

BURNETT COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL (Zoom) MEETING
APRIL 16, 2021
MINUTES

Attendance: B. Baker, R. Noe, B. Enslin, A. Enslin, D. Ferris P. Kipping, T. Adair, T. Boisvert, R. McFarlane, and S. Johnson.

Absent: S. Wallin and R. Lewis.

1. R. Noe called meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and asked T. Boisvert about how sucker fishing is going. Tom said it was going well and he hopes to be pickling suckers soon.

2. Minutes of the February 12, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously (Kipping/Boisvert).

3. Treasurer's report: B. Baker reported that since our last meeting on 02/12/21, we have received \$250.00 in 2021 dues payments from Mud Hen, Point, McKenzie, and the Minerva-Cranberry Associations. That leaves only Long Lake (Danbury) and Mallard as the only associations that have not renewed their 2021 memberships. Baker mentioned that Long Lake had indicated that they would discuss renewal at their spring board meeting, so he is hopeful they will not withdraw from the BCLRA. He also explained that he used contact information from our most recent contact list (2018) and sent out a request to 2018 Mallard Lake officers asking if someone would be willing to give me contact information for the current president and/or treasurer. He received no replies, so at this point, he will drop Mallard Lake from our membership list and move on. The \$250 in dues revenue brings our current checking account balance to \$3,223.50. We have had no expenses since 02/12/21.

Baker mentioned that in early March he called the Webster, WI US Bank to check on why we had not received semi-annual interest statements on our CD in over a year. He was told that because there had been no transactions or other activities on our CD account for a "significant period of time", our CD funds were remitted to the State of Wisconsin but that we could apply through the Department of Revenue Unclaimed Property Office to receive reimbursement. Upon further inquiry, Baker discovered that he had been sent a notice in late 2019, indicating that because of our lack of activities status, he needed to return a short form indicating that our account was still viable. He said he found that notice in a file and apologized for not noticing the need for action that it required. As a consequence, on 03/04/21 Baker completed and submitted a lengthy request for reimbursement from the Department of Revenue. He received a confirmation number and was told that it would be 6 to 8 weeks before they would begin to review our claim, but that if additional information was needed, Baker would be contacted by letter. To date he has received nothing from the Department of Revenue so he is hopeful that reimbursement will be completed in the next several weeks. So, due to having no

CD savings at this time, our current total balance is \$3,222.50. After several questions about the CD reimbursement process, the Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously (Adair/Kipping).

4. Update from Burnett County: D. Ferris reported that he is still looking for AIS interns to hire for the 2021 summer. He mentioned that a major issue with summer interns is finding suitable, affordable housing. Many resorts ask for rent that is roughly equal to an intern's monthly pay. Ferris asked Board members to check their lakes about possible rentals for his interns. He indicated that between \$600 and \$900/month is the typical cost of rent in our area, and would be something most interns could NOT handle. Roger Noe suggested that Ferris check with the Hunt Hill Audubon Sanctuary, which might have very affordable housing for Burnett County AIS interns. Ferris thought this was an excellent suggestion and will check with Hunt Hill. Noe asked Ferris about trees and was told that distribution is scheduled for April 30 and May 1. T. Boisvert reported that his purple loosestrife cages are being rebuilt due to serious wear and tear over the years. He also reported that he and Lisa Burns will be conducting a virtual CBCW workshop on April 22 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. and will, among other things, focus on how CBCW workers should report failure-to-decontaminate violations. Boisvert encouraged all of us to let our CBCW inspectors know about his upcoming workshop. They can register by contacting either him, or Lisa Burns.

OLD BUSINESS

a) BCLRA Web Site: T. Adair explained that little progress has been made with the BCLRA website due to his inability to make connection with Emily Gall. He needs the access code from Emily so that he and a friend who is experienced with web design and maintenance can get into the website and manipulate/make changes. P. Kipping said he is good friends with Emily's husband and would be happy to assist with the website updating. Adair thanked Kipping, saying his assistance would be much appreciated.

b) Calcium Study: T. Boisvert reported that in 2020 he and Lisa Burns sampled the water from 30 lakes, 15 in Burnett and 15 in Washburn Counties, to analyze for calcium content. He explained that previous calcium data were based on estimates from conductivity measurements. Boisvert said that conductivity is a measure of the quantity of dissolved solids in water, of which calcium is only one component. Boisvert and Burns found that actual calcium levels were typically a little higher than those predicted by conductivity measurements and that flow-through lakes had significantly higher calcium levels than seepage lakes. McFarlane asked if high calcium levels mean that native mussels, clams, and crayfish will thrive. Boisvert said that is correct and that when lakes have high calcium levels, there is also a greater probability of zebra mussel populations thriving if introduced. Boisvert showed photos of zebra mussel encrusted lifts and docks from Big McKenzie illustrating how quickly zebra mussel populations can expand. R. Noe asked if there is a cycle to zebra mussel abundance in contaminated lakes. Boisvert said that there are indeed cycles where the zebra mussel density fluctuates from heavy to lighter, but once introduced, zebra mussels do not ever completely die off. McFarlane

encouraged Boisvert to send calcium and other reports out to lake associations and mentioned that the BCLRA could do a better job of making the public aware of what we have been doing. McFarlane mentioned an article just published in the Inter-County Leader newspaper that announced recent grant awards to the Trade Lake Association. Boisvert said he would make sure his reports are sent to lake associations.

c) BCLRA Conservation Award: D. Ferris asked if we have developed any criteria for the award, which could possibly be given to individuals who have volunteered to conduct lake monitoring for years with no recognition. Adair suggested language such as “this person/organization has done exemplary service helping preserve water quality in Burnett County”. R. Noe volunteered to develop a one-page list of possible criteria and have it available for discussion at our next meeting.

d) Operation Roundup: T. Adair thanked T. Boisvert for the time and effort he put in writing and submitting an Operation Roundup grant application to the Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative. The application requested \$1,000 and required an equal match. D. Ferris indicated that Land Services would provide the required \$1,000 match and the BCLRA agreed at our 02/12/20 meeting to contribute \$500, giving us a total of \$2,500 for the purchase of cold packs to give to fishermen/women this summer. T. Boisvert mentioned that this year the State will not be giving out any towels or ice packs, so we will be the only ones handing out anything related to AIS in Burnett County. Boisvert said that he can get stickers printed to put on the cold packs indicating that they are courtesy of the BCLRA, but the exact wording still needs to be determined. B. Baker mentioned that on 04/14 Tammy Johnson emailed him that a check for \$1,000 from the Polk-Burnett Electric Cooperative had arrived in the mail, so our grant money has arrived. Baker said he would pick up the check and deposit it next week.

e) BCLRA Brochure: B. Baker said that after the 02/12/21 meeting he had sent out an updated version of our brochure to the board but received no responses. After some discussion, Baker agree to resend the latest version of the brochure, but would like comments and/or corrections be sent to him before the end of April, so that he can get copies printed through White Birch Printing in Spooner.

f) Courtesy Codes: D. Ferris showed the latest iteration of the Lake Courtesy Code handout. He explained that he could not include S. Johnson’s suggestion that the Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Company be listed among the emergency contacts because they did not want their website listed for emergency purposes. Several people suggested that part of the BCLRA website rejuvenation project should include getting the Courtesy Code prominently displayed. Adair said he thought that was an excellent suggestion. Ferris will have the Courtesy Codes printed later this spring. He noted that he still has about 300 copies of our last version that can be made available and distributed.

g) LakeLines newsletter: D. Ferris explained that the spring *LakeLines* is almost ready to go to the printer, which will happen by no later than May 1. He said that he still needs the President’s

Report from R. Noe. Noe said he just sent the report to T. Johnson, so that part of the newsletter is good-to-go.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Campground issues: R. McFarlane suggested that we encourage the state and counties to purchase large tracts of land to avoid development and then have the land managed by a land conservancy. Ferris pointed out that many of the new and proposed campgrounds are not on lakes. McFarlane informed the group that there are 10 acres for sale on Trade Lake with significant shoreline. Ferris suggested that McFarlane consider becoming a facilitator between the Landmark Conservancy and the property owner. If Landmark acquires the land they would probably not allow campgrounds. Ferris pointed out that on Love Lake, Landmark purchased a huge parcel of land from Northland College. He also said the the old Houman's Resort on the Minerva chain was also purchased by LandMark, with a significant donation/contribution for lakeshore property owners.

b) Other New Business: Possible New Board Member R. Noe reported that he had tried to call the potential volunteer several times and had left voice messages, but was unsuccessful at making contact. He mentioned to the group that there is little doubt that our Board could use some new members with both good vision and good enthusiasm. Noe suggested that it might be a good idea to put another plea for volunteers for the BCLRA Board in the fall edition of the *LakeLines* newsletter.

The next BCLRA meeting will be held on **Friday, June 11, 2021 at the Siren Government Center, assuming the lockdown has ended.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m. (McFarlane/Noe).