

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting of September 7, 2016 held at Maple Tree restaurant, McFarland.

ARC President Bruce Chevis called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

37 people were in attendance. The cost of the meal was \$15.00 for broasted chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, bread, cole slaw and carrots, served family style. Meal also included ice cream sundaes, coffee and milk.

A moment of silence was observed for friends and family who have passed and for our troops who are serving in harm's way.

The August minutes were read and approved unanimously.

Financial Report:

Opening balance on September 1 for Savings is \$223.67 and Checking is \$707.21.
Dividend on Savings account September is \$.02.

Activity on Checking account for September:

DEPOSITS: \$570 (includes proceeds from lunch and \$15 donations for memorials)

EXPENDITURES: Paid \$520 to Maple Tree for meals, tax, gratuity.

Closing balance on October 1 for Savings is \$223.69 and Checking is \$757.21.

Guests and New Members:

Candy Shrank attended her first meeting. Candy started with the DNR in 1981 in Water Quality Management working on phosphorous and disinfection. She also served in Air Management before joining Fisheries Management and working on the fisheries Great Lakes program. She retired in August 2016 with 35 years of service.

"Frank-n-Miller Report:"

Jim Miller gave a brief report, noting that Ed Frank was at a wildlife organizational meeting. At the end of July, SWIB posted 7.31 for the year in the core fund; the benchmark is 7. Details are in the most recent ETF newsletter. YTD, the DOW is up 5.6%; NASDAQ is up 4.11%; and the Standard and Poors is up 6.21%.

Proposals under ETF's study of state self-insurance will be examined this fall by the State Insurance Board. There will be no change in the health insurance program for 2017. If self-insurance is adopted, it would go into effect in 2018. For that to happen, the Insurance Board will have to recommend the change to the Governor and Legislature and the Legislature would have to approve by vote.

Old Business:

ARC received a thank you note for the memorial sent to the Natural Resources Foundation in memory of Russ Perttunen.

New Business:

Noted outdoor writer Tim Eisele will make a presentation at the October meeting in New Glarus.

Tom Thoresen noted he had just returned from a gathering of retired conservation wardens where they did a group check on the planned DNR "realignment." The group concurred a major reorganization was in progress and there was much apprehension in the agency among staff. The reorg announcement was originally slated for June or July and has been pushed back several times. In the meantime, revised civil service rules eliminating bumping and seniority protections have kicked in.

Walt Adams, Wally Ketter and Elaine Krug, all of the Northern Unit of the Kettle Moraine have recently retired, leaving a substantial hole in the unit's staff.

Legislative update:

none

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Dean Tvedt and his wife Lois recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

Roy Lembcke turned 73.

Cliff Germaine celebrated his 93rd birthday.

Bruce Braun and his wife Nancy were married 51 years ago in August.

Jim and Jan Miller celebrated their 58th anniversary.

Laurel and Dick Steffes had their 45th anniversary September 4.

Trips:

Gen Bancroft traveled to Yellowstone as part of the National Parks centennial.

Laurel and Dick Steffes and their grandson visited more than a dozen national parks and monuments in August in honor of the centennial. Included were Yellowstone, Yosemite, Badlands, Sequoia, King's Canyon, Wind Cave, Devil's Tower and Alcatraz.

Jerry Rodenberg and his wife Sandy rented a motor home and toured Alaska; he noted it was an economical and convenient way to see that state as one didn't have to worry about finding accommodations when things are so far apart.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.