

Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association

12th Annual General Meeting

Minutes

Conducted by videoconference on October 17th, 2020, beginning at 10am.

1. Call to Order and Word of Welcome
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Adoption of the Minutes of the 11th AGM
4. Report of the Treasurer
5. Report on Eurasian Milfoil Control Measures
6. Report of the President
7. Fireworks: Survey Results and Implications
8. Open Discussion: Questions and Comments
9. Election of Board Members
10. Adjournment

1 Call to Order and Word of Welcome

The President, Francis LeBlanc begins the meeting at 9:30am to facilitate the integration of participants. By 10:04am, 23 participants have logged in. The Zoom logon credentials have been distributed by email to 215 members in good standing. At 10:10am, Francis declared a quorum and opened the meeting by welcoming the members present.

2 Adoption of the Agenda

Francis LeBlanc reviews the proposed agenda that was sent with the notice of the meeting and asks members if they wish to add items or otherwise modify the draft agenda. No such request is made.

Resolution 2020-AGM01 -Adoption of the Agenda:

On a motion by Marc Grégoire, seconded by Board Member Guy Gauvreau, it is resolved that the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting 2020 be adopted as proposed.

Adopted

3 Approval of the Minutes of the 11th AGM

Note to minutes

It is unanimously agreed by members present to dispense with the formal reading of the minutes of the 11th AGM held on July 20, 2019, which have been previously circulated.

Resolution 2020-AGM02 – Approval of the minutes of the 11th AGM of the Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association held on July 20th 2019.

On a motion by Board Member Brian Lahey, seconded by Judy McConnery, it is unanimously resolved by the members present that the minutes for the 11th AGM of the Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association, held on July 20, 2019, be approved as presented.

Adopted

4 Treasurer's Report

Francis LeBlanc invites the Treasurer, Ghislaine Turnbull, to table the report of the external auditor relating to the 2019 financial review. The Board of Directors has entrusted this task to Morris Richardson, who has the competency necessary to carry out the appropriate review.

Ghislaine Turnbull begins her presentation by pointing out some minor differences between the provisional document posted on the Association's website and the document being shared on the screen. The document summarizes the main items of income for the fiscal year ending on December 31st, 2019, resulting in members' equity of \$33,823.73. She invites questions from the membership and there are none.

Resolution 2020-AGM03 – Approval of the Financial Statements to December 31st, 2019.

On a motion by Secretary André Beauchemin, seconded by Board Member Brian Lahey, the external review by the auditor Morris Richardson, as tabled by the Treasurer, Ghislaine Turnbull, is unanimously resolved by the members present. The document comprises the following:

- A Balance Sheet at December 31, 2019 with assets on the one hand, and liabilities and equity on the other, totalling \$33,823.73; and
- A Statement of Income and Expenditures for the period from January 1, 2019 to December 31st, 2019, showing total income of \$18,034.00 and total expenditures of \$20,425.81.

Adopted

Treasurer Ghislaine Turnbull continues her report by tabling a second document consisting of an interim statement comprising a Balance Sheet in conformity with sub-paragraph a) of

paragraph 2 Article 191 of the Companies Act, as the time elapsed between the end of the period of the external auditor and the date of the Annual General Meeting exceeds four months.

The said document also comprises an interim Income Statement dated to September 30, 2020. In reviewing its principal elements, she notes the preponderance of the jute tarp pilot project in the current operations of the Association and highlights the importance of the donations received in mitigating the financial impact.

Note to Minutes – Balance Sheet and Interim Income Statements for the period beginning January 1, 2020 and ending on September 30, 2020.

Members present agree unanimously to accept, without further formality, the interim balance sheet and income statement for the period beginning January 1, 2020 and ending September 30, 2020, as tabled by the Treasurer, Ghislaine Turnbull. These statements show income totalling \$39,974.93 and expenditures totalling \$49,743.94 leading to an interim deficit of \$9,769.01 for the period, and assets, on the one hand, and members equity on the other hand of \$24,034.72 at September 30, 2020.

The Treasurer, Ghislaine Turnbull, asks members if they have questions regarding the interim statements.

Dick Ryan wishes to know the general structure of the financing for the jute tarp project, in particular, how much was financed by the Government of Quebec. Both the Treasurer and the President respond to the question.

Guy Gauvreau asks during what phase of the project will the bags be removed. Francis LeBlanc responds that this is planned for Phase 2, in 2021.

There are no further interventions and Francis LeBlanc thanks the Treasurer, Ghislaine Turnbull, for her report.

5 Report on the Eurasian Milfoil control measures

President Francis LeBlanc proceeds to report on the jute tarp project implemented during the summer. He thanks the volunteers and businesses who contributed to the success of Phase 1 (2020) of the project. He underlines the importance of support received in the form of donations. He emphasizes that the project is not finished, with four other phases remaining, beginning in 2021. He reiterates that, despite its financial and logistical importance, this project is experimental and cannot claim to eradicate the Eurasian milfoil. Details of the project will be set out in the next agenda item, and he welcomes additional questions under agenda item 8.

6 President's Report

President Francis LeBlanc refers to his written annual report tabled before the meeting. He notes that despite the upheaval created by the pandemic, the year 2020 will have been a particularly active and busy year for the Association. In fact, in addition to the jute tarp project referred to in agenda item 5, all recurrent Association activities were carried out. These included the deployment of the network of demarcation buoys to identify milfoil beds on Blue Sea Lake, water quality sampling activities under the RSVL on targeted lakes in the watershed, the publication of the bilingual electronic bulletin (Shorelines/En onde) and the maintenance of the Association web site. He expresses his thanks to the volunteers associated with these activities.

7 Fireworks: survey results and follow-up

The President invites Board Member Donald Karn to present the results of a survey of members regarding the use of fireworks for recreational purposes on the shores of lakes in the watershed.

Don Karn reminds the members present that the position of the Association has already been established by the Board of Directors since 2015, and that has been to oppose this practice. This stance is based on a precautionary principle, despite the inability of scientific evidence to prove beyond any reasonable doubt the probable negative effects of the chemical components released during the explosion and combustion of fireworks on riverbanks and on water bodies. The Association has had informal discussions with representatives of the municipalities on the subject and they do not consider that the situation justifies a regulatory intervention even if other grounds of concerns could be invoked, such as security and public order. To contribute to these exchanges the Board has seen fit to carry out a consultation with members of the Association. This took the form of a survey, via email, sent to 214 members in good standing a few days prior to this meeting. 80 members responded and 77 respondents were opposed or strongly opposed to lakeside fireworks.

The President, Francis LeBlanc, thanks Donald Karn for having conducted this exercise, which produced results that are particularly conclusive. The survey results will be tabled before representatives of both municipalities, and it is hoped that this initiative will advance the thinking of everyone concerned regarding this issue.

8 Open discussion: questions and comments

(Certain interventions may have escaped the attention of the secretary. The following represents the general content of the various topics discussed.)

President Francis LeBlanc invites members present to fully participate in this open forum which will assist the Board of Directors to direct the activities of the Association according to their preoccupations. He explains how the discussion will be managed in the videoconference situation.

Board Member Brian Lahey emphasizes the importance of the Association's accomplishments in 2020 and the revenue needed to achieve them. He believes that membership dues, which have remained at the same rate of \$20 for many years, should increase to \$25 or even \$50. Francis LeBlanc notes for future discussion by the Board of Directors.

Board Member Guy Gauvreau expresses his congratulations to President Francis LeBlanc for his important contribution to the activities of the Association in 2020, especially with regards to the jute tarp project. He however expresses concern that the proposed removal of the bags in Phase 2 (2021) is too soon and suggests this be postponed until Phases 3 or 4 so that the tarps on the bottom do not move. The President undertakes to discuss the issue with ABV des 7, the agency in charge of monitoring the project.

Member Judy McConnery notes that the use of waterfront property rentals through online platforms such as Airbnb is becoming more widespread and that this poses a challenge: how to communicate to these tenants' crucial information about the proper use of the shoreline and waterways, the meaning of yellow buoys, and good boating practices. President Francis LeBlanc asks the Secretary, André Beauchemin, if there is a registry of rental accommodations, similar to that for owners and the response is no.

Member Dick Ryan addresses two questions to President Francis LeBlanc. The first concerns the follow-up to the Geiger Report of 2010, which described potential sources of water quality degradation in the watershed. He wonders if an updated report has been produced, or if this is planned. President Francis LeBlanc replies that the mandate of the Geiger Report was to produce a snapshot of the situation at the time and did not include a follow-up component.

The second question concerns the monitoring of regulations related to shoreline vegetation, where everyone can easily see the persistence of unacceptable situations. President Francis LeBlanc says that this subject is raised regularly with municipal representatives who, for their part, maintain that the municipal inspection services are fully mandated to apply to regulations and, where necessary, offenses are prosecuted. The President takes the opportunity to ask Annie Parent, a specialist in this topic, for comment. Annie Parent says she is not familiar with the management of municipal programs and therefore declines comment. However, she says she personally observed, like several other neighbours and residents of Blue Sea Lake, the orange flags on shorelines in 2017 and 2018 indicating efforts by the two municipalities to bring lakeside property owners into compliance. This has been well regarded by occupants.

Member Marc Grégoire says he is impressed by the President's report and by the efforts of all the volunteers and cites, as an example, those who manage and support the Voluntary Lake Monitoring Program (RSVL). Thanks to their work over 15 years, it is now possible to observe that water quality is remaining steady, and even improving in certain respects.

Board Member Donald Karn returns to the previous discussion on shoreline vegetation and says that his repeated discussions with municipal representatives and officials have greatly reassured him as to the seriousness of the municipalities in ensuring compliance with shoreline

vegetation programs. These programs are supported by a general survey schedule and ongoing inspections.

In his capacity as manager for the Association's voluntary lake monitoring program, Donald Karn adds that tests to measure periphyton, a key indicator for measuring water quality, have this year, shown very encouraging signs. This may be related to the improvement of shoreline vegetation.

Denis Sicotte, a new member in 2020, returns to the previous intervention regarding making visiting tenants (Airbnb) aware of the meaning and respect for yellow buoys. While effective for public dock users, existing signage may not be targeting tenants using boats docked elsewhere.

Mr Sicotte also corroborates the previous point regarding the seriousness with which municipalities apply regulations regarding shoreline vegetation. As a new buyer he was obliged to provide detailed plans which were rigorously followed up. He was impressed by the thoroughness of the approval process.

Seeing no further interventions, the President concludes the question period and thanks the participants.

9 Election of Board Members

President Francis LeBlanc invites the assembly to proceed with the election of Board Members according to articles 15 to 18 of the Consolidated General Rules.

Resolution 2020-AG04 – Designation of a president for Board elections

President Francis LeBlanc moves, seconded by the Secretary, André Beauchemin, and it is resolved that Member Marc Grégoire be designated as President for the elections, who accepts.

Adopted

Resolution 2020-AG05 – Désignation d'une secrétaire d'élection

President Francis LeBlanc moves, seconded by Board Member Guy Gauvreau, and it is resolved that Deborah Davis be designated Secretary for the election, who accepts.

Adopted

Note to minutes, nominations

The President for the election, Marc Grégoire, explains the nomination and election process described in Article 17 of the Consolidated General Rules.

He then calls for nominations for Board positions 2, 4, 6, and 8 according to article 15, as this is even-numbered year.

Board members whose terms are up for renewal are:

- Donald Karn (position 2)
- Guy Gauvreau (position 4)
- Paul R. Ouimet (position 6)
- Position 8, which is vacant.

The President for the election receives the following nominations:

- Judy McConnery nominates Gab McConnery.
- Donald Karn nominates Guy Gauvreau.
- Francis LeBlanc nominates Evangeline Britt.
- Ghislaine Turnbull nominates Sylvie Turnbull .
- Francis LeBlanc nominates Donald Karn.
- John Turnbull nominates Dick Ryan.
- Francis LeBlanc nominates Paul R. Ouimet.
- Donald Karn nominates Judy McConnery.

There being no further nominations, the President for the election Marc Grégoire, declares nominations closed. He then asks each nominee if they accept or decline to be nominated.

Guy Gauvreau and Gabriel McConnery accept; all others decline.

Note to minutes, elected Board Members

As the number of candidates does not exceed the number of vacant Board positions, the President for the election, Marc Grégoire, declares the following candidates acclaimed according to Article 17 of the Consolidated General Rules.

- Gabriel McConnery (position 2)
- Guy Gauvreau (position 4)

President Francis LeBlanc thanks the election officers and congratulates the newly acclaimed Board members.

Note to Minutes, thank you to departing Board Members

President Francis LeBlanc offers a special thanks to long-serving Board Members, Donald Karn and Paul R. Ouimet for their exceptional service to the Association. He expresses the hope that the Association can continue to count on their support and advice.

President Francis LeBlanc then proceeds to announce that certificates of appreciation will be awarded to the departing Board Members, to volunteers Doug Burnside and Chris Shires, and to donor Douglas Cameron, for their exceptional contributions to the Association. These and other certificates of appreciation will be presented at a later date and their names will be published in the Associations bulletin.

10 Adjournment

At 11:45, President Francis LeBlanc declares that the agenda has been completed and, before adjourning the AGM, asks that Board Members remain online for a short meeting of the new Board of Directors, which typically follows the AGM.

Résolution 2020-AG06 – Adjournment

On a motion by Secretary André Beauchemin, seconded by Member Paul R. Ouimet, it is resolved that the present Assembly be adjourned.

Adopted

André Beauchemin, Secretary
Translated from the French by Francis LeBlanc