



Winchester Chapter of the Izaak Walton League Board of Directors Meeting November 16, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm.

Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledges/Adoption of the Agenda: The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm. Roll call was taken. Present were Dan Arico, Bill Nordman, Jim Sherry, Paul Sattler, Peg Sattler, John Suter, and Harold Whitacre. Quorum was established. Also present were Brian Callahan and Eric Raybuck. Board members recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the IWLA Pledge. The agenda was adopted.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Paul Sattler reported that the financial reports from January 2023 through October 31, 2023 have been completed. Lake stocking of 400 lbs. of trout in November is priced at \$5, 850.00.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the October 5, 2023 Board of Directors meeting were approved.

Membership Report: Membership Director Peg Sattler reported that Chapter membership currently stands at 960. **A motion to approve six new members was made by Peg Sattler and approved by the Board.**

Conservation Easement: Vice President Bill Nordman presented an update briefing on the conservation easement.

Facilities Report: The zero turn mower is in the shop for repairs.

Range Committee: A meeting of the Shotgun Range RSOs is planned for later this month.

Lake and Conservation Committee:

- The 2024 Lake and Conservation proposed budget has been submitted to the treasurer for review based on the November 8 committee meeting.
- The primary expense for 2024 is the repair and possible replacement of the handicapped fishing pier. The pier was originally built in 2007 and is in need of an overall structural review with replacement of key components. More than likely the dock will be closed soon as the inspections begin. A permit will be required from the county for the rebuild. Initial reviews of the concrete foundation indicated that it is sound.
- The committee has suggested that the first Saturday of every month be a chapter workday. Other committees can provide input and assistance for work in their areas that needs to be completed.
- Event dates and stocking schedules have been set and sent to the Board of Directors for approval. The committee needs to place our order with our vendors as soon as possible.



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- We had a conference call with our USDA contact and we will not be able to remove the trees of heaven for up to 2 years. We will begin killing them ASAP but cannot cut them down until they are completely dead otherwise they will spawn (up to 50 new shoots) and spread from the roots. As these trees are cut down, they will be used to backfill the berms on the rifle pistol range. We will be closing the shotgun project this winter with reimbursements expected of about \$200.
- The chapter has been working with a former member who is a land developer in Northern Virginia. He has a situation where a 4 acre lake must be drained to repair the dam. We have agreed to take all of the fish from the lake into Lake Neff. The transfer will include shocking the lake then loading the fish into an aerated transport and will be completed by a professional company. The transfer was supposed to happen but is now tied up in concerns/logistics from the HOA. The 35 year old pond is located in Herndon and is landlocked.
- An unscientific review of Lake Neff indicates about a 2 foot drop in silt levels around the pond. About 15 measurements were taken around the pond with positive results with silt levels between 1/2 foot and 2 feet. Previous measurements indicated 3-4 feet across the pond. Behind the silt dam, silt levels are between 4-6 feet. The silt levels are dropping because of the aerators cycling bacteria from the top of the lake to the organic material on the bottom. Unscientific reviews indicate healthy levels of zooplankton and phytoplankton which are primary food sources for minnows and small fish.
- The Arico campsite was tilled and reseeded for the fall. The site was primarily covered in Japanese stilt grass (invasive) and is now seeded with natural, cover and hardy grasses.
- Project Healing Waters will be holding a fishing event on Lake Neff on Saturday November 18 with about 20 veterans and staff.
- Brian is resigning as the committee chair of Lake and Conservation.

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm.

/s/J F Sherry

J. F. Sherry, Secretary