

**BURNETT COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2019
MINUTES**

Attendance: B. Baker, R. Noe, T. Adair, D. Ferris, M. Schollmeyer, S. Wallin, and P. Kipping

Absent: B. Gooding, S. Johnson, R. McFarlane, B. Enslin, A. Enslin, and L. Baltrusis

Guest: Brian Hehn and Emily Gall

R. Noe called meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and thanked Board Members for making it to the meeting in spite of the brutally cold weather. He pointed out that changing the meeting from the usual day of Friday to Saturday, clearly caused some confusion because three board members showed up at the Government Center yesterday expecting a meeting. He said that to avoid future confusion, BCLRA meetings will be scheduled for Friday, rather than Saturday.

Minutes of the 12/28/18 meeting were approved unanimously (Adair/Kipping) with no changes.

Treasurer's report: B. Baker reported that since our December 28 meeting all of our sponsors have now paid for their *LakeLines* advertising for 2018. He explained that in early January he sent a third invoice to the only outstanding sponsor, Fish Bowl Bar and Grill, but they had not paid for their advertising until last week when Susan Wallin intervened on our behalf. Baker thanked Wallin for her assistance. Baker also reported that in early January he sent second invoices to the six associations that had still not paid their 2019 BCLRA dues. Since then, Big Doctor and Elbow Lake Associations have now renewed their memberships for 2019. Baker explained that D. Ferris had provided important contact information for Elbow Lake, and that he had been unsuccessful in contacting them for over 2 years. That leaves only Minerva-Cranberry, Pike, Prinel, and Yellow not renewed for 2019. After some discussion, S. Wallin agreed to contact Minerva-Cranberry and Prinel Lake Associations, D. Ferris agreed to contact Pike Lake and M. Schollmeyer agreed to contact the Yellow Lakes and Rivers Association to attempt to get them to renew their memberships for 2019. Baker will send third notices to any these associations that are still not renewed by late March. So, to date we have received \$1,400 from advertising sponsors, \$2,100 from lake association dues, \$250 in donations, and \$1.63 in CD interest for a total fiscal year income of \$3,751.63. Our expenses since our 12/28/18 meeting include \$1,551.74 for *LakeLines* printing cost sharing, \$500 for our annual intern scholarship to Burnett County Land Services, \$50 for postage stamps, and a \$25 dollar certificate for Siren Chamber Dollars for Beth Greiff who has served us so well in her roll as administrative assistant for UW-Extension for the past 6 years, but was recently terminated. This brings our total expenses for the fiscal year to \$4,020.47 leaving us a current checking account balance of \$3,279.69, which with our CD value of \$3,262.43, gives us a total balance of \$6,542.12. M. Schollmeyer mentioned that our biggest expense each year is the *LakeLines* printing cost sharing and wondered if we could reduce this considerably by moving to a e-newsletter. This generated considerable discussion, including D. Ferris pointing out that a survey several years ago showed overwhelming support for maintaining the hard-copy newsletter, rather than switching to an electronic version. There was some sentiment for allowing people to opt out on the hard-copy *LakeLines* and make the newsletter available online. There was also

discussion about several of our board members who have missed 5 or more consecutive BCLRA meetings. Baker said he would send emails to these individuals alerting them of the date of our next meeting (Friday, April 12) and asking them to mark their calendars so that they can attend. The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously (Kipping/Wallin).

LIAISON UPDATES

UW-Extension: Lori Baltrusis was not in attendance because of her responsibilities in covering 5 counties. He explained that Madeline Roberts, from Washburn County might be able to serve as the UW-EX representative on the BCLRA board. He will contact her to see if she is willing to serve. Ferris explained that the UW-Extension administrative assistant position will move upstairs to Land and Water Services and will include some responsibilities related to zoning.

Burnett County Natural Resources Committee: R. Noe mentioned that the Natural Resources Committee met on 02/14/19 and spent considerable time discussing the possibility of ATV usage on the Gandy Dancer Trail. He said the ATV lobby is so strong, they will likely eventually prevail in being allowed to use the Gandy Dancer Trail. Noe said Burnett County is considering building a cabin near the Timberland Hills Ski Area and the Ice Age Trail, that could be rented and become a revenue source for the County.

Burnett County Land Services: D. Ferris indicated that his unit is updating their Land and Water Plan, which is a 10-year plan focusing on their initiatives related to AIS, agricultural runoff, ground water quality, and other issues. This is an important document that is needed to secure funding dollars from DATCP (Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection). Ferris also mentioned that Becca Klemme had decided to take another position, so he is in the process of searching for a new AIS Coordinator and well as several summer interns. Next month Ferris will be attending a meeting focussing on CAFO (confined animal feeding operations) which are causing serious groundwater contamination statewide. He said his studies in Burnett County have found nitrate levels steadily increasing in our groundwater. He mentioned that orders for trees and shrubs are coming in steadily and that he is almost out of inventory. Ferris also reported that Whitney Meyers, a middle schooler from Grantsburg, recently won the regional oratorical contest with a speech about the problems of spiny water fleas. S. Wallin said that Whitney may be invited to share her talk at the NW Lakes Conference in June.

Zebra Mussel Update: M. Schollmeyer mentioned that the Zebra Mussel Management Team met on November 28 at the DNR Office in Spooner and that he had presented results of the plate sampler data from the McKenzie lakes. Sampler data show the density of zebra mussels in Big McKenzie increased from 10 individuals/square foot in 2017 to 55/square foot in 2018. In Middle McKenzie, the number of discovered individual zebra mussels went from 1 in 2017 to 9 in 2018. No zebra mussels have been found in Lower Mckenzie as of yet. Schollmeyer mentioned that Deer Lake in Polk County had one zebra mussel discovered in 2016, none in 2017, but an established population was found in 2018. He explained that a vendor who sells CD3 decontamination units, which utilize a vacuum system to remove zebra mussel villagers from boat hulls and trailers, will have a display set up at the NW Lakes Conference in Hayward. He said issues related to wake boats will also be discussed at the conference, an important topic since it has been shown that the

bilge tanks on these boats can harbor villagers for long periods of time and result in contamination of vulnerable lakes. We will discuss Steve Johnson's suggestion that we encourage lakes with decontamination stations to have containers of KCl for wake boat decontamination at our next meeting. Schollmeyer and D. Ferris pointed out that eDNA testing seems to be a much better indicator of the presence of zebra mussels than veliger tows, so time consuming and not very effective veliger tows may be replaced by eDNA sampling in 2019. Schollmeyer said the comparative DNA analyses on zebra mussels from Big McKenzie to determine their provenance are not available yet, in part as a result of Mike McCartney leaving his position at the U of Minnesota. However, he is hopeful it will be completed by later this spring.

NW Lakes Conference: S. Wallin showed the colorful flyer announcing the 2019 NW Lakes conference will be held on June 21 at Hayward High School. She mentioned that attendance was down last year, perhaps in part due to the fact that for the first time in years, there was no flyer advertising the conference. Hopefully the flyers will catch people's attention and help boost attendance numbers in 2019. Erica LeMoine, the Loon expert, will be the keynote speaker and should be captivating. Wallin indicated there will also be a student speaker, possibly Whitney Meyer, as mentioned earlier in this meeting. She said the sessions will focus on a number of timely topics related to lakes and water quality and hopes all BCLRA Board members will attend this year.

R. Noe mentioned that the state lakes conference will be held in Stevens Point April 10-12, but that S. Wallin will be attending. Thus a space is open for any Board member interested in attending this informative conference.

OLD BUSINESS

LakeNet: See BCLRA web page under New Business

Lake Courtesy Code update: T. Adair explained the back-side changes he is working with D. Ferris on for updating the Courtesy Code handout we last printed perhaps a decade ago. He asked all Board members to look at both sides of the Courtesy Code and send their editorial suggestions to him via email ASAP. He will bring the suggested changes to our April 12 meeting for our approval. For instance, should AIS prevention be added to the front side since preventing invasive species spread is clearly a courtesy. Similarly, should wake boats be specifically mentioned?

BCLRA Presence: S. Wallin discussed the possibility of a BCLRA booth at the Webster Craft Fair on Saturday May 25. It was discussed that this is an important event that could help raise the profile of the BCLRA in the county and that even though many lake association have their annual meetings that morning, it should be possible to staff the booth with Board members throughout the day. Wallin said the cost of a 12X12 space is \$70. Noe/Adair moved we register for a booth at the craft fair. Motion carried with a vote of 6 yes and 1 no.

Baker indicated that he will sign up for a BCLRA booth again this year at the NW Lakes Conference to advertise or organization and give out our various lake and river protection handouts. He also asked for a few volunteers to help staff the table since he has had no help in previous years. Several people said they would be happy to help out.

Good/Better/Best cards: B. Baker said he had contacted Cathie Erickson about a reprinting go GBB cards and she indicated that the WCLRA would be interested in getting another 1000 cards printed and that the Town of Chicog would like at least 250 cards. She will get back to me with a firm number from Chicog in the next few weeks. D. Ferris indicated he would like to order 500 cards for Land Services and M. Schollmeyer committed the McKenzie Lakes Association to the purchase of 500 cards. Kipping/Adair moved that the BCLRA order 1000 GBB cards. Motion carried unanimously. Baker will place the reprinting order of at least 3250 cards when he gets a firm number from the Town of Chicog. Last spring, with an order of 6300 cards, the printing cost was \$.096/card. With the smaller order this spring, the cost will undoubtedly be somewhat higher.

Lake Life Pocketbooks: We did not discuss whether or not to have another printing. Presumably this will be deferred to our April 12 meeting meeting.

Clam Lake and Mud Hen Lake District representative: R. Noe explained that state statutes require all lake districts boards of directors to have a representative from their county Natural Resources Committee or a representative appointed by the Natural Resources Committee. Most lake districts meet quarterly. After some discussion, R. Noe agreed to be that representative, unless another BCLRA Board member would be willing to serve. (Secretary's note: it would be nice if a board member would be willing to step to the plate on this. We can't expect our president to always be the go-to person for these types of issues.)

NEW BUSINESS

Law Enforcement update: R. Noe indicated he had invited Sheriff Finch to attend today's meeting, but she was unable to due to a previous commitment. He will attempt to get her to attend our next meeting.

BCLRA web page: R. Noe introduced Emily Gall, the new marketing consultant for Burnett County Tourism and an expert on web-page development. Emily said she can help us in getting our message out to the public with her expertise in website development for groups and organizations. D. Ferris mentioned it would be ideal when the BCLRA webpage is developed, it could contain links to the existing 18-20 lake association webpages in Burnett County. This would make it simpler for people to see what lake associations are doing. R. Noe asked if the BCLRA actually needs a their own website, or could we have a page on the Burnett County webpage? Gall said it would not be possible to give BCLRA a page on the County website. M. Schollmeyer asked if Gall was familiar with Lake Net, a free, open-source platform for creating your own webpage with no fees required. Gall said she knows about Lake Net, but has not studied it closely, but will do so to see if it might be a good fit for the BCLRA. Noe/Schollmeyer mentioned that having a website for the BCLRA would be an important conduit for information on zebra mussels, wake boats, decontamination procedures, upcoming events, and other timely issues. Gall explained that her charge for developing a website is between \$500 and \$1,000, depending on the complexity and \$45/month (or about \$500/year) to maintain/update the site. Her services could be used by the BCLRA or any lake association in the county interested in developing a web presence. Gall said she will check Lake Net to see if it would be be beneficial to us and, if so, would be willing to

develop and maintain the site for us. Otherwise, we could, if we wish, have her develop our website through the platform she has been using for the development of other websites in recent years. Noe indicated he will put E. Gall on our agenda for the April 12 meeting to report back on her findings.

Format Outline for Lake Association Meetings: T. Adair handed out a list of talking points for us to use when visiting our liaison associations this spring. He asked all board members to get him additional points he may have omitted, and suggestions for expanding any of the talking points, ASAP and he will bring it to our next meeting for consideration.

BCLRA Annual Meeting: The 2019 annual meeting will be on **Friday June 28** at the Government Center and like in 2018, all members are asked to bring a treat to be shared. We will keep the meeting low-key.

The next BCLRA meeting will be held on **Friday, April 12, 2019.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m. (Kipping/Adair)