

BURNETT COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING
JULY 23, 2021
MINUTES

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

Absent: None

Guests: Greg Schaffer (Burnett County Recreation Officer); Sam Kosch (Land and Water AIS Intern).

R. Noe called meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. and thanked everyone for attending our first face-to-face meeting in about 2 years. He said he is pleased that the board members had successfully survived the COVID-19 pandemic, at least thus far.

Minutes of the 04/16/21 meeting were approved unanimously (Kipping/Adair) with no changes.

Treasurer's report: B. Baker reported that since our 04/16/21 meeting he had sent out invoices to the 15 *LakeLines* sponsors and thanked S. Wallin for her success in lining up such an impressive list of sponsors. To date all but Benton A-1 Septic and Custom Portable Docks have paid giving us \$1,400 in advertising revenue. Baker indicated that shortly after August 1, he will send out second invoices to Benton and Custom Docks if their checks have not arrived in the next week or so. Other revenue since 04/16/21 includes \$1,000 from Polk-Burnett Electrical Cooperative (Operation Roundup grant), \$3,503.84 from the State of Wisconsin refunding our CD that was surrendered last year, \$125 in donations, \$350 in BCLRA dues (Love Lake \$50 2022 dues, McKenzie Lakes Association \$250 2022 dues with a note saying the association had voted to increase their annual BCLRA dues by \$150, and Mallard Lake \$50 for their 2021 dues). This brings our total income for the fiscal year to \$9,143.84.

Our expenses since 04/16/22 include \$10 for our state licensing fee, \$1,500 to Burnett County Land and Water for our portion of the cold-pack cost sharing, \$341 to White Birch Printing for the revision and printing of our updated brochure, and \$1,724.05 for our *LakeLines* printing cost share. This brings our total fiscal year expenses to \$6,027.96 which gives us a total balance of \$6,027.37. Baker noted that the State paid us about \$240 in interest for holding our CD monies for close to a year and if the CD had stayed with U.S. Bank, it would have accrued \$1.62 in interest. R. Noe indicated he would contact the McKenzie Lakes Association to thank them for their voluntary generous increase in dues. The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously (Adair/A. Enslin).

LIAISON UPDATES

Zebra Mussels: T. Boisvert mentioned that zebra mussel shell accumulation on the beaches of Big McKenzie have become an increasing nuisance this summer. He mentioned that Lisa Burns

reported that CBCW inspectors at Big McKenzie found that in 2019 about 30% of the lake users were noncooperative about the Burnett and Washburn County ordinances requiring decontamination. Now roughly 90% follow the law. People seem to be more aware that zebra mussels are a serious problem. B. Baker reported that Lipsett Lake has borrowed ideas from Stone Lake and is in the process of installing a cold-water pressure washer at their public landing. Their association voted to appropriate \$10,000 to have a well dug with a submersible pump, power brought to the site by Barron Electric, and purchase of a 1,300 psi cold-water pressure washer. At this point the well has been drilled and they are waiting for the power to be brought to the site. Baker hopes the system will be up and running during August, but said it will likely be around Labor Day or later. After some discussion, R. Noe suggested that the Lipsett Lake Association schedule a demonstration day and invite lakes in Burnett and Washburn Counties to stop by to see the decon system and get a feel for how it works. Baker agreed that should be possible, depending on when the system is up and running. S. Johnson mentioned that Fish lake spent about \$600 on an orchard sprayer that is working well to spray hard to reach areas beneath larger boats and trailers. D. Ferris said that he had made a presentation to the Village of Siren and they will now be installing decontamination stations at Crooked and Clear Lakes.

T. Boisvert introduced Sam Kosch, his new AIS intern from the second half of the summer. Sam is from Baldwin, WI and staying at his family's cabin. Ferris mentioned that finding suitable housing for summer employees in the county is becoming an increasingly difficult obstacle to overcome. Ferris also mentioned that a land-use agreement is needed to put a camera on a State boat landing and that Clam Lake will attempt to use such an agreement to put up a decontamination station on their State-owned boat landing. The Clam Lake Association will maintain the pump sprayers at the decon station if the request is successful.

Burnett County Land Services: D. Ferris explained that the Trade Lake CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation) is now complete and is being considered by the State and that he expects the review and decision to take anywhere from 3 to 10 months. He said that statewide, there is going to be a tightening on livestock operations as a whole. R. McFarlane asked Ferris if there is a mechanism for people to have input into agricultural issues. Ferris said that for small-scale agriculture, input opportunities are plentiful, but not so for large-scale agriculture. Ferris indicated that the campground moratorium will likely be expended for an additional 6 months while Burnett County looks at defining what a campground actually is. Ferris said that Paul Cook has decided to retire from Land Services and that T. Boisvert will have to assume some of Cook's responsibilities and reduce some of his AIS duties. Ferris mentioned that the State has dropped the AIS grant program and will be splitting monies more or less equally among counties. This change will drop AIS monies for Burnett County from about \$40,000/yr to \$16-17,000, which will make things very difficult considering that this county has over 400 lakes. In 2022, Ferris will try to hire two AIS summer interns and one general conservation intern. Ferris said the prolonged draught has caused the high water levels in seepage lakes to finally begin dropping. His measurements indicate that levels are dropping about 0.1 inch/week. T. Boisvert reported that he has released over 60,000 beetles this summer in Burnett County to help control

purple loosestrife. Rooney Lake has a large loosestrife problem near their boat landing, which Boisvert targeted for beetle releases. He and his interns did a point-intercept aquatic vegetation survey on Tabor Lake, as well as several smaller lakes, earlier this summer. Boisvert described a program that Oneda County has implemented where any business that has anything to do with water (canoe rentals, golf courses, etc.) must meet with a committee that makes sure the business is aware how to protect water resources. Those that participate get free advertising by getting listed in a brochure distributed by the county. Finally, Boisvert mentioned that the ice packs are in and that we will be having a sticker-adding party at the end of the BCLRA meeting.

Natural Resources Committee: R. Noe indicated that he had been unable to attend the last meeting, but D. Ferris reported that the meeting was uneventfully quiet.

N.W. Lakes Conference: S. Wallin reported that the conference was once again on-line and that there were fewer participants this year. She hopes that in 2022 the conference can return to the traditional live format. Wallin indicated that she may be stepping down from the N.W. Lakes Conference steering committee after almost 20 years of continuous service. Wallin announced that the BCLRA had been awarded two more Burnett County People's Choice Awards for silent sports including fishing and pontoon boating.

OLD BUSINESS

BCLRA Website: The BCLRA website is now up and running. T. Adair asked that we all check the website (www.bclra.org) and make comments and suggestions for improvements to either him or P. Kipping.

Operation Roundup: The 500 ice packs are in and only need the “Complements of the BCLRA” stickers added.

Courtesy Code: D. Ferris handed out copies of the final draft. He indicated that for about \$200 copies can be made on glossy paper in the Land Services office. Adair/Kipping moved that we appropriate \$200 for printing costs. Motion carried unanimously.

BCLRA Board Structure and Officers: R. Noe has been BCLRA president for 16 years and feels a change in leadership would be appropriate. He would be happy to serve on the Board, but not as president. No one immediately volunteered to take the gavel from Noe, but after some discussion S. Johnson said he would consider taking a term as president, but needed more information about the in's and out's of the position, including how much time is required. R. Noe said he would call Johnson in the next few weeks and would be happy to share details about the president's position.

BCLRA Conservation Award: D.Ferris explained that he had managed to misplace the paperwork R. Noe had given him about possible criteria for the award, but that he would find it and make it available for our next meeting.

Buck Gooding Update: B. Enslin reported that Buck is back at his cabin on Love Lake for the summer. He is suffering from early stages of dementia, but welcomes visitors. R. Noe said he would stop by to see Buck soon.

NEW BUSINESS

Lakes Law Enforcement: Greg Schaffer, the Burnett County Recreation Officer, explained that he has been primarily on ATV patrol this summer. He most frequently encounters violations where ATVs are being driven on state highways, driving with no helmet, speeding, and no registration. He said that all drivers under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult, either onboard or following on a separate ATV. Boating problems include wake violations, fishing over the limit, and no fishing license. He said that large engine boats that power load are causing serious damage to boat landings in the county. He suggested that we consider developing an ordinance that prohibits power loading county wide. After some discussion, Adair/Kipping moved that we make a proposal to the Natural Resources Committee making power loading illegal. The motion carried unanimously. D. Ferris said he will make certain this proposal is brought to the August meeting of the committee. Ferris mentioned that the current draught might cause closing of the ATV trails on Burnett County Forest land, to reduce the chance of forest fire outbreaks.

The next BCLRA meeting will be held on **Friday, September 17, 2021 at the Siren Government Center.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m. (Noe/Baker) and the Board stayed for an additional 20 minutes placing BCLRA stickers on 500 ice packs.