

**BURNETT COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
OCTOBER 18, 2019  
MINUTES**

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

Absent: R. McFarlane.

R. Noe called meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and thanked everyone for taking time to attend our meeting on such a lovely fall day.

Minutes of the 08/30/19 meeting were approved unanimously (Schollmeyer/A. Enslin) with no changes.

Treasurer's report: B. Baker reported that since our 08/30/19 meeting Benton A-1 Septic had paid for their 2019 *LakeLines* advertising for 2019, and that now all sponsors have paid for their ads. Baker reported that he had sent out 2020 dues notices to all member associations and that to date 27 associations have renewed their BCLRA memberships giving us \$1,700 in dues revenue thus far, \$1,250 of which has been deposited in our checking account and \$450 of which will be deposited after the meeting later this morning. We also received a donation from Rooney Lake giving us a total income since our 08/30/19 meeting of \$2,550.00, not including the \$450 to be deposited today. Our only expense since 08/30/19 was \$100 to renew our membership in the River Alliance of Wisconsin for 2020. This gives us a current checking account balance of \$5,776.49, which, with our CD value of \$3,263.24, gives us a total balance of \$9,039.78. R. Noe asked how this compares with our balance at this time last fall. Baker reported that once the \$450 is deposited today, we are about \$1,500 ahead of October, 2018. Baker indicated that the lake associations that to date still have not renewed BCLRA membership for 2020 are: Big Doctor, Big Sand, Birch Island, Devil's, Fish, Ham, Long (Danbury), Mallard, Pike, Prinell, Round-Trade, Webb, and Yellow Lakes. Baker said that usually second dues notices are sent out around the first of the year. Several Board members indicated that they would reach out to contacts and attempt to facilitate renewal of some associations. The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously (Kipping/Adair).

## **LIAISON UPDATES**

Zebra Mussel Update: M. Schollmeyer explained that the plate samplers have been taken out of all 3 McKenzie lakes and that the density of zebra mussels on the Big McKenzie samplers was such that it was impossible to get an accurate count. After questioning, Schollmeyer said that although an accurate density estimate was not possible, he felt confident it was in the range of 2,000/sq.ft. or possibly higher. The data from Middle McKenzie show that the density of zebra mussels has increased from less than 1/sq.ft. last fall, to 45/sq.ft. this year. One piece of positive information is that all 5 plate samplers deployed in Lower McKenzie had no zebra mussels. Schollmeyer explained that Scott Ballentine, a genetics professor at UW-River Falls will be taking a sabbatical leave and working with a team of scientists from the Upper Midwest Environmental

Research Center – La Crosse and the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Institute, at the U. of Minnesota in St. Paul. The goal of the project is to create a bacterial strain that is harmful to zebra mussels but is harmless to all other creatures. The plan is to use a well-established method known as RNA interference (RNAi) to specifically inactivate essential zebra mussel genes. Bacterial strains will be engineered to elicit RNAi against zebra mussel gene sequences that are not found in other creatures. Zebra mussels will be exposed to the engineered bacteria and observed to determine whether or not they shut off the target genes and whether they exhibit defects in growth, viability, or fertility. Successful species-specific RNAi based control strategies have recently been reported for mosquitos and for several agricultural pests. The proposed project could lead to the first application of this technology in a natural resource management program. Board members were encouraged by the potential of the research by Dr. Ballentine and hope he is successful.

T. Adair reported that Wisconsin Lakes is coordinating discussions about doing more to prevent the spread of AIS. Possible changes could include alternatives or enhancements to CBCW in curbing the spread of AIS because citizens across the state feel the DNR should be doing more on this important problem. Adair will represent the BCLRA and serve on a task force that will recommend ways of halting AIS spread, possibly pushing the legislature to substantially increase the DNR's anti-AIS funding.

D. Ferris mentioned that the Burnett County Natural Resources Committee voted to increase the fines for failure to decontaminate to \$150 plus court costs for the first offense, \$250 for the second, and \$350 for the third. In November this will be considered by the full County Board and Ferris is confident it will be approved.

M. Schollmeyer mentioned that the McKenzie Lakes Association would be applying for CBCW monies to have monitors on all three McKenzie lakes in 2020, but that getting members to volunteer to work as monitors could be a serious problem.

Burnett County Land Services: D. Ferris reported that Lake Winneconne in eastern Wisconsin (Winnebago County) has had water hyacinth that has survived our cold winters for 3 years. Water hyacinth is an especially troublesome invasive that has completely clogged rivers, canals, and other waterways in Florida. Ferris said it is unclear how/why the water hyacinth has survived the Wisconsin winters, but some people believe it may be related to in-water boathouses that keep aerators going during the winters to prevent ice formation around the boats inside the boathouses. NR 193 rewrites all surface-water grants, combining them all into one. Ferris reported that NR 193 but could potentially severely cut monies for water-related programs. Although Ferris is not opposed to NR 193 as a whole, he is concerned that NR 193 could ultimately cause problems for his shop. NR 193 is scheduled to go into effect on 2021. Currently Land Services receives \$40,000-50,000/year in state funding and if no modifications are made, this could drop to \$16,000/year.

Ferris reported that Tom Boisvert had recently attended a state-wide AIS coordinators meeting in Ashland, and that there was considerable interest in the Burnett County decontamination ordinance. He indicated that it appears that a number of counties may adopt similar ordinances and set up decon stations like the ones in our county.

Ferris said the the Clam Lake District has noticed that the new BCLRA website shows that they are not BCLRA members and that this caused them some embarrassment. Ferris said he would give B. Baker contact information from Clam Lake so that he can send them a dues notice and invoice.

T. Adair asked if the high lake levels will result in new high-water marks for many lakes. Ferris will check into that question and report back at our next meeting.

Ferris mentioned that the fall *LakeLines* is being finished up and should be mailed in the next 2-3 weeks. He asked if the BCLRA Board might be interested in making sure the newsletter is mailed to people who have properties on rivers in addition to lakes, especially the Clam and Yellow Rivers. He estimated the cost would be about \$0.50 per mailing. After some discussion, Adair/Johnson moved that we include residents of the Clam and Yellow Rivers in the next and all future *LakeLines* mailings. The motion passed with no dissenting votes. S.Wallin will attempt to make changes in the Shell Lake Marine ad in *LakeLines* to satisfy their concerns with the ad we used in the spring issue. She also mentioned that she is working on an article about the bi-annual Lake Leaders training sessions.

Extension Services: No report.

Natural Resources Committee: R. Noe reported that timber bids were opened last week which are a huge revenue generator for Burnett County. He mentioned that he has been trying to get permission to hang the Wisconsin Ideas Award, that was given to the BCLRA about five years ago, somewhere in the Government Center. This has proven to be a non-trivial task, but he is optimistic that he will receive permission to showcase our award.

N.W. Lakes Conference: S. Wallin said that the steering committee recently had their first meeting and has lined up Ian Karl, from Northwest Passage near Webster, as the keynote speaker. The conference<sup>3</sup> will be Friday June 19, 2020 at Spooner High School.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

BCLRA Website: T. Adair said that Emily Gall is looking for more photos for the website. They could be anything from zebra mussels encrusting native clam, to kids fishing, to colorful sunsets. R. Noe will develop a calendar of future BCLRA Board meetings that can be listed on our website; a step that could result in more guests at our meetings.

Yellow River Initiative with the WCLRA: R. Noe will contact Phil Sylla to find out when the meeting with LandMark Land Trust is scheduled so that we can have representatives attend.

Buck Gooding Position: R. Noe said that he spoke recently to Buck Gooding and that because Dottie's cancer has gotten considerably worse, he has decided to resign from his long tenure on the BCLRA Board. S. Wallin mentioned that she is pretty sure Buck was one of the original founders the BCLRA. Discussion followed as to the appropriate way to acknowledge Buck's long and dedicated service to the BCLRA. Noe will put this on our next agenda for further discussion.

AIS Scholarship: B.Baker gave R. Noe a check for \$500 to be presented to D. Ferris at a future date, possibly our next meeting in December. Perhaps a photo of the check presentation could be put on the BCLRA website to help publicize our assistance to Burnett County Land Services?

**NEW BUSINESS.** None

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Burnett County Concentrated Animal Feed Operation (CAFO) Hog Farm Update: B. Baker reported that he had participated in a town-hall panel discussion at Luck High School related to the pros and cons of CAFOS on October 8. He said there were 6 panelists including an attorney, a real estate agent, a physician, a county supervisor, a former hog farmer, and a geologist(Baker). Approximately 100 people were in attendance and there were many questions related to health issues, legal issues, and property value effects related to CAFOS. The meeting lasted almost 3 hours. The public was invited to attend the next meeting of the Polk County Board at Unity High School on November 15 where a moratorium on CAFOS will be considered.

The next BCLRA meeting will be held on **Friday, December 20, 2019 at the Siren Government Center.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m. (Schollmeyer/Kipping).