

DRAG AND SPRUCE LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, JULY 6, 2025

1. Call to Order/ Land Acknowledgement- Rick Wesselman / Merla Russell:

Rick Wesselman called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

Merla Russell read out the land acknowledgement:

We respectfully acknowledge that the County of Haliburton is located on Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory, and in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which are Curve Lake, Rama, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Beausoleil and Georgina Island First Nations.

We acknowledge a shared presence of Indigenous nations throughout the area, and recognize its original, Indigenous inhabitants as the stewards of its lands and waters since time immemorial.

2. Introductions- Rick Wesselman

Rick introduced the current members of the DSLPOA Executive:

President Rick Wesselman

Past President Barb Bohlin

First Vice-President Dominique Binckly

Second Vice-President Sheelagh Kemp

Secretary Larry Olivo

Treasurer Hunter Smith

Director, Lake Stewardship Rob Norris

Director, DSLPOA Newsletter and Directory Merla Russell

Director, Membership Jennifer North

Director, E-Communications Martin Rist

Advertising Co-Ordinator Merla Russell

Officer at Large Suzanne Montgomery

Officer at Large Jim Miners

Director, Event Co-ordination position open

Director, Area Representatives Barb Bohlin

The following positions were open for election or re-election: President, Second VP, Secretary, Director E-Communications, Advertising Coordinator, Director Area Reps, Officer at Large. These are dealt with later in the meeting under topic 8, Elections.

3. Secretary's Report-Minutes of the 2024 AGM- Larry Olivo

The draft minutes of the 2024 AGM have been posted and are available on line on the DSLPOA website and are accessible to members,

MOVED Larry Olivo, seconded Sheelagh Kemp that the reading of the Minutes of the 2024 meeting be dispensed with.

Passed unanimously

MOVED, Larry Olivo, seconded, Sheelagh Kemp, that the Secretary's report of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2024 be accepted.

Passed unanimously

4. Treasurer's Report-2024 Year End Financials- Hunter Smith

Hunter set out the 2024 Statement of Operations, and the Financial Position, noting that the funds were in good shape, with EWM expenses assisted by donations. The details of the Financial statement are set out below followed with details of the DSLPOA charitable donations :

GENERAL OPERATING FUND	2024	2023
REVENUE		
Membership fees	\$10,230	\$9,310
Directory advertising	\$6,200	\$5,975
Grant	\$500	
Interest Income	\$322	\$442
TOTAL REVENUE	\$17,252	\$15,727
EXPENSES		
Newsletter and directory	\$7,439	\$5,294
Insurance	\$2,016	\$1,994
FOCA fees (Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations)	\$1,556	\$1,217
Miscellaneous Supplies	\$0	\$68
Donations	\$1,000	\$1,000
Office supplies and postage	\$211	\$278
Bank and PayPal service charges	\$319	\$291
Annual general and executive meetings	\$496	\$281
Website	\$5,408	\$438
Memberships and subscriptions	\$115	\$110
Membership Property Signs	\$0	\$1,471
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,561	\$12,441
NET OPERATING SURPLUS	-\$1,309	\$3,285
FUND BALANCE, JANUARY 1, 2024	\$29,715	\$26,430
FUND BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 2024	\$28,406	\$29,715

LAKE STEWARDSHIP FUND		
REVENUE		
Membership fees	\$3,410	\$3,130
Interest Income	\$263	\$259
TOTAL REVENUE	\$3,673	\$3,389
EXPENSES		
Map Update	\$0	\$1,006
Ulinks	\$424	\$2,040
Coalition for equitable water flow membership fee	\$150	\$100
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$574	\$3,146
NET OPERATING SURPLUS	\$3,099	\$243
FUND BALANCE, JANUARY 1, 2024	\$20,680	\$20,437
FUND BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 2024	\$23,778	\$20,680

EWM FUND		
REVENUE		
Donations	\$19,280	\$28,354
Grant	\$2,500	\$2,646
TOTAL REVENUE	\$21,780	\$31,000
EXPENSES		
Supplies	\$5,187	\$4,378
Diving	\$21,470	\$10,735
Donation To U-Links	\$0	\$0
Video Production Costs	\$0	\$2,616
Paypal	\$286	\$415
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$26,943	\$18,144
NET OPERATING SURPLUS	-\$5,163	\$12,856
FUND BALANCE, JANUARY 1, 2024	\$26,664	\$13,808
FUND BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 2024	\$21,501	\$26,664

Statement of Financial Position:

	2024	2023
Assets		
Cash in bank	\$73,965	\$77,059
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$0	\$0
Deferred membership fees	\$280	\$0
	\$280	\$0
Net Assets	\$73,685	\$77,059
Fund Balances		
General Operating Fund (Note 1)	\$28,406	\$29,715
Lake Stewardship Fund (Note 2)	\$23,778	\$20,680
EWM Operating Fund (Note 3)	\$21,501	\$26,664
	\$73,685	\$77,059
	\$73,685	\$77,059

Note:

1. The \$ 40 membership fee is allocated between the General Operating Fund (\$ 30) and the Lake Stewardship Fund (\$ 10)
2. The Lake Stewardship Fund has a reserve fund to use for future unanticipated developments to protect and preserve Drag and Spruce Lakes.
3. The EWM Operating Fund is funded through donations and is used to assist in the eradication of EWM locations on Drag and Spruce Lakes

MOVED, Hunter Smith, seconded, Barb Bohlin, that the Treasurer’s 2024 financial report be accepted.

Motion passed unanimously.

Hunter noted the details of our donations made in 2024

DSLPOA Donations: \$500 to each of:

1. Haliburton 4Cs: Their purpose is "to help those who need help “. Lily Ann Thrift Store, Food Banks

2. SIRCH Community Services

- The main purpose of SIRCH is to create "thriving communities where everyone feels connected and supportive “

- Thrift Warehouse, Bistro and Bakery, Schools Cool (kindergarten readiness), CPAC (prenatal and early childhood nutritional guidance), Share The Warmth (winter gear), Repair Café, Community Kitchen

5. Membership Report- Jennifer North/ Merla Russell

Merla noted that membership was up and set out the numbers for July 2024, December 2023 and July 2025. The numbers as recorded are set out below:

	July 2024 (as presented to the		December 2024		July 2025 (as presented to the	
	Totals	As a %	Totals	As a %	Totals	As a %
	Total properties on the lakes (per municipality)	542		542		542
Number of properties in the database currently	460	85%	462	85%	465	86%
Number of paid members for current year	270	50%	312	58%	269	50%
Number of paid members who paid in prior year but have not yet paid in current year	49	9%	28	5%	54	10%
Number of not paid in last 3 yrs	130	24%	n/a		114	21%
Number of members requesting a sign	196	73%	210	67%	250	93%

6. Communications- Martin Rist/ Suzanne Montgomery

Suzanne was unable to attend the meeting, so Martin provided the overview of updates to our communication system. Martin noted he oversees the Website and Facebook administration and E-communications.

We have worked on an overhaul and implantation of a new website which has been developed and launched and it was on budget and on time. New features are coming and the new platform is up and running. The site allows for dissemination of information to membership and for getting some feedback from members. The new site has an opening page with links to various things on site: membership, subscribe to updates, donate to our WEM battle, Join our Facebook account.

The Facebook site allows members to post information and stay connected with neighbours on line, and allows for discussion. The DSLPOA Facebook link is facebook.com/groups/dslpoa, Our Community of Drag and Spruce Lakes. There is a

DSLPOA member bulletin board to post and access information. Note that you have to be a DSLPA member in order to join.

Martin set out the communications strategy:

1. Brand communications with DSLPOA logo for easy recognition by Membership
2. Standardize planned and unplanned communications to eliminate sharing of back-end details.
 - Membership feedback indicated we trust you are doing your job, tell us what you require from us
3. Showcase the work underway and upcoming by the Executive team and Volunteers
4. Utilize a mix of our various channels to ensure maximum coverage and awareness
 - Channels: Website, Facebook, Directory and Email Blast

Martin also noted that We have also posted new road signage, to be used to replace the current ones that are old and damaged. The new signs will be installed at each of the major entrances to the lakes, and on them a link will be posted with the URL for the DSLPOA website.

Martin also set out the sites to forward all comments and suggestions to the DSLPOA website at dragandsprucelakes@gmail.com.

Members are also reminded to sign up for automated email website updates.

7. Lake Steward Report- Rob Norris/ Jim Miners

Generally, the lake quality is good. Much of the shoreline remains undeveloped and the upstream watershed is largely intact. However, Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) remains a problem we are continuing to deal with.

Other Challenges and issues we are dealing with or need to keep in mind include potential shoreline degradation resulting from dock and other shoreline alterations. Also noted is the need to closely oversee septic tank maintenance. The 2023 town inspection found 26 at high risk, 13 at medium risk and 19 at low risk, and Dysart is focusing on future use of metal tanks to replace concrete tanks. Also noted is that seasonal residences should have their system pumped out every 4-5 years. Malfunctioning septics may be contributing to possible Blue-Green Algae blooms caused by lake eutrophication, as may shoreline clearing, and the use of lawn fertilizer which may also contribute to potential shoreline degradation.

Another thing to watch for is potential invasive species now in Drag and Spruce: As we know EWM is under an active control program. However, there is now one site identified with Phragmites, which colonizes wetlands and crowds out native species, and there may be other sites. Other invading species we need to watch for include Chinese Mystery snails.

--U Links Project

The stewards reported on U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research. It can be accessed at www.ulinks.ca. U Links collaborates with community partners, academic faculty and student researchers to deliver research and service-learning initiatives.

- Takes questions/program suggestions from the community and matches them with University and College students for term projects
- Accepting suggestions for 2025-26 until end August
- Matches University and College students with community projects.

Jack Scott from U-Links attended the AGM and was available to answer questions.

The current U-Links projects focus on monitoring over time to provide indications of changes in lake health. Currently two projects are proposed on Drag and Spruce Lakes:

- Benthic
 - o Sample bottom sediment and students take a census of 'critters'
 - o Scheduled for September. Need volunteers and boats
- Water quality monitoring
 - o Two sites on Frag and one on Spruce
 - o Temperature and O2 values taken at one meter intervals
 - o Water samples taken to test for micro-plastics and nutrients

MOVED, Rob Norris, seconded, Rick Wesselman, that DSLPOA continues to consider up to 3 community based environmental research projects offered by U-Links in the next 12 months, and to donate up to \$1,000 to U-Links on completion of each project.

Passed unanimously

Funds will be drawn from the Stewardship Fund.

-Eurasian Watermilfoil Control Activities

Currently there are no EWM beds on Spruce Lake, but if it gets in it is a location that it would do well in.

We will need more contributions to cover costs, as we are introducing drones to take pictures to monitor EWM growth and a new boat used as a work platform. This is also the 6th summer of divers removing EWM.

Currently there are 20 known outbreaks on Drag Lake. Current funds available for control total \$29,765. Water front drone activity will occur during July, and scheduled diver assistance will be running July 29 – August first. With the ongoing programs the Working Group will need help with fund raising and grant applications.

Members are also reminded they can enter the contest to name the new work boat platform, for which information is available on our website.

With respect to our on-going EWM programs, we have the following matters we are pursuing:

- Planned research: Review of independent research regarding use of two approved aquatic herbicides
- Optional research: Degree of natural control by microbial organisms possible on Drag Lake

8. Elections – Rick Wesselman

Those elected to positions for the DSLPOA are listed below. Those positions where a member was elected in 2022 are open positions, as the term has expired.

President Rick Wesselman 2022

Past President Barb Bohlin N/A

First Vice-President Dominique Binckly 2024

Second Vice-President Sheelagh Kemp 2022

Secretary Larry Olivo 2022

Treasurer Hunter Smith 2023

Director, Lake Stewardship Rob Norris 2023

Director, DSLPOA Newsletter and Directory Merla Russell 2023

Director, Membership	Jennifer North	2023
Director, E-Communications	Martin Rist	2022
Advertising Co-Ordinator	Merla Russell	2022
Officer at Large	Suzanne Montgomery	appointed 2024
Officer at Large	Jim Miners	2023
Director, Event Co-ordination		open
Director, Area Representatives	Barb Bohlin	2022

Rick noted the open positions where incumbents have agreed to stand for re-election:

- President: Rick Wesselman
- Second Vice-President: Sheelagh Kemp
- Secretary: Larry Olivo
- Director, E-Communications: Martin Rist
- Advertising Co-Ordinator: Merla Russell
- Director, Area Representatives: Barb Bohlin

Open positions currently without nominations:

- Director, Event Co-ordination: *open*

Officer at Large: *open*

In addition, all open positions are open to nominations from the floor. Suzanne Montgomery had not indicated whether she was available to run for re-election as Officer at Large, but Rick indicated she was previously appointed and he would ask if she would agree to be re-appointed.

MOVED, Barb Lord, seconded Judy Neimann, that the incumbents who have agreed to run for re-election be elected to their current offices.

Passed unanimously

Liisa Hebburn agreed to stand for the open position of Director, Event Coordinator, and there being no further nominees, she obtained that position.

9. Questions and Answers

The meeting opened to a question-and-answer session. There were a number of issues discussed including the following:

Jim Miners answered a question about how we were doing in combatting EWM, and he said a number of checks were being made and more will be done once the drones are available and they will be used to monitor in future. He also encouraged members who spotted EWM to report it on the website <https://www.dragandsprucelakes.ca/identify-report-ewm/>

There was also a discussion of beaver dams blowing out and sending debris into Drag Lake, and questions about whether permits were need to remove beaver site debris. Rick responded that we didn't have information on what the regulations required with respect to a permit or if a permit was required but that he would make inquiries and post responses on line.

There was discussion of using lake water as drinking water and the need to make it safe by using some type of water filter equipment that suits the particular needs. One person suggested contacting the Pump Shop as they may have both advice and appropriate equipment.

Dominique Binckly discussed the need for more volunteers for various tasks undertaken by the DSLPOA. He currently has a list of 66 with 20 showing up regularly, and he suggested that family members can be added in and that High School kids have a requirement of 40 hours of volunteer work so they should be encouraged to take part in work with the DSLPOA

There was also a discussion about increased cell tower installation. Rick noted that Rogers had announced they would be doing that, but that attempts to get a response on requests for information from Rogers were not responded to.

10. Close of Meeting

Rick called the meeting closed at 11:15 a.m., and the meeting was ended with a social event with food service, coffee and a cash bar followed an informal discussion with Mayor Murray Fearrey on various topics.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Laurence Olivo', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Laurence Olivo, Secretary DSLPOA