

FIMLA AGM 2019 Minutes (V1.3)

The 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Fourteen Island and Mink Lakes Watershed Association (FIMLA) was held at the home of Alan Boyce and Joyce Hodgins on Saturday, August 3, 2019. Approximately 50 members and several invited guests attended.

1. Welcome – Mary Rae

FIMLA President Mary Rae called the meeting to order at 11:05 am. Mary welcomed everyone and expressed thanks to Alan and Joyce for hosting the meeting this year at such a perfect spot on the lake.

Mary welcomed the invited guests and visitors, and guest speaker Brendan Cregg from Watersheds Canada.

Mary thanked everyone who contributed to the newsletter and Alan for his work putting the newsletter together. Mary thanked Anne Tucker and Susan Pine for organizing the food and Jim Pine and John Moreland for barbequing.

2. 2018 AGM Minutes – Susan Grigg

The 2018 AGM minutes (draft V1.1) were published in the Fall 2018 newsletter and on the FIMLA website. Copies of the newsletter were available at the AGM. Susan Grigg briefly reviewed items reported in the 2018 AGM minutes. Chris Caswell noted a change to the minutes in Section 3, paragraph 4 ('financial statement' instead of 'budget'). Mary asked for other corrections or omissions to the draft 2018 AGM minutes. No other changes were noted.

Resolution 2019-1

A motion to accept the 2018 AGM Minutes as presented in the Fall 2018 newsletter - with the Section 3 change from Chris Caswell - was moved by Gail Jefferies; seconded by Janine Knackstedt. Motion voted on and carried.

3. 2018 Financial Report and 2019 Proposed Budget – Mary Rae

Mary reviewed the FIMLA 2018 Financial Report as of December 31, 2018 and the 2019 Proposed Budget (copies of each were provided in the Summer 2019 newsletter and at the AGM).

Mary provided a summary of 2018 total income of \$2,620 (including a \$1,000 donation) and expenses of \$1,270.18. Mary expressed thanks to Richard Nageleisen and Tom Bryant for doing the boat launch dock repairs and noted that it is a real improvement. At 2018 year-end the actual balance was just over \$8,200; from that balance \$6,000 was allocated to the Gord Rodgers FIMLA Reserve Fund.

The 2019 proposed budget includes a total income estimate of \$1,350 and total expenses income of \$1,430. Expenses include \$500 for the purchase of gravel for the boat launch. It is also proposed to transfer \$1,000 from operations to the reserve, which would bring the total reserve fund to \$7,150, and leave \$987.19 as available operating funds.

Brief discussion followed. It was noted that the 2018 Financial Report should show the \$1,000 donation separately as a donation to the reserve under income. There was discussion regarding the P.O. Box cost (\$187) and necessity of keeping it; Mary noted that we receive Federation of Ontario Cottager's Associations correspondence, and some membership dues by postal mail, but will look at it over time now that e-transfers have been setup.

Resolution 2019-2

Be it resolved that the 2018 Financial Statement and 2019 Proposed Budget be accepted as presented at the August 3, 2019 Annual General Meeting and with the changes discussed. Moved by Grace D'Alo; seconded by Chris Caswell. Motion voted on and carried.

4. Fundraising – Dan Gilbert

Dan noted that the main goal for fundraising is the dam as it needs some tender loving care. The 2011 assessment was \$20,000 for refurbishment, now the cost could be higher. The dam holds back about seven feet of water, so if there is a breach it will have big effect. We have talked about it for some time but haven't acted on it and funds will be required to address it. The board of directors is open to ideas and would like to get a consensus; we need everyone's help and commitment to start raising the funds.

Dan provided a top-ten countdown list of engaging and fun fundraising opportunities to generate discussion and involvement by the membership. Suggestions include a golf tournament, raffle, silent auction, producing a cookbook for sale, an annual appeal for donations, a dinner, and increasing membership contributions. Group discussion followed and interest was expressed from many members present. There was interest in getting a current cost estimate for dam repairs and recommended timing for the work, exploring multiple fundraising options and involving the broader community (e.g. landowners downstream of the dam).

The following people signed-up for a fundraising committee: Tim Lloyd (golf tournament), Peter Bedoukian, Deb Gilbert, Shelly McWhirter (dinner), Gail Jefferies, Barb Rodgers, Chris Caswell, Grace D'Alo, John McDougall, Janine Knackstedt, Ruth Pettis, Susan Pine, Anne Tucker. A technical committee was also discussed; Richard Nageleisen and Alan Boyce signed up during the AGM.

Mary thanked Dan for his work, suggestions and discussion. Mary noted several things that should be part of the technical review, such as property ownership (dam edges two private properties) and permission from landowners, insurance requirements and legal implications. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has authority over dam management but that was delegated to the property owners by way of an agreement letter. Construction risk should be part of the cost estimate.

Susan Pine suggested tabling this item for the next board of directors meeting (work on a fundraising plan, considering feedback from the AGM). Alan suggested that Richard look at assessment and engineering needs. Funds for associated costs would come from the reserve set aside for dam repairs (costs for fundraising, assessment technical report etc.).

Resolution 2019-3

Be it resolved that required dam assessment and engineering costs will be authorized by the FIMLA executive and paid from the FIMLA bank account. Moved by Tom Bryant; seconded by Peter Bedoukian. Voted on and carried.

Craig asked about the condition of the road built when the dam was previously maintained and associated upgrade costs that need to be included. Peter Peart suggested asking David Babcock; 20 years ago, the vehicles came along a vehicle track.

Resolution 2019-4

Be it resolved that required costs for upgrading the access road to the dam will be authorized by the FIMLA executive and paid from the FIMLA bank account. Moved by Barb Rodgers; seconded by Linda Kriek. Voted on and carried.

5. Discussion Items

Eve and Joe Buckley had raised an issue of low wake signs last year. Alan showed the signs that they had purchased and posted at the narrows to Mink Lake; Alan will post one on the island opposite his home. The costs were \$22 per sign on Amazon.

Marj Peart encouraged users to contribute \$15 towards upkeep of Willy's lane, with summer and fall roadwork planned. The work done on the dock was appreciated.

Tom Bryant noted that he needs firewood; if anyone has a tree down that is accessible give him a call. He found a massive dead turtle near the Storms' dock and people may want to see it; big mossy shell and neck looked whitish (there had been a turtle earlier near a dock elsewhere that looked injured).

Tim Lloyd noted that he is still willing to do the water quality testing at Buffy Lake, but that he hadn't been contacted yet. Mary indicated that she will connect Tim with Brett Dark, as Brett is still coordinating the sampling. The water quality report is in the 2019 summer newsletter.

Gail Jefferies commended Alan and everyone who contributed to the newsletter and recommends that everyone read it. Alan encouraged everyone to contribute articles and photos (he can touch up photos if needed).

6. Guest Speaker – Brendan Cregg, Watersheds Canada

Mary introduced Brendan Cregg, Restoration Technician, Watersheds Canada. Brendan spoke to the membership about the Natural Edge Shoreline Naturalization Program, a three-year project to plant over 20,000 trees and wildflowers in the Quinte Conservation Authority watershed.

Brendan noted the importance of natural vegetation along shorelines including:

- wildlife (aquatic and terrestrial) habitat (food, shelter, spawning, breeding)
- helps to improve water quality and fish habitat
- root systems help stabilize shorelines and control erosion
- human benefits such as beauty of natural view, shade, privacy, reduced maintenance

Increasing urbanized shoreline development results in loss of plants and important ecological functions they provide, and that can affect the entire lake. Planting native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers along shorelines helps to preserve natural areas for the future.

The Natural Edge Shoreline Naturalization Program involves shoreline planning to help landowners restore and naturalize shoreline, deal with flooding/erosion, and enhance shoreline visually. Shoreline is defined as within the first 20 metres of the shoreline edge (focus as close to shoreline as possible). Priorities are level properties that are manicured (lawns) and replanting for immediate positive effects and future planning (rehabilitation is the focus); the program does not focus on steep shorelines and shoreline stabilization. In-water work and bioengineering and retaining walls are not part of the program (these require applicable permits). The program includes a no-cost site visit as the first step (assess shoreline with landowner, discuss interests, project goals, any restrictions such as water access, visibility), a planting plan (species, locations), securing federal and provincial grants to help pay for the plants, delivery of species and helping install and plant. Contact Watersheds Canada (telephone: 613-264-1244; email: naturaledge@watersheds.ca) to set up a site visit if interested. Brendan had a sign-up sheet and a brochure and workbook available. Their website is at <https://naturaledge.watersheds.ca/>

Questions and answers about the program and general discussion followed. Regarding lake phosphorus level, Brendan noted the Blue Lakes Project is being developed to compare phosphorus levels on lakes. Regarding landowner education, Brendan noted that Watersheds Canada is partnering with Cataraqui Region Conservation Authority this year and hoping to do other partnerships if funding is available. He mentioned a Love Your Lake Program, with education about shorelines and what to keep or improve (for example, a floating dock is better than a crib dock for fish habitat). The effects of damage to shoreline planting from beaver and deer was discussed. Suggested control approaches include: using species that aren't as well-liked by beaver or deer; cover plants with chicken wire cages when little, until grow higher and out of range for deer; plant densely along shorelines to allow for some being cut by wildlife.

Mary thanked Brendan for providing lots of valuable information and encouraged everyone to speak to him and look at the information available about the program.

7. Further Discussion & Adjournment

Mary Rae asked for a motion to adjourn the AGM at 12:25 pm. The motion was moved by Susan Pine and seconded by Brian Grigg. Everyone was thanked for attending. The membership and guests enjoyed a barbeque with desserts and beverages overlooking the lake. The meat was purchased from Gilmour's on 38 on Highway 38 in Harrowsmith.

Minutes prepared by Susan Grigg.