

Draft Minutes – AGM 6 July 2019 10:15 TO 12:30

Present 47 persons including the following Board Members:

John Leech
Yves Roy
John Shaughnessy
Ian Arnold
Marvin Sobb
Brian Sutherland
Manon Roux
John Long
Ben Godby
Geoff Brennan

Regrets: Lars Roberts, Elizabeth Rodgers



AGM Attendees
2019.pdf

Please see attached attendance list for full list of attendees.

1. Introduction:

President John Leech welcomed all those present and apologized for the delay in the start of the meeting due to the late arrival of the person to open the building. Local councillor Caroline Larocque and the mayor have sent their regrets. J. L. noted that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the ongoing issues and water quality.

2. Approbation de l'hors de jour/Approval of Agenda:

Approval of the agenda was moved by Phil Allen and seconded by Rink de Lange with the following additions to the business: Approved

- Boat Washing Station – Geoff drafting plan for boat washing proposal
- Petition
- Discharge from pools and hot tubs

3. La parole à nos invités /Remarks From Our Guests: No local dignitaries present

4. Approval of last minutes: Moved by Yves Roy, seconded by Geoffrey Brennan Approved Change spelling of Jeffrey and attach Treasurer's report.

5. Rapport annuel / Annual Report

The BoD met three times during 2018/2019 with productive results as noted below.

- **Milfoil**

- Background: Milfoil is a major preoccupation of everyone. It is an invasive species that forms almost impenetrable mats on the lake's surface and crowds out other normal species. Its status has been assessed by ABV des 7 in 2015 and 2018. Milfoil spreads by breakage and propagation, natural species spread by seeding.
- Activities: The Board has investigated successful remediation efforts and the most effective was the use of burlap weighted by washed sand. Cost is at \$2.00 per square meter. Attempts to get provincial approval have not been successful. Efforts are underway to encourage municipal and provincial involvement. 2015 and 2018 reports can be found on the Association's website. With over 60,000 M² now involved, the costs are beyond the means of the Association. Lac Bernard has also been consulted where they have about \$1.5 million in costs for remediation. The Lac Bernard Association has agreed to work with us on a joint approach. Meetings have been held between Associations, local councillors, and the mayor. The mayor agreed to determine a mechanism to charge local residents (with lake access) for the remediation costs using their annual taxes as the vehicle. The Association agreed to work with ABV des 7 and Blockade to develop a high level master plan. In general, the provincial authorities have been difficult to deal with and have repeatedly asked for more documented scientific research. Approvals are being granted faster in the Laurentide than the Outouais – possibly due to presence/absence of scientific personnel in each area. A pilot program at Blue Sea Lake covering 18,000 M² is underway with the burlap weighted by plastic bags filled with stones. At present it is difficult to show the economic impact of remediation. A pilot program has been launched at Lac Philippe after two years of working to get NCC approval. ABV des 7, in the past, and Blockade requested approval for federal involvement for 10 lakes in Ontario and 10 in Quebec. Lac Gauvreau volunteered but no lake selections have been made. At present we are not aware of which department is involved federally - ? Fisheries.
- Future actions:
 - a. A meeting with Robert Bussiere, our MLA, is tentatively scheduled on July 22nd following an effort to reach out to M. Bussiere. We have also reached out to L'Alliance pour la Gestion de Myrophylle. This organization is trying to arrange a tour for the Environment Minister but there has been no recent word on this. The Association is drafting a form letter for all members to use to let their concerns known to the political powers that be.
 - b. The need for a boat washing station has been mentioned repeatedly but no action has arisen.

- c. Continued education and more buoys (about 10) are needed at \$50.00 per buoy using a “Buy a buoy” campaign.
- d. Action re: extravagant wakes is a clear need. There are only a few major offenders but one boat is seen repeatedly close to the shore in a bow high/stern down position with no effort made to properly trim the boat.

Questions:

- Brian asked what the best methods are to remove weeds. Unfortunately it appears that removing the weeds does not stop their growth.
- Phil Allan asked whether we had received much support from M. Bussiere. Ben noted that supporting letters have been received.

Actions:

Moved by Geoffrey and seconded by Thomas Wolstenholme that the actions as noted be approved.

Discussion:

XXXX (Charles?) noted that the cooperative approach is a bit soft. The Chair noted that a regulatory approach is very difficult to achieve and past efforts to force a regulatory approach were very divisive and paralysed the Associations work.

Yves reported on a survey July 1, 31 boats, 20 pontoon boats, 3 PWC's.

Manon noted that renters should state that power boats are not allowed by renters.

The Chair noted that the short term rental by-laws prohibit renters bringing in boats of any kind.

Mark noted that some Air BnB renters are bringing in PWC's. He also noted that – re: the campsite – some fishers with boats go between the buoys and the shores.

Al noted that there needs to be a statement that “deleterious wake” be more specific WRT to specific watercraft.

Geoffrey suggested the program should include a number of different actions – bans, speed limits, efforts to remediate, limitation of boat types. Need to focus on what we can actually accomplish. Re: policing activity, personally happy to speak

with people coming within the buoyed area and has particularly focused on fishers as one of the key groups that do not respect the lake.

Another attendee suggested that the focus should be on a specific ministry – determine who best to focus on and also noted that boat wakes create turbidity in shallow layers which release fertilizing agents.

Also noted Br and Cl use also needs to be abated.

Caitlin Mclaughlin suggested that we agree on first three action points (a. to c.) but not on the boat issues.

Tom Booth stated that self-management of the shoreline is a difficult issue. Pulling weeds without proper collection is a method that is also a potential issue. It was suggested where burlap is available, for those that want to, to go ahead on their own. The Bureaucracy said a permit is needed for each specific area along with many other requirements that make this approach impossible. The Chair noted that the Association can't advocate this but is working with ABV des 7 to be able to remediate specific areas as well as boat access areas. Tom W. noted that he would support the first four motions and believes several people may go ahead on their own as there is such inaction present.

Brian noted that the ideas were good. He also noted the diver removal of weeds is too expensive and, WRT burlap, has to be weighted properly or it may pose a public safety hazard which is where Blockade's method is appropriate.

Phil noted that we have a common concern and the focus must be on controlling Milfoil. Failure to do so will mean property values will be very negatively affected. The Association's efforts have been to point this out to the municipality. Geoffrey noted that the municipality needs to have a steady source of financing through something like taxes so that there is no choice but to participate.

Natalie Racine asked if the Association is you in contact with all residents. The Chair noted that there are reps on Board from all parts of the lake and that everyone should become aware of who this is. Close to 100 persons were mailed out information. We have about 90 e mails and would welcome more

Caitlin proposed that those present vote on first three points (1. Member pressure on authorities; 2. Boat washing station; 3. Continued education and more buoys) but further discuss "Boat Traffic" issue. Seconded by Tom W. Motion as amended was approved. Amended as motion carried. Phil Allen noted that one owner specific experience that could be valuable.

- **Water testing:**

Fecal coliform counts are very low – single digit levels considered excellent for swimming. Municipality has discontinued testing for phosphate levels and will be encouraged to re-institute this process. In addition, the Municipality is the sole agent to ask the provincial government to test for toxicity if a blue-green algae bloom occurs

- **Shoreline restoration** award was explained by the chair but there were no applications for the award this year.

6. **Administration de L'Association** (Rapport du Trésorier/Élections)/Association Administration (Treasurer`s report/Elections)

Financial:

- The statement for the last year attached. Major costs were explained by the treasurer. The main source of revenue is membership.
- Draft budget (attached) was also explained. It was noted that, by year's end, most of the funds will be expended due to the Myrophil project which will eat up \$5,000.00. A question was asked if buoy costs are lower when bought in bulk. Geoffrey noted that the first buoys were \$90.00 each, more recent ones less expensive. He also noted that John will rehabilitate lost buoys.
- Motion to accept above report from Rink de Lange Second Ghyslain Approved

Elections

- Brian Sutherland noted that he will not be able to put in the efforts needed so the Association will be looking for a new south shore resident rep

7. **New business**

- Jennifer noted that discharge of hot tub, pools, and well washings containing Br and Cl into the lake can pose a problem. Rink noted that such emissions to the lake are not permitted. Suggestion were made to include information on this subject on our website and possibly test for the presence of these toxic materials as well as phosphorous and blue green algae toxins. Matt Belanger asked if we can do this. The chair reported the process currently in place as noted previously is again being explored with the municipality
- Petition – jointly presented by Caitlin and Réjean – LacGauvreauSecours campaign. The presenters explained the need for citizen engagement and community involvement. We should not just treat the problem but get involved in several stages to remediate the issue. They further noted that we know how it propagates and that any interaction causes it to “explode” and propagates. They asked whether there is a phase whereby we should encourage paddling only on a temporary basis.

Everyone can have an impact. The drew the audience's attention to an online petition which asks the mayor and council to implement a paddling only policy at Lac Gauvreau in order to assess whether this change could impact the spread of Milfoil. Réjean moved a motion asking the Association to support the petition Seconded by Rink de Lage. In the discussion that followed, Mike noted that Lac Philippe is a paddle only lake but also has Milfoil. Geoffrey agreed that the lake has a Milfoil problems and as LacGauvreauSecours is already working on several solutions suggested an amendment to state:: "Whereas this Association recognizes the valuable efforts that LacGauvreauSecours has undertaken and also recognizes that there is a petition on line, our Association encourages people to look at the website to see what is suggested to improve the lake and personally decide if they wish to sign to support the petition itself."

The amended motion was approved.

- Boat Washing station: Letter will be sent to the Municipality asking that a local boat-washing station be established

8. Levée de l'Assemblée / Adjournment Moved by Matt Belanger