further investigation on this topic for the Wizard Lake Watershed and Lake Stewardship Association's information.

Chris Daniel brought forth a discussion on the importance of removing weeds from the waterbody should one be cutting weeds. Suggestion was made that perhaps education of boat safety was once again necessary and that perhaps it was time to bring back the Wizard Lake Boat Safety Committee. Discussion was brought forth about doing a drone survey on the lake on a given day when the lake is very busy. Further discussions with Shane Hammell could shed some light on the ability to do this. Chris's comment : "Perhaps it is time to stand up again."

Blake mentioned that he visited the Oakville, ON Weed Harvester plant a few years back and at that time a harvester cost was around $150,000.00.

Terry MacDougall brought forth that he would like to work with the WLWLSA Board on a 'watershed plan related to land useage within the watershed'

Mention was made about years back, the Leduc County's Area Structure mentioned the benefits or not of serge ponds be put in around the lake.

LeVerne made mention that the Board needs help with projects. If you can assist, email Blake – blake@wizardlake.ca

Ron Patrick brought forth his concern about the increase of development in his area which is known as 'Suicide Hill'. His concern was the garbage/bottles being left in the area at the bottom of the hill along with ATV traffic up and down the hill to the lake. With the increase of traffic combined with new houses in the area of RR273 and TWP481 which has a 'blind' hill location, he is concerned about vehicle safety at the intersection.

Ron Patrick brought forth a suggestion that perhaps a Membership Drive for new people in the Wizard Lake Watershed area with a purpose of education to newcomers be of some benefit : ex. 'Welcome to Wizard Lake – Basic Introduction'

Blake asked "Was the WLWLSA Information binder and Technical Memorandum which was delivered to each watershed resident by the WLWLSA Board of Directors helpful."

Archie Roberts suggested he along with his son-in law would like to assist in an initiative to look at land use and boat safety awareness.