

FARLAIN LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Minutes of August 16, 2023 – AGM

AGENDA – August 16th, 2023		
Time	Topic	Facilitator:
7:00 – 7:05	Intro to Zoom and Webinar Format	Jeanette Parker
7:05 – 7:10	Welcome and Introductions	Elizabeth Di Chiara
7:10 – 7:10	Approval of 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes	Elizabeth Di Chiara
7:10 – 7:20	Report from the President	Elizabeth Di Chiara
7:20 – 7:25	Membership Report	Margaret Brohm
7:25 – 7:55	Eurasian Watermilfoil – current status, our management strategy and special presentation	Scott Dales Dr. Mark Heilman, SePRO
7:55 – 8:25	All About Our Lake – water level, blue green algae and shoreline protection	Aisha Chiandet & Sarah Song, SSEA
8:25 – 8:30	AED (Automated Electronic Defibrillator Devices) on Lake (follow-up to last year’s poll)	Gerry Pipe
8:30 – 8:40	Financial Report	Ross Graham
8:40 – 8:45	FLCA Articles of Amendment – Member Approval	Elizabeth Di Chiara
8:45 – 8:50	Election of the FLCA Board of Directors	Gerry Pipe
8:50 – 9:00	Questions and Answers with Wrap-up	Jeanette Parker
9:00	Adjournment	Elizabeth Di Chiara

1. Intro to Zoom and Webinar Format

- Zoom basics were reviewed by FLCA Board member Jeanette Parker, technology manager for the meeting. Attendees can submit a question at any time. Poll questions would be displayed on the screen.

2. Welcome & Introductions

- President Elizabeth Di Chiara began the meeting at 7 pm, thanking both members and non-members for attending. There were 70 participants registered for the meeting. The quorum of 10 members had been met.
- Elizabeth introduced the FLCA Board and welcomed our special guests and presenters, Dr. Mark Heilman, Director, Aquatic Technology at SePRO, Aisha Chiandet, SSEA Water Scientist and Sarah Song, SSEA Summer Student. She then reviewed the Agenda.

3. Approval of 2022 Annual General Meeting Minutes

- Draft minutes of the 2022 meeting had been posted to the FLCA website with a link included with the notice. No changes were forthcoming.

Motion: That the Minutes of the 2022 FLCA AGM be approved.
By: Wendy Huck
Second: Pat Kelso
CARRIED

4. Report from the President - by Elizabeth Di Chiara

Communication

- Since the last AGM in 2022, over 40 alerts have been sent out, two issues of our FLCA newsletter Ripples have been issued, and there have been multiple postings to Facebook and our website.
- We hosted two webinars, one through FOCA on succession planning and another through SSEA on shoreline stewardship. We have partnered with the SSEA on a video on Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) to be available soon.

Other Issues

- Water quality monitoring continues through samples taken by Kelly Biagi through the Lake Partner program. 2022 results are not yet available.
- Our focus continues to be on environmental stewardship to protect the lake. There are more permanent residents, larger cottages and higher lake levels which has meant the loss of trees and other vegetation. Development, climate change and invasive species are all putting stress on the lake.
- We continue to be extremely concerned about the impact of the spreading of raw septage on the field located near the 17th Concession may be having on the lake.
- The final report on the Aquatic plant study conducted last August is available on the FLCA website.
- Building relationships with other organizations is essential. That includes communication with the Township of Tiny, partnering with the Severn Sound Environmental Association (SSEA), using the resources of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers Associations (FOCA) and the membership benefits through the Federation of Tiny Township Shoreline Associations (FoTTSA).
- We have commenced work on ensuring we are compliant with the newly enacted Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act (ONCA). Any changes would be brought back to members for approval.

Blue Green Algae Training

- To date there is no evidence of a bloom or toxins present based on the MECP test conducted recently.
- We're happy to support the Blue Green Algae Causation Study funded through the Township and a grant and led by the SSEA. The FLCA is providing volunteer support.

Social Events

- The 2023 Kids Annual Fishing Derby and BBQ were a great success. There were over 60 “fisherkids” signed up and over 80 people attended the BBQ. Thank you to the Dales for organizing the Derby and hosting the BBQ.
- Dave Brunelle from the Tiny Township Council accompanied by 14 FLCA members went on the Georgian Bay cruise on July 22.

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM)

- Thank you to the EWM Project team for their hard work, perseverance and dedication.
- The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) has just approved the application of the new herbicide ProcellaCOR to the infested areas on the lake. This will take place at the end of August or the beginning of September. This is the culmination of over 6 months of ongoing communication.
- We have received one more extension to the OTF grant period taking us to the end of 2024. This will provide us with needed resources.

Citizen Scientists

- Thank you to the Citizen Scientists team.

Conclusion

- Sincere thanks were extended to the FLCA Board members who have committed their time, hard work and expertise to providing the leadership we need to continue building the FLCA into a strong, vibrant community association.

5. Membership Report – by Margaret Brohm

- There were 132 members in the 2022-23 membership year and 136 in 2021-22. Numbers tended to fluctuate between 90 to 120 members. There were 26 new members this year.
- To date, 107 members had already renewed for the 2023-2024 membership year which began August 1st.
- Margaret encouraged members to talk to neighbours and friends about joining the Association.
- Through the FLCA, members are kept informed of current issues and provide a cohesive voice for the community, particularly regarding environmental issues.
- In addition, there are social events such as the Fishing Derby and Boat Cruise.
- Members have access to retail discounts through FoTTSA and insurance through FOCA.
- New members can join by downloading the membership form from the website, contacting the FLCA through inquiries@farlainlake.ca or any member of the Board.
- Membership is only \$50 per household. You can renew your membership through e-transfer or cheque.
- Membership terms are for 1, 2 or 5 years. If you need to confirm when your membership expires, contact us at inquiries@farlainlake.ca.

6. Eurasian Watermilfoil – by Scott Dales and Dr. Mark Heilman

- The EWM problem is not going away as this plant has continued to grow and infestation areas are growing in size. We have continued to look for hotspots and identify infestation areas in the lake and target them for removal.
- This year a management plan was prepared which included the application of ProcellaCOR by Solitude Lake Management and submitted to the government for approval.
- The plan received DFO approval.
- Is ProcellaCOR our silver bullet? It has been used effectively in the US since 2018. It has now been approved and registered for use here in Canada.

Presentation by Dr. Mark Heilman

- Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you and for the collaboration over the past months. Government approval for the use of ProcellaCOR was received in May of this year.
- SePRO, which developed the herbicide product, is based in Indiana. We have been involved with the research and adoption of ProcellaCOR in the US since 2010.
- ProcellaCOR is a highly selective short exposure systemic activity on invasive aquatic weeds. It goes through the plant to its root ball.
- It earned EPA approval in the US in 2018 and earned the EPA Green Chemistry award.
- There have been many years of research and published papers. Testing started in small tank systems. After 4 weeks of exposure results were control of the EWM without impacting native plants. The herbicide was very selective.
- Hundreds of projects were conducted to confirm efficacy and selectivity.
- One site was Minerva Lake in New York. The plant was found in 2007 and the DASH system was used taking 400-500 hours. Of the 41 acres, about half were treated. The plant dissipated within 24 hours. A 66% frequency dropped to 0% two months after the application. After 14 months, they still have full control of the EWM.
- The Farlain Lake treatment will attack small, localized management zones. Treatment has been targeted for September 6th.
- There are no restrictions on swimming or fishing. Irrigation should be restricted for 1 day.
- EWM injury will progress over several weeks. There is short exposure, and the herbicide rapidly penetrates the plant. Native plants will not be affected and may even expand once the EWM is gone.
- The control objectives are to eliminate EWM from the lake. There is a three-year guaranteed control program to push for eradication.
- Thank you to the FLCA leadership and community for its interest and partnership. Thank you to the EWM committee and Peter Andrews.
- Elizabeth thanked Dr Heilman for his help and support.

Q1 – When will the application be in September?

We will confirm the exact date once it is known.

Q2 – Only applying the herbicide to 2% of the lake’s area, will that be enough to eradicate the plant?

The ProcellaCOR will be applied in areas as localized spot control. It has a quick uptake and the EWM in those areas should be controlled. There may be additional applications in subsequent years.

Q3 – Does ProcellaCOR need to be applied annually to maintain control over EWM?

We hope to get the most results in the first year. Smaller applications may be needed in years 2 and 3 however, not as much will be required in the later years. The plan will be adapted depending on the results.

Q4 – Is the formula used in Canada different than in US?

It is a unique product for Canada with a concentrated formulation.

Q5 – Is 2% too small an area since we are only approved for a one-year permit?

We are only targeting areas which have known infestations. This results in a fraction of the lake being treated.

Q6 – How is it applied?

A small boat injects ProcellaCOR into the water. It is not applied to surface water.

7. All About Our Lake – by Aisha Chiandet

Water Level

- Aisha, Water Scientist for SSEA was introduced for her presentation. Working with the SSEA since 2005, she has focused on long term water quality monitoring and developing citizen science programs. The SSEA were partners with 8 municipalities in our water shed area. Their focus was on water quality and invasive species.
- Farlain Lake is a small shallow lake with no surface outlet. It is fed by rainfall and is moderately nutrient rich. Its surroundings are 88% woodland, 10% residential and 2% rural.
- The water level is sensitive to rainfall. The SSEA is building a data set using readings from the boat launch gauge.
- 2023 was similar to 2019 where there was a high-water level which then dropped in the spring. The overall water level is consistent with 2022.
- Climate change can cause variable levels, however based on the prior year we expect to be similar to 2022 levels.
- How do the cottage properties interact with the lake? It is important to have a robust shoreline which will slow down the runoff from your property.

Algae

- Algae is microscopic, single celled plant which can exist as a group of cells. It can attach to rocks and hard surfaces. It forms the base of the aquatic food web and produces oxygen. Different types of algae are grouped based on their growth patterns. There are five major groups of algae found in freshwater.
- Algae can take many different forms and have different appearances. It can also have a strong odour.

- Aisha showed photos of the blue green algae sites found in 2022.
- If you spot a bloom, assume toxins are present and avoid all exposure. Avoid contact, do not swim and do not consume any fish.
- Contact the MECP. They will do testing and report the results to the Simcoe Health Unit and Township. If required, the Health Unit will issue a water quality advisory which could apply to all or part of the lake.
- Boiling or chlorinating water does not get rid of toxins.
- There are many different causes of algae. There could be an increased concentration of nutrients, natural features such as temperature and rainfall, and other unique environmental conditions.
- The SSEA is conducting an Algae Causation Study. Key components include the Citizen Science Monitoring Program. Samples are collected by Citizen Scientists and then tested by the SSEA. The tests provide baseline conditions and water levels in real time.
- Samples are being collected at five different sites, three near the shore and two offshore. The two offshore sites have been showing good water clarity. Clarity worsens as the season progresses.
- Conductivity, rainfall and water temperature are all being tracked.
- It is important to practice good shoreline stewardship. Avoid lawn fertilizer and maintain vegetation and natural shorelines. Retaining walls interfere with a natural shoreline. A vegetated buffer zone is more resilient. Maintain a gentle slope and plant native shrubs.
- In addition, maintain your septic system, minimize water use, use green cleaning products, and do not restrict water circulation around docks.
- Thank you to the Citizen Scientists for their assistance.

Q1 – Are permits required when altering shoreline?

Yes.

Q2- Any deeper water oxygen depletion?

Oxygen levels are fairly uniform.

Q3 – What happened with the core sampling done in 2020 by Brock University? What information did it yield?

The data has not yet been analyzed. It will look at oxygen levels and provide a history of the lake. It can look at nutrient reconstruction.

Q4 – Have we identified if there are any potential hazards due to septic systems on lake?

Not aware of any currently.

Q5 – Is the lake being stocked with fish?

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Fisheries (MNR) does regular fish surveys. The last one was done in 2018. That study showed the fish population was increasing.

8. AED (Automated Electronic Defibrillator Devices) on Lake – by Gerry Pipe

- At last year's AGM, the FLCA Board said it would investigate the costs and methods of distribution of AEDs on the lake.

- Some background, there are 40,000 cases per year and only 10% survive. It is an electrical issue which requires CPR to be administered along with the use of an AED. Treatment must be administered within 4 minutes. It is much more unusual than a heart attack.
- A time in motion study concluded that a unit would be required every couple of cottages to be able to provide help in time.
- The cost of an AED ranges from \$1,300 to \$2,000.
- As a result, given the number of units required and their cost it is not viable.
- Alternative recommendations include developing and communicating an emergency response process. Another idea is to compile and publish a list of people trained in first aid.

9. Financial Report – by Ross Graham

- Detailed financials will be posted on the website for members' review. The fiscal year end is July 31st.
- The FLCA funds are held in 3 buckets: 1) EWM Reserve Fund, 2) FLCA Operations and 3) OTF Grant.
- The EWM fund consists of donations received from the community, sponsors and FLCA fundraising separate from the OTF grant and set aside for EWM expenses post-grant.
- From 2013 to 2023, \$114k has been raised with expenditures of \$86k leaving a balance of \$28k which is being held in reserve. Of this, \$20k is invested in a GIC.
- This fund is a war chest to manage EWM after expiration of the OTF grant. We need to be able to control EWM after the grant period.
- The FLCA operations fund consists of membership dues less operating expenses. There was an opening balance of \$10k with membership revenue of \$6k offset by \$5k of expenses, such as the system costs and insurance, leaving a closing balance of \$11k.
- The final fund is the OTF grant. Funds are received throughout the grant period which commenced in 2019. The FLCA must continue to meet the grant specifications to receive the funds. Due to COVID, the grant has been extended another year to 2024.
- To date, \$196k has been received with \$160k of expenditures leaving a balance of just under \$36k to be spent and a final expenditure report to be prepared. Funds will be used for the application of ProcellaCOR.
- By the end of 2023, the FLCA will receive another \$5k. All the funds must be spent, and expenses must be closely monitored. After those funds are gone, we will only have the EWM fund.

Q1 – What is the cost of the ProcellaCOR application?

We have been quoted \$16k US for the initial application and follow up for the next 2 years. If we need to apply additional product in those subsequent years, we will need to pay for the additional product costs.

Motion: That the FLCA members grant the authority to the Board of Directors to approve the unaudited annual financial statements when the annual revenue does not exceed \$100,000.

By: Ross Graham

Second: Mike Johnson

CARRIED

Motion: That the Finance Report be accepted.

By: Ross Graham

Second: John Tillger

CARRIED

10. FLCA Articles of Amendment – by Elizabeth Di Chiara

- The FLCA needs to be compliant with ONCA. The first step was preparing the Articles of Amendment for filing with Service Ontario for approval. The key elements to be included are the number of Directors, the purpose of the organization, classes of membership and voting rights of members.
- The wording of these elements must be approved by special resolution prior to government filing. A 2/3rds majority in favour is required.
- The opening clause in the resolution provides some flexibility in wording.
- To qualify for membership the intent is to include all waterfront lots, back lots and subdivisions in the vicinity of the Lake.

Motion: That the Membership approve the Articles of Amendment substantially in the form as presented to the Membership on August 16, 2023, and upon such approval, the President is hereby authorized to file same, subject to such non-material amendments as he or she shall deem necessary and advisable prior to such filing.

By: Ross Graham

CARRIED

11. Election of FLCA Board of Directors – by Gerry Pipe

- Directors can be elected for up to 2 three-year terms with one-year extensions. Members are encouraged to run for election to continue the association work.
- The directors provide leadership and continuity. Our by-laws set the Board at a maximum of ten directors. The current Board has 7 directors serving staggered terms.
- At this time, Elizabeth is stepping down as President and leaving the Board.
- There was one new nomination this year, Emily Thorne.

- There are three continuing directors:
Gerry Pipe, Vice President
Wendy Huck, Secretary
Margaret Brohm, Director, Membership

Nominations:

Directors for Re-election:

Scott Dales, Director, Community Engagement

Jeanette Parker, Director, Communications

Ross Graham, Treasurer (extension for 1 year)

New Directors:

Emily Thorne (election for 3 years)

<p>Motion: That the slate be approved by the members for election to the FLCA Board as presented.</p>

<p>By: Gerry Pipe</p>

<p>Second: Herb Huck</p>

<p>CARRIED</p>

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welcome to Emily.

- Scott Dales will assume the position of President. There was recognition of Tom Hayes who served on the Board for two years.
- Thank you to Elizabeth. Elizabeth started with the Board in 2008 handling membership. She then worked on communications and built the new website. After, she served as vice president and finally as president in 2018. She had excellent relationships with the SSEA and Township. Elizabeth's many accomplishments were listed.
- Elizabeth will continue to assist Jeanette in the communications area.

12. Review and Discussion of Submitted Questions – by Jeanette Parker

Thank you to Elizabeth.

Q1 – Any plans to bring the OPP to the lake?

Boating safety is a concern.

13. Adjournment

- Elizabeth thanked everyone for their participation in our virtual meeting and adjourned the session at 9:15 pm. Member input is always appreciated. Members were reminded they could contact the FLCA through inquiries@farlainlake.ca.