

WASA LAKE LAND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
Box 133, Wasa, B.C. VOB 2K0

**Minutes of the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 15, 2009 – 7:00 PM
WASA COMMUNITY HALL**

In attendance: 45 – 30 Wasa residents, 4 Kimberley/Cranbrook seasonal residents, and 8 Calgary seasonal residents and 3 board members.

Hand outs available: meeting agenda, 2008 AGM minutes, Financial Audit statements,

Recorder: Kathy Miles-Boue (volunteer as no Secretary available)

1. Call to order by Chairperson, Susanne Ashmore (7:01 PM) Attending board members introduced – Jim Croisdale, Marite Askey, and Susanne. At this time Pete Pelletier and John Nesbitt are not in attendance but should be arriving shortly.
2. Minutes of AGM 2008 (7:02 – 7:04)
The minutes of the 2008 AGM, held on February 18, 2008 were available to those attending. Jack McPhee adopted these minutes as read. Bev Rauch seconded motion. Minutes accepted as written.
3. Financial Report (7:04 – 7:09)
Jim Croisdale, WLLID Treasurer explained the reports done by him and the auditors. Some costs increased over the year such as the rental fees for the WLLID room, professional fees for the auditing and office and postage costs increased, as did the insurance costs. The revenue income for 2008 was \$19,397, the expenses totaled \$8,600 for a net income amount of \$10,797.00. Naomi Miller asked what the WLLID is insured for. Jim explained that the Land Improvement District has insurance for the flood gates and impropriety and indemnification of trustees. There were no other questions from the floor.
4. Reports (7:09 – 7:18)
 - A. Lake Levels 2008
Susanne explained that the data on the 2008 Lake and River Levels is available for viewing on the WLLID Board located on one of the display tables. Pete Pelletier has recorded the statistics for this data. Pete is not at the meeting as of yet, but when he arrives, he will be able to give a further overview of the data at that time. Susanne did explain that the WLLID records data for various government agencies and that the water levels are dependent on snow packs, freshets (the occurrence of a water flow resulting from sudden rain or melting snow) and the temperature.
 - B. WLLID Overview for the year
Susanne gave a review of the WLLID activities for the past year. A member of the Board regularly attends the Columbia Basin Trust meetings. The WLLID has benefited financially from the CBT. The Christina Lake Society Annual Review is attended as well, as this is a lake society that we have learned a lot from in the past, as they are very pro-active. Jim attended the Canadian Mountain Institute for Fire-Interface Conference held in Cranbrook this past fall. It was a very informative course and Jim has a comprehensive summary of the course available if anyone is interested. Last year an unofficial Pine Beetle program was run by one of our Board members, Marite Askey, and a community member, Judy McPhee and it was very successful. Thank you to both ladies for their hard work! The WLLID also tried to get a website up and operational but due to a couple of problems that arose, it is still in the planning stages.
 - C. Cottage Association Overview (addition to Agenda)
Susanne introduced Greg Hladun of the Cottage Association. Greg said the group has grown from 40 members and is now at 60 members. The logistics of getting all members together for a meeting is difficult but communication via e-mail has been successful, with alerts about upcoming community events going out. The Cottage Association has tried to be involved in the local Garden Market Community Breakfasts and would like to raise more funds for local clubs and organizations. Most members are looking at making Wasa their permanent home, not just a summer residence. Overall, the Association is hoping that 2009 will be a threshold year and that the community will see more participation from its members.

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5. Lake Management Plan (7:18 – 8:00)
At this time, Susanne introduced Board member Marite Askey to speak on the WLLID's Lake

Management Plan project. Prior to speaking on this project, Marite wished to quickly give a review of the Pine Beetle program. She wants to remind everyone that the expert speaker we had in at last year's AGM, Don Fowler, recommends the Verbenone packages be placed in the trees no later than July 01st. The Forestry Department has advised that the Pine Beetle infestation in the local Mark Creek and Lost Dog areas are markedly higher this year than last. Ron Stover at Premier Lake is well-versed in how to remove infected trees without spreading the bugs. Anyone needing further information or wishing to purchase Verbenone can contact Dale Davis at Wasa Building Supplies.

With regard to the Lake Management Plan, after much discussion among the Board, it was determined that Wasa needed to have one in place. With the ever increasing use and growing populations residing near and along waterways, lakes can suffer from small and large cumulative impacts and cannot manage themselves. We affect our lake by our actions with in the lake, along its shore lands and well up into the lakes watershed or drainage basin. A Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping (SHIM) was done first to document sensitive areas that need protection.

The next step in a Lake Management Plan (LMP) is a Foreshore Inventory Mapping (FIM). This describes the foreshore as it is, habitats as they are and areas the foreshore has been degraded or eroded. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) will be assisting the WLLID in the collection of this data. Foreshore alterations and what affects it, are the WLLID responsibility so we need to preserve the remaining natural foreshore to allow the water in the lake to remain clean and productive.

The WLLID would like a finished Lake Management Plan to be added to the RDEK Advisory Planning Committee Area E Land Use By-Law. This would give the people that make decisions regarding development planning information on how the lake will be affected by the application being made. The WLLID has applied for infrastructure grants to find out how much more development we can sustain, but our grants applications were not considered as our lake area is not in crisis mode. A LMP will assist in preventing such a crisis mode from occurring.

One resident wondered why the WLLID didn't look at keeping the lake level high for more than the 1 ½ months it currently is at so more people could enjoy the lake longer, rather than spending funds on a LMP. He was advised that our lake is a natural lake and to do so would, in effect, turn the lake in to a man-made pool. Laurie Kay asked Marite to advise on the health of the lake and Marite assured all attendees that the water in Wasa Lake is very healthy. Our data goes back a number of years, which allows us to track any anomalies.

Another resident asked if we have an issue with boats on the lake. Marite explained that it is a very long and involved process to restrict boat numbers and sizes on any lake and boating issues are the jurisdiction of the Federal Department of Transportation. One lake in our area, Rosen Lake, has a Community Association has a by-law that does not allow power boats on the lake between the hours of 6:00 – 8:00 AM and 8:00 – 10:00 PM, but it requires a large number of volunteers to enforce it. It was asked if there was something that could be posted at the boat launches to keep the public informed on boating rules, directions of travel on the lake, etc. to help increase safety. It was advised that this would need to be done with BC Parks and would mean a lot of volunteer hours, if anyone was interested in starting such a project.

At this time, Susanne asked Constable Mintz from the local Kimberley RCMP Detachment if he would like to address these concerns. Constable Mintz confirmed that Wasa is policed by the Kimberley Detachment, and it is a large area that starts at the outskirts of Cranbrook and ends just outside of Invermere, and includes all communities in between. He would like to liason with the Highway Patrols and community services and do road blocks throughout the summer season. He would also like to work with By-Law enforcement officers and Conservation Officers to do work on the lake, checking to see if operators are complying with all safety rules - driving their boats with the required licenses, life vests are being worn by everyone in the boat, no open alcohol is on board and that the driver is not under the influence, etc. Due to budget limitations in the past few years, the DFO stopped doing such checks, but Constable Mintz would like to re-implement these, especially on long-weekends. He appreciates everyone's concerns and advises that he can be contacted through the local Kimberley Detachment.

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6. Election of 2 Trustee Positions (8:00 – 8:10)
Susanne advised that two Trustees have completed their terms, John Nesbitt and Pete Pelletier, and the WLLID would like to thank them for their past years of service. At this time, Susanne handed the floor over to local resident Judy McPhee, to direct this portion of the meeting as she will act as Elections Officer. Judy asked Paul Dixon and Greg Hladun to assist her. Judy opened the floor to nominations. Sandy Kay nominated Sharon Prinz for Trustee. Laurie Kay seconded this nomination.

Sharon was not able to attend tonight's meeting but Sandy read a letter of intent from Sharon that stated she has been a property owner since 1976, is a full-time resident of Wasa and is concerned for the viability of the lake. She confirmed that if nominated, she would like her name to stand for election for a Trustee Position on the Board of the Wasa Lake Land Improvement District.

Judy asked for any other nominations. Wilma Croisdale nominated Kathy Miles-Boue for Trustee. Bev Rauch seconded this nomination. Kathy was asked if she would accept this nomination. She felt that her past experience as Secretary of the WLLID would be beneficial and she would let her name stand for election.

Judy asked again for other nominations. No other nominations were received so Judy determined that nominations were closed. The two new Trustees are elected by acclamation. Judy thanked all the WLLID Board members for their hard work and for all the volunteer hours they do.

7. Comments and Questions From the Floor (8:10)
Susanne asked if there were any questions or comments from the floor at this time. No-one had any.
8. Adjournment
Paul Dixon moved that the meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded by Laurie Kay. Meeting adjourned by Susanne at 8:11 PM. Thank you to all who attended.