



Draft Meeting Minutes
**Fourteenth Annual General Meeting of the
Blue Sea Lake Watershed Association
Held on Saturday, August 12, 2023, at 10:00am
At the Blue Sea Church**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1	Call to Order and Welcome
2	Adoption of the Agenda
3	Adoption of the Minutes to the 14 th AGM
4	Report of the Treasurer
5	Report of the President
6	New Website
7	Open Discussion: Questions and Comments
8	Election of Board Members
9	Adjournment

1. Call to Order and Welcome

- Meeting starts at 10:07 am
- 44 members, non-members and guests were present.
- Opening remarks from Francis
- Approved that Judy McConnery can take the minutes.
- Francis introduces the guests.
 - André Benoit, Yves St-Jacques Counsellors for the municipality of Messines
 - Neighbouring associations: Nicole Desrosier, President Lac Long association; Dominique Bergevin, Association for lakes Edja, Caya, and Roberge
 - Danielle Morrison, from Lac Patterson working towards creating its association.
 - Laurent Fortin mayor of Blue Sea
 - Media CHGA
- The meeting will be held in both official languages, additionally, all documents are available on devices in both French and English by visiting website at www.associationblueseas.org .

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- Motion to adopt the agenda proposed by Gail McConnery, seconded by Johanne Lefebvre

Agenda Adopted

3. Adoption of the Minutes to the 14th AGM

- No errors or omissions pointed out
- Motion to adopt the minutes from the 14th AGM proposed by Robert Duval, seconded by Sylvie Turnbull

Minutes Adopted

4. Report of the Treasurer

- Report presented by Treasurer Jean-Serge Rochon
- Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2022
 - Financial figures in the balance sheet are correct.
- 143 members in 2022
- 323 members in 2021
- 235 members in 2020
- For 2023, as of July 31st
 - The Association has xxx membership inscriptions \$2,860.00.
 - Donations totaling \$9,672.00.
 - Total expenses of \$22,546.33
 - \$17,000 from the municipalities will be received this year.
- Motion to adopt the treasurer's report proposed by Jean-Serge Rochon, seconded by Lisa Hebert

Report Adopted

5. Report of the President

- Report presented by President Francis Leblanc
- Highlights
 - New Website
 - The Jute Tarp project
 - Evaluation made in July 2023 so far, it appears to be working as the milfoil has not returned. Waiting for one more evaluation and final report in 2025.
 - Association member status for the Association for Lakes Edja, Caya et Roberge (ALECR)
 - Negotiations in process to work more closely as we share mutual interests.

Concerns that were raised

- Rusty cray fish is it evasive or not? Biologists are in the process of studying it.
- New studies to evaluate the state of the water using cartography. The focus will be on Milfoil and other species.
- Health Canada has approved a pesticide that is known to work against Eurasian Milfoil. It's information to be shared, not to be debated at this time.
- New study on the quality of water in the lake. Ask a submission from Groupe Hémisphère and another group. This is expensive and therefore more funds are needed. Met a Biologist Henri Fournier to ask for advice. Phosphorous is the worrisome mineral that damages the lake. Looking for rules to be applied against cutting trees on the shore but also higher along the shoreline.
- Geese are also a problem as the people who use lake water are at risk of disease so becomes a public health issue.
- Recommendation for a rule against Roundup which contains a lot of phosphate.
- Septic systems should also be examined.
- Educate employees of the municipalities on environmental issues.
- Elaborate a guide for new residents about how to protect the environment.

Recognition

- Special thanks to our volunteers for supporting the 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.
- Special thanks to Dave MacLaren and Lesley Cameron for their time on the board.

6. New Website

- Francis demonstrates the user-friendly ease of the new website. It remains a bit slow, but they are working on this bug.
- Looking for a webmaster to take care of this new website.
- New Facebook page introduced, and people encouraged to follow this page. So far there are 42 followers.
- Encouraged members to send suggestions to improve website.

7. Open Discussion: Questions and Comments

- Question raised by Donna Lordon: what is the percentage of residents and cottagers who are members as membership is decreasing? What is the objective we would like to achieve. It's a worrisome situation.
 - Hoping to increase membership through the website. Looking to start a committee to focus on this.
 - Idea given to put up a sign on the main roads.
 - Repeat the distribution of emails reminding people to become members maybe 2 or 3 times and distribute a leaflet.
- Protection of shoreline, thankful to the municipalities.
- Fireworks: Don Karn raised this issue and made the following points: Municipalities not ready to act on this matter but open to continue discussions. The challenge highlighted in the past was how to control this. Municipality of Mont-Tremblant was able to bring this into law. Noted that years ago the municipalities were reluctant to put in the boat washing rule but after a visit to another municipality who had done it, they agree to apply it here. Suggested to make a visit to Tremblant to get directions as to how they did it.
- Snowmobiles raised by Lisa Hebert as an issue due to the speed they travel. Wondering how it could be better policed. Suggested to make the path a multiuse path so suggested to share it according to a time schedule. It was suggested that this be raised with the municipalities.
- Lesley Cameron asked if there means other than Jute tarp to help eliminate Milfoil? Francis responded:
 - Many other ideas. It's complicated and costly problem so the jute tarp is at the testing phase.
- Christina Kloepfer and Nadia Frazzoni from Lake Edja raise concern as they are seeing a gradual deterioration of the water and the forests. In the last 5 years there are more and more tourists with a new business on the lake. Rumor that RV are emptying their septic tanks into the lake. Lake very popular for visitors who use the place to party. Upset that we are paying with their tax dollars and not much is being done.
 - Mayor of Blue Sea replied that they are working at trying to maintain the cleanliness of the lake. Their rep is working with the Lake Association.
- Janet Hayes from Lac Allard raised the point that too many jet skies are using this small lake causing noise population and erosion of the shore. Not known if these

jet skis are being washed before they enter the lake. Wondering what can be done.

- Mayor of Blue Sea responded that Councillor Paul Dénoimé has raised the issue and the Municipality is aware and working on it. Can regulate Airbnb but not what gets on the lake.
- André Benoit: should have more meetings to talk about these issues.
 - Invited to present these problems in the counselling meeting.
 - Proposed that Tripartite Meetings between BSLWA Board and the mayors and DGs of both Municipalities be renewed. Francis promises to reconvene these tripartite meetings.

8. Election of Board Members

- Election moderator: Don Karn and Judy McConnery.
 - Each member is elected for a two-year mandate and is given a number 1 to 9 on the Board.
 - There are nine positions of which six seats are available – 1,3 5, 7, 9 (odd numbered positions) in addition to 4 (single year).
 - Lesley Cameron will be leaving the board for personal reasons.

● Elections:

Members proposed:

Francis LeBlanc: proposed by Marc-André Gélinas: he accepts

Sylvain Mainville: proposed by Jean-Serge Rochon: he accepts.

Marc Nadeau proposed by Marc Tram: he accepts.

Joanne Lefevre proposed by Marc Nadeau: she accepts.

Lisa Hebert proposed by Gail Mcconnery: she accepts.

Marc- André Gélinas by André Benoit: he declines.

Bruce Alexander by Francis LeBlanc: he declines.

Andre Benoit by Andre Benoit: he accepts.

Sylvie Turnbull proposed by Bruce Alexander: she accepts

We pass to an election process.

- The one person who is not elected is André Benoit.

9. Adjournment

- Meeting adjournment proposed by Johanne, seconded by Marc Nadeau

Meeting Adjourned