



Meeting Minutes
Fourteenth Annual General Meeting of the
Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association
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
6	Report on Eurasian Milfoil Control Measures
7	New Website
8	Open Discussion: Questions and Comments
9	Election of Board Members
10	Adjournment

1. Call to Order and Welcome

- Meeting starts at 10:10 am
- 42 members present, 3 non-members and 4 guests
- Opening remarks from Francis
- Francis introduces the two guests
 - General Manager and Secretary Treasurer of Blue Sea, Christian Michel
 - Assistant General Manager of Blue Sea, Emmanuelle Michaud
 - Member of the Blue Sea Municipal Council, Paul Dénommé
 - Chief Biologist of ABV des 7, Pascal Samson
- The meeting will be held in both official languages, additionally, all documents are available in both French and English

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- Motion to adopt the agenda proposed by Marlène Thonnard, seconded by Lucie Nadeau

Agenda Adopted

3. Adoption of the Minutes to the 13th AGM

- No errors or omissions pointed out
- Motion to adopt the minutes from the 13th AGM proposed by Gail McConnery, seconded by Don Karn

Minutes Adopted

4. Report of the Treasurer

- Report presented by Treasurer Jean-Serge Rochon
- Financial review letter by accountant Morris Richardson
- Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2021
 - Financial figures in the balance sheet are correct
- Income Statement as of December 31, 2021
 - Financial figures for the income statement shown on screen for 2021 are incorrect – please refer to what Jean-Serge reported verbally, or to the BSLWA website for the correct figures
- 323 members in 2021
- 235 members in 2020
- For 2022, as of July 31st
 - The Association has 107 membership inscriptions
 - Donations totaling \$8,275.00
 - Total expenses of \$8,800.00
- Members will get an income tax receipt when they pay their membership dues and/or make a donation to the Association
- Motion to adopt the treasurer's report proposed by Jean-Serge Rochon, seconded by Louise Véro

Report Adopted

5. Report of the President

- Report presented by President Francis Leblanc
- Highlights

- The board met five times since the last AGM
- Held a tripartite meeting with both municipalities
- Met with our neighboring Association, APCL
- Produced three newsletters
- Nick McConnery led a working group to develop a new website
- Produced an educative renter's pamphlet
- Two Anchor Programs
 - Water Quality Monitoring – program available through the RSVL system
 - Led by Don Karn and Guy Gauvreau, along with their team of volunteers
 - Yellow Buoy Program
 - Led by Dick Ryan and supported by a number of teams of volunteers
- Special thanks to our volunteers for supporting these key programs
- Special thanks to our members and those that make donations that allow us to pursue these programs
- Special thanks to our municipal partners that empower and collaborate with us to pursue these programs

6. Report on Eurasian Milfoil Control Measures

- In 2020 we spent the summer installing jute tarps in both Messines and Blue Sea. This was a full summer of work and involved numerous volunteers and the help of ABV des 7
- In 2021 we had to remove roughly 3,500 bags that were installed to weigh down the jute tarps. This activity was led by a professional group of divers along with support from ABV des 7
- This is an experiment, and we are gathering information about the program. There have already been two follow-up reports, one at the end of 2020 and a second by Pascal Samson of ABV des 7, which was conducted in 2021. Both reports are available on the Association's website
- Next year there will be a third follow-up report to see how well the tarps have decomposed and how they have mitigated the growth of the milfoil
- A fourth and final follow-up report will be conducted in 2024 which will conclude this exercise and will produce valuable insight as to the best way to proceed in the combat against the growth of Eurasian milfoil
- In summary
 - The milfoil problem is widespread in our lakes
 - The use of jute tarps is simply one control measure among several others, such as
 - Synthetic tarps
 - Have divers pull the milfoil by hand
 - Mow it down
 - Beatles option – let it be
 - We need to evaluate the cost-benefit of each approach

7. New Initiative of the Association

- In 2009 the Association had a report carried out, which was an update to a previous report carried out in 2000
- Water Quality Monitoring
 - All water quality tests are available on our website
- We are looking at having a follow-up study to complement and update these past studies
- We asked Groupe Hemisphere for an overview of what types of services they could offer
- We will explore other potential options to move forward with a follow-up study to better understand the state of the watershed as we move forward
- We want to work with the municipalities on this report
 - Need to be involved not only in financing but also in the follow-up actions that come from this report
- We want to invest in a new study on the environmental situation of our watershed
- We invite the public's participation, as we want this report to be informed by our members

8. New Website

- One of the Association's key objectives for 2022 was to improve its communications, largely to be accomplished by the development of a new website
- In July, the Association signed a contract with Inter-Vision, a Gatineau-based web development firm, to lead the development, implementation and maintenance of the new web site
- We are currently in the early stages of design and will quickly move towards development, with an anticipated launch time period of early fall
- The new website will include key functionality such as the ability to renew memberships and make donations directly from the website, search engine optimization, new designs and layout, as well as being mobile compatible
- Inter-Vision will also be creating a Facebook page on behalf of the Association, which will be linked to the new website

9. Open Discussion: Questions and Comments

- Open discussion moderator: Marc Nadeau
 - I encourage the Board to not forget the fireworks issue. In the past, members, via a survey, were significantly against fireworks and we should continue to pursue this important issue
 - In the renter's pamphlet, we should also have regulations for those that operate Seadoos and that lead to noise pollution and dangerous practices
 - There are municipal regulations in place since 2018 against noise – you need to call the MRC for any dangerous practices that you observe

- The original point was primarily to educate cottagers on best practices rather than issue fines, or call the police
 - Erosion of our shorelines due to boats – large boats that pass too close to our shorelines cause significant erosion, and lead to the addition of phosphorus to the lake – the Quebec government doesn't have regulations in place to limit the speed at which boats pass close to shorelines – four other provinces, including BC and Ontario, do have laws in place to limit the speed of boats near shorelines
 - Suggestion for buoys – boats pass very close by to the buoys without any regard to the milfoil, perhaps we should look into adding a flag to the top of the buoys, so they are easier to see
 - We can purchase a large buoy, with a sign, to place in this sector of the lake where boaters are not respecting the buoys
 - What concerns me is people that use the lake that are not locals, and they do not respect boat washing – are there any other control measures that we can put in place to enforce boat washing
 - There are measures in place, such as issuing warnings/fines to those that do not respect boat washing
 - We've made big headways towards greater education of boat washing, and enforcement
 - We've had over 1,200 registrations of non-motorized watercrafts for boat washing in the watershed for Blue Sea
 - We've had over 553 registrations of motorized watercrafts for boat washing in the watershed for Blue Sea
 - Blue Sea averages between \$10k and \$15k per year in boat washing fines – the fine is \$300 + fees (total of \$444) – if you have a company vehicle then the fine is double (\$888)
 - Does anyone here have similar information for the municipality of Messines? There are no representatives here from Messines which is an issue
 - Question for Pascal Samson: negative ions, can you explain what this is when they do water tests?
 - When there is a high density of negative ions, this means there is a lot of micro bacterial activity – it's an indication that the lake might be more polluted
- Remarks from Pascal Samson:
 - ABV des 7 is doing a water sample of Blue Sea in August and another in September – there have already been two samples taken
 - This allows them to get a good picture of the health of the watershed, using the RSVL water sampling method
 - Results thus far have been encouraging – results are sent to the Quebec government, as this is an initiative performed by ABV des 7 on behalf of the provincial government
 - The results will also confirm whether RSVL's methods are effective

- Water quality in the lake is interesting but not negative
- The results of the water samples will be made available in November on the ABV des 7 website, which will be shared with the BSLWA
- ABV des 7 is also undertaking a study on behalf of the Quebec government to study the impact of the jut tarps on aquatic species in the lake as this is not yet known
 - Studying aspects such as the impact to fish reproduction, and other impacts to aquatic species
 - This will inform the Quebec government on best practices for installing jute tarps, while minimizing impacts to aquatic species
 - The study will be published and will be shared with the public

10. Election of Board Members

- Election moderator: Don Karn and Marlène Thonnard
 - Each member has a two-year mandate
 - There are nine positions – five seats available
 - Nick, Gab and Guy are up for re-election
 - Brian and Guy will be leaving the board for personal reasons
- Elections:
 - Judy proposes Nick – Accepts
 - Francis proposes Gab – Accepts
 - Marc proposes Jean-Serge – Accepts
 - Francis proposes Judy – Rejects

11. Adjournment

- Meeting adjournment proposed by Francis Leblanc, seconded by Gabriel McConnery

Meeting Adjourned