

14th Annual General Meeting

Municipal Hall in Messines
August 6, 2022 at 10am

Documents:

1. Agenda
2. Minutes for the 13th Annual General Meeting
3. Balance Sheet 2021
4. Income Statement 2021
5. President's Report

Agenda

**Fourteenth Annual General Meeting of the
Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association
To Be Held on Saturday, August 6, 2022, at 10:00am
At the Municipal Hall in Messines***

<u>Item</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1	Call to Order and Welcome
2	Adoption of the Agenda
3	Adoption of the Minutes to the 13 th AGM
4	Report of the Treasurer
5	Report of the President
7	New Website
8	Open Discussion: Questions and Comments
9	Election of Board Members
10	Adjournment

* Please note that registration begins at 9:30am. For public health reasons, no beverages or food will be offered.

Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association

13th Annual General Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Conducted by videoconference on October 23rd, 2021, beginning at 10 AM.

1. Call to Order and Word of Welcome
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Adoption of the Minutes of the 12th AGM
4. Report of the Treasurer
5. Report of the President
6. Open Discussion: Questions and Comments
7. Election of Board Members
8. Adjournment

1 Call to Order and Word of Welcome

- Meeting started at 10:07 AM
- Twenty-one members present
- Welcoming words by President Francis Leblanc
- Tips for using Zoom and common practices
- Meeting recording starts at 10:12 AM – recording will not be shared with outside members
- Welcome to a few guests: Louis Andre (journalist for CHGA), and Larry Moore (President of the Lac des Cèdres Association)

2 Adoption of the Agenda

- Overview of the agenda in both official languages

Resolution 2021-AGM13 – Adoption of the Agenda:

- Motion to adopt the agenda for the 13th AGM proposed by Brian Lahey, seconded by Dave Maclaren

Agenda Adopted

3 Adoption of the Minutes of the 12th AGM

Note to Minutes

- No errors, omissions, or changes required to the meeting minutes

Resolution 2021-AGM13 – Approval of the minutes of the 12th AGM of the Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association held on October 17th, 2020.

- Motion to approve the meeting minutes from the 12th AGM proposed by Brian Lahey, seconded by Marc Gregoire

Meeting Minutes Adopted

4 Treasurer’s Report

- Call to BSLWA members for a treasurer
 - Ghislaine Turnbull is no longer able to act as treasurer due to her illness
 - She has been an integral member to the Association
- The treasurer’s report presented today has been developed by Ghislaine Turnbull, but will be presented by Francis Leblanc
- External review by an auditor for the 2019 financial reports
- 2020 financial reports are currently interim reports, however, will be covered at a high-level
- Income statement for year 2020
 - Net revenue of (\$3,774.41) for 2020
- Income Statement Jan 1 to Sep 30, 2021
 - Total Revenue \$21,766.90
 - Total Expenses \$16,767.23
- Membership holdings: 320 in 2021, which represents an increase from 2020 (235)
- Donations totaled \$40,557.42 over the last three years
- Without the generous donations from our members, the Association would have never been able to carry out the projects it did, so thank you to all members
 - In particular, the jute tarp project was largely funded by our members
- As of Sep 28, 2021, the Association has \$28,880.48 in cash – financially, the Association is currently in a healthy state
 - Expecting to end the year with around \$33,000 in cash, once all receivables have been collected

Resolution 2021-AGM13 – Approval of the Financial Statements to December 31st, 2020.

- Motion to approve the financial statements proposed by Dick Ryan, seconded by Guy Gauvreau

Financial Statements Adopted

5 President’s Report

- The President's Report is available on the Association's website – Francis will try and cover items that are not available on the website
- Francis started the report by honouring two past members (and board members) of the Association who tragically passed away this year: Gilles Galipeau and André Beauchemin
 - Two very important contributors to the Association and friends to all
- Francis begins the report by thanking the members from the Board of Directors – it has been a very busy and active year and all members have been integral in moving forward the work
- Highlights
 - The Board oversaw Phase II of the jute tarp project (bag removal)
 - Required significant planning and oversight
 - RSVL water quality testing (Don Karn and Guy Gauvreau)
 - Yellow Buoy Program (Dick Ryan)
- Thank you to our municipal partners for both financial and political support of our programs and initiatives, such as the boat washing program, establishing regulations for shoreline vegetation, etc.
- Principal activities to be covered:
 1. RSVL Water Quality Monitoring (Don Karn & Guy Gauvreau)
 - a. Cost for testing of water will be covered by municipalities and the Quebec government for the next two years
 - b. Water quality was good this year
 - c. Anyone interested in helping test water quality, please contact Don and/or Guy
 2. Yellow Buoy Program (Dick Ryan)
 - a. Yellow buoy program involves the marking of Eurasian milfoil beds with yellow buoys
 - b. The purpose of this program is not to eliminate milfoil beds but rather to reduce the spread of this species
 - c. Buoy program started in 2013
 - d. The program has progressively expanded and now involves the installation and retrieval of approximately 230 buoys
 - e. Six teams lead the work of installing the buoys across the lake
 - f. Call for more volunteers so we can maintain and expand the buoy program – if you're interested in joining us, please contact Dick or any board member
 - g. Need help identifying additional unmarked beds of milfoil growth
 - h. Call to the public to politely educate others on the buoy program – let renters, fisherman and others know why those buoys are there
 3. Initiative on Navigation Guidelines
 - a. Project is a bit on pause right now
 - b. Will continue in the future with this initiative
 - c. Don Karn has been the lead on this
 - d. More to report next year
 - e. The jute tarp program took priority this year

4. Phase II of the Jute Tarp Project
 - a. When we installed the jute tarps last year one of the conditions is that we would remove the gravel bags weighing down the jute tarp, after one year
 - b. ABV des 7 was not able to deliver on removing the bags (due to certain unforeseen conditions)
 - c. The Board undertook the oversight and planning of this project on their own
 - d. Involved the use of special equipment and the contracting of professional divers
 - e. For the bag removal, we created a special working group which planned and executed the bag removal project
 - f. ABV des 7 chief biologist, Pascale Samson, was on hand for the entire operation, to oversee it – Pascal wrote an assessment of the project, which is available on our website in French, and has proclaimed the project a success
 - g. Two assessments will come in 2025 by ABV des 7, which will oversee the entire project and provide a beginning to end overview of the effectiveness of the project
 - h. The bag removal project will have cost the Association about \$15,000 for this part of the project – the two municipalities will cover approximately \$10,000, so the cost to the Association will be approximately \$5,000 which is quite reasonable given the magnitude of the operation
 - i. Larry Moore (President of the Lac des Cèdres Association) will explain their own jute tarp project and how it was carried out:
 - i. Much in common between our two lakes
 - ii. Eurasian milfoil was discovered in 2017/18 in their lake
 - iii. Low density of the invasive plant and its presence in Little Cedar Lake meant that an extraction methodology was the best option – involved a lot of the same methods and equipment as used on Blue Sea Lake
 - iv. Given the arrival of the pandemic, it was difficult to draw any conclusions of the project
 - v. Discovered there was also another evolving solution which they explored – process was that they had training with University Laval (Vincent Gagne) on the optimal strategy – also got training from Lac des Plages – made a decision early on that there was room to combine the two techniques to accelerate the program – place for extraction where there was low density, and a place for the new approach where there was higher density – it involved the construction of a platform, similar to Blue Sea
 - vi. For the second program they put in place, it was based on the purchase and installation of fibre glass tarps, installed by professional divers
 - vii. 1,400 sq. metres of tarp were installed – 7 ft by 50 ft lengths were cut and installed – held in place by steel rods
 - viii. Installed these in 2 sites, and monitored the tarps throughout the Summer

- ix. The difference is that this tarp is more effective, and its easier to install and remove
 - More expensive to purchase these fibre glass tarps, but they can be re-used for 7-10 years which may actually re-coop the cost
- x. Tarps were in the water for 60 days
- xi. Post-project inspection was done in October and results were very promising
- xii. They will continue to use both techniques, removing the milfoil by hand, and in areas of high density (80% milfoil growth), using the fibre glass tarps – this appears to ne the best option for Lac des Cèdres
- xiii. The BSLWA will continue to work with Lac des Cèdres, and other groups to identify the best possible solutions as we move forward
- xiv. How many sq metres of milfoil was on Lac des Cèdres?
 - Much less than what is on Blue Sea Lake – they have 7 or 8 sites of growth on the lake – in some areas it is present but mixed with other species and only covers 20-30% density in that area – they believe they can handle roughly 1,400 metres sq in a given season
- xv. Would like to see a cost analysis of the cost per sq metre of the two different tarps (jute vs fibre glass) – the fibre glass tarp was roughly \$4.00 - 4.50 per sq metre
 - The benefit of using the synthetic tarps is can be re-used for 7-10 years – they require to be cleaned every time they are removed, thus require lots of manpower

5. Communications

a. Renter's Pamphlet

- i. Renters pamphlet produced by the McConnery family, which includes best practices and regulations to follow when on the lake
- ii. A first version is available on the Association's website
- iii. For any suggestions and feedback, please send them to Judy McConnery
- iv. Also looking for any advice on how to best distribute this pamphlet

b. Website

- i. Has been managed and run by Paul Ouimet however he has left the region, so we are now looking for new resources to help run the website
- ii. Our website is outdated, and is no longer effective for communicating – it's based on outdated tools
- iii. Our number one priority for the new year is to update and modernize our communications, largely based on the website
- iv. Looking for volunteers and expertise to help improve our Association's communications, most notably the website

6 Open discussion: Questions and Comments

Judy McConnery will be moderator for the question period.

1. Congratulations to Francis Leblanc for his outstanding work, he has been a tremendous asset to the Association
2. With low water levels this year, we've seen less milfoil washed up on shorelines, in comparison to past years – this is a credit to the yellow buoy program which has been seen as largely effective
3. Suggestion by Marc Gregoire that the Association look at purchasing or creating personal kits for the eradication of milfoil (jute or synthetic tarp) – this would invite cottagers/homeowners to have and install their own kits to manage milfoil growth in their areas
4. Wondering if its possible that we pull out the milfoil in areas of high density, such as the northern end of Blue Sea, where the lake connects to Little Cedar Lake, near the creek – in areas of high growth. Pulling out the milfoil is not recommended due to its high probability of spreading (it may make matters worse) – one little piece of milfoil can lead to the new growth of large beds – a more effective solution would be to install personal tarps in own areas, as suggested by Marc
5. Jon would like to commend Francis for his leadership and management of the jute tarp project
6. Many seem to like the approach of managing our own front yards with their own kits – appears to be the only reasonable solution to limiting the growth of milfoil – we will continue to work with the municipalities, other Associations and the Quebec government to find a method that is approved and environmentally sound
7. Call for volunteers to help with water testing, which runs from June to early October – results of the water testing are on the RSVL website
8. Fireworks – appeared to be a quieter summer concerning fireworks – no reason to not continue the dialogue with the municipalities to continue to reduce the fireworks being launched near the lakes for both social and environmental issues – we have not abandoned our dialogue regarding fireworks – the municipalities believe that regulating fireworks is unenforceable, therefore we will continue to work with them on this issue
9. Don Karn read online that it is not recommended to put milfoil in compost bins – any advice or guidance on this? Recommended to burn the milfoil, as the plant may survive up to one month outside of water – another option is to burry it, however this needs to be done far away from water sources, and ideally buried in sand – putting milfoil in municipal compost bins may not be an issue given it's brought to a separate site, away from water sources – the Association will follow up with the municipalities to confirm this practice
10. The Association should consider hiring a part-time project manager to undertake and oversee some of its initiatives
11. If anyone has suggestions on how to contact rental properties (e.g., Airbnb's), please contact Judy McConnery so that we can send them our pamphlet – the municipalities have not been helpful in providing a list of rental properties

7 Election of Board Members

- Guy Gauvreau and Gabriel McConnery are not up for nomination as they are on two-year terms
- Marc Gregoire will lead the nomination and election of Board Members

John nominates Francis Leblanc (**Accepts**)

Francis nominates Marc Nadeau (**Absent but has accepted**)

Brian Lahey nominates Dave Maclaren (**Accepts**)

Judy McConnery nominates Nicholas McConnery (**Accepts**)

Guy Gauvreau nominates Brian Lahey (**Accepts**)

Judy nominates Lesley Cameron (**Accepts**)

Francis Leblanc nominates Gail McConnery (**Rejects**)

8 Adjournment

- Francis thanks everyone for their participation, and to all members that have helped the Association as donors, volunteers, and other methods
- Francis presented some names for certificates of appreciation – inviting others to present others that deserve recognition

Resolution 2021 – AGM13 – Adjournment

- Meeting adjournment proposed by Ghislaine Turnbull, seconded by Judy McConnery

Meeting Adjourned

Gabriel McConnery, BSLWA Secretary

Balance Sheet as at December 31, 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	37,037.70	23,302.90
Accounts Receivable	837.39	1,500.00
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	37,875.09	24,802.90
Fixed Assets		
Milfoil equipment	9,038.24	9,038.24

Accumulated depreciation	-4,857.10	-3,811.82
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	4,181.14	5,226.42
TOTAL ASSETS	42,056.23	30,029.32
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities	-	-
Deferred Revenue	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	-
MEMBERSHIP EQUITY		
Equity	42,056.23	30,029.32
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	42,056.23	30,029.32

Members' Equity Statement as at December 31, 2021

Balance as at January 1	30,029.32	33,803.73
Net Revenue over Expenses (Net Expenses over Revenue)	12,026.91	(3,774.41)
Balance as at December 31	42,056.23	30,029.32

Income Statement for the year ended December 31, 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
REVENUE		
Membership Dues	6,460.00	4,700.00
Municipal grants	6,253.16	4,949.57
Municipal grants re jute program	6,253.16	15,017.24
Donations from a foundation	1,000.00	2,500.00
Donations from Members	11,253.39	20,404.03
Quebec & Federal Sales Tax	3,336.16	-
Other	17.36	41.63
TOTAL REVENUE	34,573.23	47,612.47
EXPENSES		
RSVL Program-water quality	1,357.59	1,560.00
Control of milfoil and other invasive species	835.31	1,804.74
Awareness and Information	313.41	520.02
Jute Tarp Program	15,601.52	42,657.28
Administration	1,184.51	1,789.63
Membership renewal and recruitment	1,784.62	256.85
Website	424.09	990.71
Depreciation	1,045.28	1,807.65
TOTAL EXPENSES	22,546.33	51,386.88
NET REVENUE OVER EXPENSES (NET EXPENSES OVER REVENUE)	12,026.91	(3,774.41)

President's Report

Francis LeBlanc

After two eventful years, the year 2022 has been one of consolidation and relative calm for the Association. Recall that during the summers of 2020 and 2021 we were deeply engaged in work associated with the experimental jute tarp project we undertook to control the expansion of Eurasian milfoil on Blue Sea Lake. The entire summer of 2020 was devoted to carefully laying the biodegradable tarps over the selected monospecific milfoil beds in Blue Sea and Messines. The summer of 2021 was devoted to removing the bags of gravel that been mandated by the Quebec government to weigh down the jute tarps. These labour-intensive projects challenged the capacity of our organization and engaged many of our volunteers. I am proud and grateful for the support the Association received, both in kind and financially, to enable us to successfully carry out this project.

In addition, last year the organization lost the services of two of its most devoted volunteers and Board Members, our long-time Secretary, André Beauchemin, and Treasurer, Ghislaine Turnbull, while a third, Paul Ouimet, our webmaster, left the region. We have been fortunate in finding accomplished and dedicated successors, who are more than up to task. Since then, Paul has continued to support the maintenance of the website and the production of our electronic newsletter, while we undertake the process of building a new website.

I am pleased to report that the Association has awarded a contract to a local firm, *Inter-Vision* (www.inter-vision.ca), to rebuild and modernize our Association website and equip it with the communication tools we need to stay in touch with our membership. I am hopeful that we will soon be able to retire the current site and liberate our webmaster, who has put in so many hours over the past 13 years in designing and maintaining this critical tool.

In addition, the Board has been exploring new initiatives to support and sustain the environmental health of our watershed, in collaboration with our municipal partners and other local stakeholders. One of these is to launch a successor study to the technical update of the Blue Sea Lake and Blue Sea Stream watersheds by the *Groupe d'Études Interdisciplinaires en Géographie et Environnement Régional* (GEIGER) in 2011 and the follow-up studies by ABV des 7 and Groupe Hémisphère afterwards. The key questions are what study will best inform the current challenges facing our watersheds and what resources are out there to support this work.

In the meantime, the Association continues with its key programs. Under the leadership of Don Karn and Guy Gauveau, our volunteers continue to carry out the annual schedule of water quality sampling and testing under the auspices of the RSVL program. The placement of yellow demarcation buoys continues to expand under the leadership of Dick Ryan and his growing group of volunteers. Our partner municipalities, Blue Sea, and Messines, continue their vital mandatory boat washing programs, which the Association strongly supports.

As well, the Association continues to promote good watershed stewardship through its electronic bulletin, Shorelines (En onde), and other communications. A colourful new bilingual brochure, aimed at renters, is now available at municipal offices, local depanneurs, and the Association website.

During the past year, I accepted two new responsibilities, both voluntary, which complement and extend my work as President of the Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association. The first is as President of the *Regroupement pour la protection de l'eau de la Vallée-de-la-Gatineau (Regroupement)*. The Regroupement is an umbrella organization, which, for the past 10 years, has been mobilising the efforts of the 17 municipalities, more than 40 Associations, and other stakeholders and advocates on key issues of water protection in the region. Secondly, I have joined the multi-stakeholder Consultative Committee formed by ABV des 7 to advise on the development of its water development plan for the Western Quebec region. Both are valuable learning and networking opportunities and align with one of my key priorities as President of the Blue Sea Watershed Association: building alliances of like-minded individuals and groups in support of improving the environmental health of our waterways.

In closing, I would like to thank the Board of Directors and the membership of our Association for their loyal support during these challenging years. Your contribution of time and money has enabled us to take on big projects and has demonstrated you are prepared to invest in the health of our watershed. I also want to thank our municipal partners, Blue Sea and Messines for their ongoing support. Addressing the challenges of keep our watershed healthy in the future may well require bigger and bolder initiatives. We can only contemplate them if we are prepared to work together.

July 2022