

13th Annual General Meeting

October 23, 2021 at 10am

Held virtually via Zoom

Documents:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes for the 12th Annual Meeting
3. Balance Sheet 2020
4. Income Statement 2020
5. Notes to Financial Statements
6. President's Report

Agenda

**13th Annual General Meeting of the
Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association
to be Held (virtually via Zoom)
on Saturday, October 23rd, 2021 at 10 am***

Item

Subject

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Call to Order and Word of Welcome |
| 2 | Adoption of the Agenda |
| 3 | Adoption of the Minutes of the 12 th AGM |
| 4 | Report of the Treasurer |
| 5 | Report of the President |
| | a) Water Quality Monitoring (Don Karn/Guy Gauvreau) |
| | b) Yellow Buoy Program (Dick Ryan) |
| 6 | Open Discussion: Questions and Comments |
| 7 | Election of Board Members |
| 8 | Adjournment |

* Please note that the link with Zoom begins at 9:30. A short review of the functionalities of Zoom will begin at 9:45, in order to facilitate the conduct of the meeting and the participation of the members present. Please join the call at 9:30am.

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

Balance Sheet as at December 31, 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	23 302,90	29 307,04
Accounts Receivable	<u>1 500,00</u>	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>24 802,90</u>	29 307,04
Fixed Assets		
Milfoil Equipment	9 038,24	6 520,86
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(3 811,82)</u>	<u>(2 004,17)</u>
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	<u>5 226,42</u>	<u>4 516,69</u>

TOTAL ASSETS	30 029,32	33 823,73
LIABILITIES		
Deferred Revenue	-	20,00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	20,00
MEMBERSHIP EQUITY		
Unassigned Equity	30 029,32	33 803,73
TOTAL EQUITY	30 029,32	33 803,73
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	30 029,32	33 823,73

Members' Equity Statement as at December 31, 2020

	Unassigned Equity	Unassigned Equity
	\$	\$
Balance as at January 1	33 803,73	36 195,54
Net Revenue over Expenses (Net Expenses over Revenue)	(3 774,41)	(2 391,81)
Balance as at December 31	30 029,32	33 803,73

Income Statement for the Year Ended December 31, 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
REVENUE		
Membership Dues	4,700.00	6,557.00
Municipal Grants	4,949.57	5,867.00
Municipal Grants re Jute Program	15,017.24	-
Donation from a Foundation	2,500.00	-
Donations from Members	20,404.03	5,520.00
Other	41.63	90.00
TOTAL REVENUE	47,612.47	18,034.00
EXPENSES		
RSVL Water Quality Program	1,560.00	1,940.47
Milfoil and other Invasive Species Control Program	1,804.74	2,155.94
Awareness and Information Program	520.00	1,618.49
Jute Tarp Program	42,657.28	6,346.62
Administration	1,789.63	3,202.99
Membership Renewal and Recruitment	156.85	2,316.19
Lake Edja Membership Reimbursement	100.00	1,100.00
Website	990.71	440.94
Depreciation	1,807.65	1,304.17
TOTAL EXPENSES	51,386.88	20,425.81
NET REVENUE OVER EXPENSES (NET EXPENSES OVER REVENUE)	(3,774.41)	(2,391.81)

Notes to Financial Statements as at December 31, 2020

1. Status and objectives of the organization:

The Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association was created as a not-for-profit organization in 2010 under Part III of the Quebec Corporations Act and, since September 18th, 2018, has been a Charitable organization under the Federal Income Tax Act. Its objectives are as follows:

- a) Education and awareness of the lake population as to the importance of protecting its watershed by maintaining information kiosks, a website, and electronic bulletins;
- b) Ongoing maintenance of a water sampling and analysis program;
- c) Implementing a jute tarp program as a measure to control problems raised by Eurasian milfoil and other invasive species.

2. Accounting Practice:

Revenue and expenditures are recorded on an accrual accounting basis.

3. Accounts Receivable

Annually, the Association submits to the Municipalities of Blue Sea and Messines a written request for financial assistance to carry out its various programs. The amount of assistance is recorded as a grant receivable only when an amount is approved by their respective Councils.

4. Fixed Assets:

Due to the cost of the material and the life expectancy of the milfoil buoys, they are recorded as fixed assets and amortized over a period of 5 years.

President's Report

Francis LeBlanc

The year 2021 was another busy year for the Association, despite the ongoing uncertainty and restrictions of the coronavirus pandemic. Under the leadership of Don Karn, we continued our annual program of water quality monitoring within the scope of the *Réseau de surveillances volontaires des lacs (RSVL)* program. The yellow buoy program continued to expand under the direction of Dick Ryan. Our partner Municipalities continued their vital mandatory boat washing program which was strongly supported by the Association in its electronic communication.

In addition, the Association continued its efforts to produce a comprehensive and user-friendly set of navigation guidelines as an aid to boaters using Blue Sea Lake. We also used the results of our survey of members, reported on at our last AGM, to prod municipal leaders in adopting measures to restrict the practice of launching fireworks near our lakes and waterways.

As a response to Member suggestions raised at our October 2020 AGM, we began work on a pamphlet that would provide practical tips and good practices be directed at the growing number of renters who currently visit our watershed. We also began exploring the possibilities of some form of follow-up to the 2010 Geiger Study which provided an important reference tool in assessing the environmental health of the watershed.

However, the activities of the Association were focused on Phase 2 of the biodegradable jute tarp experiment initiated in 2020 as a way of controlling the spread of Eurasian Milfoil on Blue Sea Lake. The challenge this year was the removal from the lake of some 4,000 bags of gravel used to weigh down the jute tarps. Addressing this challenge consumed the energies of the Board, numerous volunteers, and a team of skilled divers, in the planning, coordination, and removal of these bags over two strenuous weekends in June and July. The bags have, for the most part, been removed from the lake¹. There remain the inspections by our partner, ABV des 7, in 2023 and 2025, before we can report on whether this approach is an effective means of addressing our milfoil problem.

Meanwhile, our neighbouring Association, the *Association pour la protection des lacs des Cèdres*, carried out an interesting and promising experiment in deploying synthetic tarps to address its milfoil problem on Little Cedar Lake. The task of the Association is now to see how we can use the lessons learned from these and other experiments to come up with practical and environmental responsible ways of controlling the spread of this invasive species.

During the year, I have redoubled my efforts to reach out to lake Associations and groups beyond our region, to make connections and to learn lessons from others about to protect and preserve the environmental health of our watershed. In May I attended a two-day virtual seminar, sponsored by RAPPEL, a consultancy operating in the Eastern Townships. And in September I attended a networking forum organized by COBALI, the *Lièvre River Watershed Committee*, and featuring presentations from several local watershed associations. I learned about how other associations are addressing the challenges we face. It was also clear that in certain programs, such as mandatory boat washing and the establishment of demarcation buoys, our Association is leading the way. This is a tribute to the energy and dedication of our volunteers and the leadership the Association has enjoyed since its creation.

For example, the Association has been fortunate that Paul Ouimet, a dedicated and multiskilled professional with a cottage on Blue Sea, took on the job of building the Association website and for more than 10 years has managed the site with its many functionalities. Paul has continued to serve the Association, although he no longer has a residence in the region. It is now time we liberate Paul and refresh the website and our communications tools for a new generation of users. This, I believe, should be a priority of the Association.

The year has been tinged with sadness. In May, our skilled, energetic, and devoted Secretary, André Beauchemin, passed away suddenly, leaving a tremendous void. And shortly after our 2020 AGM, we learned that our Treasurer, Ghislaine Turnbull had been diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). Despite the devastating debilitation of this incurable neurological disorder, Ghislaine has ably performed her duties as Treasurer with extraordinary courage and good humour.

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the hardworking members of our Board of Directors, our Municipal partners and supportive community leaders in Blue Sea and Messines, the volunteers who participated in the various activities of the Association, and the

many members who continued to support the Association through their membership dues, generous donations, and active engagement. We have a vibrant Association, with the environmental health of the Blue Sea Lake watershed as its mission and with people at its heart. There is still much we can do together. I look forward to the time, hopefully at our next AGM, when we can meet in person.

Notes:

1. The bag removal operation was overseen by Pascal Samson, Chief biologist for ABV des 7, in accordance with requirements by the Government of Quebec. There remains an issue of reconciling the gap between the estimated 3,768 bags deposited into Blue Sea Lake in 2020 and the 2,619 retrieved this year, as well as the matter of whether 5 small gaps in the tarps laid in 2020 need to be covered. This is being examined by ABV des 7 and is discussed in his Phase 2 Assessment Report of the Project