

# MINUTES of DIAMOND LAKERS ANNUAL MEETING

## JULY 20, 2024

3:01 Meeting called to order by President Scott Johnson with a loud stroke of the gavel followed by “Ole died, boat for sale” 5 words-for-free obituary joke. 33 properties were represented, felt to be a record.

- Guest Speaker Steve Schieffer of Ecological Integrity Services was welcomed.
- New Diamond Lakers: Jackie and Jon Pedersen Kristen and Todd Gillingham welcomed. Joey and Brad Kellogg joined DLers at the meeting. WELCOME ALL!!
- Incumbent Board Members Mark Wilhelm, Raye Lahti, and Bob Jacobel, all nominated for a 3-year term and voted in by voice vote with no nays heard.
- Treasurer Jacobel summarized ongoing revenues and expenses to Dec 2023. These have to be looked at from a perspective of two (or more) years as some grants are reimbursed a year after expenses have been incurred. Overall we are ahead about \$1480 over two years. In addition we have placed \$5000 of our cash in a Money Market Savings Account which carries the moniker of The D.L. Stewardship Fund. This has seen modest gains. 2024 may see an increase over our approximate \$1300/year increase in our treasury. This is due to Members contributing funds to the Stewardship fund in addition to their dues. In 2023 this number was \$500 and in 2024 the number is \$2400 so far! GREAT JOB!
- Rosebush gave brief overview of Creel Survey being conducted by DNR. We have 554 Walleye in DL which is more than any time in the last decade. The Creel Survey will be ongoing this summer and, in part, is there to assess fishing pressure on population. Felt to quite low generally.
- Rosebush put out request for any volunteers to join in AIS Monitoring. This will be a learning process for all but not very time consuming (about 4 hours/year/team)
- Jessie Meschievitz gave unfortunate Loon update. After 2023 success of two chicks, we had failure of both early and 2nd attempt (late June) nesting this year. Possible strong prevailing winds putting the platform awash could be the culprit. Repositioning or elevating platform will be considered.
- Boat Parade Winner put to a paper ballot vote. No Voter ID needed! Winner was the “LOONY” Carlson/Stivland craft. Sally Moser’s dock crew took the best port of call.
- Scott Johnson noted that ‘Lakes At Stake’ has a website with ongoing updates on statewide meetings and any rulings made regarding wakeboats. So far, the Grand View Ordinance for Diamond Lake seems to be effective.
- Scott Schieffer was our guest speaker and gave a nice summation of our recent (2023) shoreline assessment. This was done by Bay Area Environmental Consulting LLC and then analyzed by Steve. Since it was paid for by a generous gift from one of our members, some of the constraints placed by, for instance, a DNR grant, were obviated. It is notable that Steve worked for us for one extra year pro-bono, as conditions on year one were suboptimal for good data. Salient points are:
  - a. We have a good data set now
  - b. Diamond has never gotten eutrophic (poor) we have always been lower mesotrophic (B+) or upper

oligotrophic (A-). Lake Owen is in a class of its own statewide.

c. Water "Budget" for the lake is

"IN": Precipitation, 2 streams, Runoff and groundwater.

"OUT": Evaporation, outflow stream, loss to groundwater.

d. Runoff is key because despite being a small part of the "IN" it accounts for 27% of the phosphorous load, and it is one of the few factors we can actually control.

e. Control:

1) don't fertilize

2) make a 35 foot buffer strip between lawn and lake.

3) change manicured lawns to native.

4) Update septic system.

5) preserve shoreline vegetation

f. Steve noted that DL has only 3.7% manicured lawns. Some of Wisconsin's southern lakes are 78%!

- Wallen gave report on the Pilot Project thru Healthy Lakes and Rivers that we started this year. We started out small with a grant to provide up to \$1000 for each "practice" to be given to the owners upon completion of the project. The owner must either pony up an additional \$250 (or sweat equity at \$15/hour) and can spend considerably more but the Grant will provide no more than \$1000 for each practice. We will be looking for DLers interested in doing practices for 2025 and will apply for a new grant this fall for those interested. Maximum for each lake is \$25,000/year but DNR may not approve that much. OF NOTE: 30 minutes of educational time was spent following this annual meeting and another 1 hour and 45 minutes of educational time at a round table discussion July 27 with 12 properties represented. Examples of "practices" include fish sticks, native plantings, diversion, rock infiltration, and rain gardens.

- Johnson gave update on what we know so far about the North Diamond Lake Road culvert issue. The culvert and overlying road are acting as a dam now and are approaching life end. If the culvert were replaced with a larger one "at stream level", one estimate is that Diamond Lake could go down by 18 inches of depth. The Feds and State know we have expressed interest/ concern and we will have input.

- The meeting adjourned.

John Rosebush, Secretary