



Lake Windermere Ambassadors

14th Annual General Meeting

March 27th, 2025 @ 7pm
Columbia Valley Centre
646 4 St, Invermere, BC V0A 1K4

Attendees: Richard Spenrath, Buzz Harmsworth, Victoria Lang, Shawn Ridsdale, Taoya Schaefer, Jennifer Beverley, Max Powers, Ryan Watmough (online), Gurmeet Brar, Candis Dear, Victoria Page, Heather Rennebohm, Mark (online), Nelson Chan, George Darling, Donna Smith, Nancy Wilson, Heather Miller

Government Representatives: Grant Kelly (online), Susan Clovechok, Scott Cope

Staff: Pam Saunders, Marie-Jeanne Reid (MJ)

The 14th Annual General Meeting of the Lake Windermere Ambassadors Society, a society registered under the B.C. Society Act ("The Society") was called to order by the appointed meeting Chair, Taoya Schaefer, at 7:01 pm on March 27th, 2025.

The Chair welcomed all attendees and noted an absence from Shannon Nickerson.

The Chair appointed The Society's outgoing Secretary, Jennifer Beverley, to act as Recording Secretary and to record meeting minutes.

Quorum was determined and the meeting was allowed to proceed.

1. Adoption of agenda

The notice of this Annual General Meeting was sent out via email and social media on March 10th by Program Coordinator, Pam Saunders. An initial agenda was sent out via email on March 20th by the Secretary and updated again on March 21st by the Program Coordinator. At the AGM the Chair proposed to update the agenda with a short video on prop wash and wake boat impacts on shallow bodies of water.

Proposed Resolution: To adopt the Agenda for this Annual General Meeting.

Motioned: Gurmeet **Seconded:** Shawn **Carried.**

2. Adoption of AGM 2024 Minutes

The Chair tabled and reviewed the Minutes of the AGM of March 21st, 2024.

Proposed Resolution: To accept the minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

Motioned: Richard **Seconded:** Jennifer **Carried.**

3. Financial report for FY ending Sept. 30, 2024

The Chair appointed 2024/2025 Treasurer, Victoria Lang, to deliver a summary and review of the Financial Statement for The Society's fiscal year ending September 30th, 2024. No questions were asked.

Proposed resolution: To accept the financial statements tabled at this Annual General Meeting.

Motioned: Shawn **Seconded:** Candice **Carried.**

4. 2024 Annual Activity Report and 2025 Work Plan

The Chair appointed Water Stewardship Assistant, Marie-Jeanne Reid (MJ), to deliver The Society's 2024 Annual Activity Report. The Chair appointed Program Coordinator, Pam Saunders, to deliver the 2025 Work Plan. All reports and work plans were accepted with no questions.

5. Election of Directors and Officers

The Chair advised that as of today, all current Officers and Directors were retired from their roles. The Chair then called for nominations to appoint the Board of Directors for 2025/2026:

- Taoya Schaefer nominated Shawn Ridsdale, Jennifer Beverley, Gurmeet Brar, Victoria Lang, Ryan Watmough, Richard Spenrath, Max Powers, Candis Dear, Shannon Nickerson and Heather Rennebohm to the positions of Directors at Large. Shawn Ridsdale nominated Taoya Schaefer to the position of Director at Large. Candis Dear nominated Victoria Page to the position of Director at Large. All individuals accepted these positions. No objections or further nominations were put forward, and the nominees were subsequently appointed as Directors after unanimous approval.
- Shawn Ridsdale nominated Taoya Schaefer for Board Chair, Victoria Page seconded the nomination. No objections were put forward and Taoya Schaefer was declared Chair by acclamation.
- Taoya Schaefer nominated Shannon Nickerson for Vice-Chair, Shawn Ridsdale seconded the nomination. No objections or further nominations were put forward and Shannon Nickerson was declared Vice-Chair by acclamation.
- Taoya Schaefer nominated Victoria Lang for the office of Treasurer, Shawn Ridsdale seconded the nomination. No objections or further nominations were put forward and Victoria was declared Treasurer by acclamation.
- Taoya Schaefer nominated Jennifer Beverley for the office of Secretary, Shawn Ridsdale seconded the nomination. No objections or further nominations were put forward and Jennifer Beverley was declared Secretary by acclamation.

- There are zero remaining seats as Directors at Large as per The Society's guiding policies (section 1.1.10).

The President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary will continue as those authorized to sign cheques and other instruments required to be signed by the Society's Bankers. Any one signature of the above is needed on any cheque.

Pam Saunders would like to remind all new directors to provide her with their contact information and to submit a summary about themselves for the LWA website.

The Chair would like to remind any attendees to fill out a questionnaire available at the AGM to provide opinions on the Lake Windermere Ambassadors projects, lake recreation and ecosystem health.

6. New Agenda Addition- Wake Boat Discussion and Vessel Operating Restriction Regulation (VORR)

Last Wilderness Alliance Video: "Wake Surfing - A Threat to Our Lakes" - Wisconsin, USA
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OEHn0Htj8A>

Susan Clovechok summarized a letter sent from Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities detailed below:

- This letter was a call to have Transport Canada modernize the *Vessel Operating Restriction Regulation* (VORR) process to create specific objectives and criteria for boat sizes and boat types depending on lake depth, lake size, sensitive habitats etc.
- This letter has been adopted by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities board and they will work with the Federal government on this issue
- Next steps will be sending a similar letter to the Union of BC Municipalities and asking the Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship (WLRS) to advocate with their Provincial counterparts to support this resolution and raise the issue up to the Federal level
- RDEK believes that it is not a reasonable expectation for regional government to apply for a VORR for every applicable lake as it is an extensive process, and it would have a broader benefit to have standardized criteria across the Province and Nationally
- RCMP would be the enforcement authority if a VORR is put into place under the current regulations
- There is an opportunity for the Lake Windermere Ambassadors to send a letter to the RDEK to add an individual VORR application for Lake Windermere to the Annual RDEK Work Plan which would be discussed and voted on by the RDEK board of directors
- An audience member questioned why the "clean, drain, dry program" was taken away from the Radium hill location. Susan Clovechok indicated that this is a Provincial program and the RDEK has been advocating to have this check stop put back into place and/or have other invasive species prevention programs.
- An audience member questioned whether the RDEK could implement a fee at all boat launches and access points to Lake Windermere- Susan Clovechok was uncertain whether a fee could be implemented under the current legislation and bylaws. Susan will check whether this is possible and get back to the LWA board.

7. Adjournment

After the Chair advised there was no further business to discuss it was announced that the next regular board meeting would be at the **Chamber of Commerce** on Thursday, April 24th at 6pm due to internet issues at the LWA office. Taoya Schaefer motioned to adjourn the meeting and there being none opposed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Chair, Taoya Schaefer

Recording Secretary, Jennifer Beverley