

**BURNETT COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MARCH 10, 2023 MINUTES**

Attendance: B. Baker, S. Wallin, T. Adair, D. Ferris, E. Moore, G. Loufek, M. McDonald, and L. McDonald.

Absent: S. Johnson, P. Kipping, and R. Noe,

Guest: Dave Grindell, Corporation Counsel, Burnett County.

T. Adair called meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

Minutes of the 01/23/23 meeting were approved unanimously (M. McDonald/Adair) with no changes.

Treasurer's report: B. Baker was pleased to report since our 01/23/23 all current BCLRA member associations have now renewed their memberships for 2023. This gives us \$200 in dues income since the January meeting and a total income for the current fiscal year of \$2,875.00. Baker further reported that we had no additional expenses since the 01/23/23 meeting so our current checking account balance is \$5,566.81.

The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously (M. McDonald/L. McDonald).

Guest Report: Dave Grindell, Burnett County Corporation Counsel, at D. Ferris' request came to the meeting to explain how the state statutes limit our ability to restrict wake-boat usage in Burnett County. According to Chapter 30, which deals with navigable waters, any municipality can enact a statute to enforce state regulations, but **the counties** cannot enact regulations effecting in-water activities. Thus, although Burnett County cannot make regulations controlling wake boats, townships have that ability, but would also be responsible for enforcement. Grindell said that if townships make ordinances outlawing or controlling the use of wake boats, it might be possible to contract municipalities, like the Village of Siren, to enforce, but at a cost to the township. He explained that the ordinance banning power loading that was enacted last year is different from a wake boat ordinance because it happens at landings that are owned by the county or townships. Grindell suggested we approach townships but rather than attempt to completely outlaw wake boats, we might instead suggest townships limit wake heights and/or the distance from shorelines, like perhaps 700 feet. D. Grindell answered a considerable number of questions from the BCLRA board and closed by saying that he believes the DNR is acutely aware of the problems created by wake boats and will likely become involved in this issue in the next few years.

**LIAISON UPDATES**

Burnett County Land Services: Dave Ferris said that thanks to prolific writing by Emily Moore, the spring *LakeLines* is basically ready to go to the printer. He expects it to be in the mail by mid

May at the latest. Ferris mentioned that he will be starting the county-wide groundwater inventory this year and is looking for someone who might be interested in earning some summer salary doing well-water sampling in **and developing a data base of the GPS coordinates of wells in Burnett County. He has about \$2,000 allocated for this position over a 2 year period** Burnett County. He hopes to sample at least the same number of wells as in the previous study in 1990.

Ferris explained that Crex Meadows has been dealing with high-water issues for several years and nearby landowners are very unhappy, blaming their flooding problems on the Crex Meadows State Wildlife Area. George Kraft, professor emeritus from UW-Stevens Point and hydrogeologist, has been brought in as a consultant on the Crex Meadows groundwater issues. He made a presentation to the NRC on March 9 and showed data for significant ground water fluctuations for the last 30+ years. T. Adair asked if groundwater fluctuations are cyclic. Ferris said that there is indeed a 10-15 year cycle, that is especially noticeable in Burnett County's seepage lakes. Ferris mentioned that the long term record from the well in Webster, WI shows this 10-15 cycle superimposed on a gradual overall climb where both the groundwater highs and lows have increased over the years. Ferris speculated this may be the consequence of global warming.

N.W. Lakes Conference: E. Moore reported that the conference will be held at Spooner High School, Friday June 23. All speakers have been confirmed, including the keynote speaker. Baker asked if the conference is still looking for sponsors, noting that in the past BCLRA has provided \$100 in sponsorship. Moore said yes, it would be great if we would continue our sponsorship. Adair/M. McDonald moved that \$100 be allocated for 2023 NW Lakes conference sponsorship. Motion carried unanimously. Baker was given the green light to sign up for a BCLRA table at the conference. He mentioned that the BCLRA banner that is needed for the table at the conference was somehow lost over the years and said he would check on the cost of a replacement banner and report at our next meeting.

Natural Resources Committee: With R. Noe not in attendance, there was no report on the NRC meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Invasive Species: E. Moore reported that the Zebra Mussel Forum was held on February 2 and that 119 people attended for all or various portions of the forum. Moore and Baker encouraged all BCLRA Board members to take the time to watch the video recording of the forum to keep abreast of timely issues facing the lakes and rivers in Burnett County. The link to the video recording was sent out to everyone several weeks ago. If anyone has lost the link, please contact Moore.

One AIS intern has been hired for 2023 and another one will be interviewed next week. Moore hopes to have 2 interns on board for 2023. She said that locations where purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, and yellow-flag iris were cut and sprayed in 2022 will be rechecked this summer and additional action taken if needed. Moore handed out a sheet with information on

upcoming AIS events, including a CBCW workshop on April 15, and AIS identification workshop on June 3, and Snapshot Day, that might possibly be postponed. Moore mentioned that the 4-H Camp will be held July 11-13 and that the cost/camper more than doubled to about \$150/person. Baker/Loufek moved that \$750 be made available for camp scholarships. Motion carried unanimously.

Wake Boats: E. Moore asked if we still want to make a PowerPoint presentation for the NRC highlighting the major concerns about wake boats given the fact that a county ordinance is not possible. After considerable discussion it was decided that we should attend the May 11 NRC meeting and make a wake-boat presentation because it would be educational for the NRC and good publicity. Perhaps an outcome would be to have the NRC send a letter to the state about wake boat concerns. Moore pointed out that several lakes have “no wake” hours and perhaps these lakes might want to put in wake height/anti-wake boat rules. Ferris said he will make sure we are on the agenda for the May 11 meeting. Moore said that it is possible that several of the NRC members may be wake-boat owners, so our presentation should focus on education, rather than lobbying for a wake-boat ban.

Moore went through the preliminary PowerPoint presentation she has been working on. Comments were made and Moore made changes on various slides as requested. The Board was very impressed with Moore’s time, effort, and expertise in developing the presentation. She received unanimous applause for her job well done. L. and M. McDonald, Baker, Moore, Adair, and Ferris all agreed to attend the May 11 NRC meeting with the McDonald’s and Baker handling the bulk of the presentation. Moore will convene the subcommittee for a dress rehearsal sometime in early May.

LakeLife Booklets: T. Adair asked since some of the phone numbers in the LakeLife Booklets are incorrect, should we make changes and reprint it. S. Wallin explained that several years ago we updated the booklet and did a printing of 10,000. She said that she still has one unopened box amounting to perhaps 1,000 or more left. Adair said that he would make phone number and other information corrections and bring it to the next meeting for our consideration.

Benthic Macroinvertebrate Workshops: G. Loufek handed out a factsheet on macroinvertebrates and a number worksheets related to macroinvertebrate identification. He said he was willing to run a number of workshops this summer at various lakes. After a request by E. Moore, Loufek said he would be happy to team up with her for the 4-H camp in July. At the next meeting Loufek will attempt to come up with a list of lakes for his workshops and the BCLRA will need to discuss how we will advertise the workshops to optimize participation.

Other Old Business: S. Wallin indicated that she is finalizing the 2023 advertisers for *LakeLines* and that she anticipates that she will have a full complement of 18 advertisers onboard for this season.

G. Loufek explained that he had been in communication with Kevin Klucas to draft an article, as he had agreed to do at our 01/13 meeting. He handed out several copies of an essay he had

written entitled: “What can we do to save our precious Burnett County resources? The tragedy of the commons.” Loufek said that he and Klucas are making good progress on the article and should have it completed in the next few weeks.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Dog issues: T. Adair mentioned that he has been getting calls about barking and unleashed dogs running about. He wanted the minutes to show that he had brought this problem up at the meeting.

Water Levels this summer: D. Ferris that the NWS forecast is for moderate flooding this spring. If the melt goes slowly, the minimal ground frost beneath the snowpack should result in significant groundwater recharge. If that occurs, seepage lakes will likely see increases in water levels. A rapid snowmelt, unfortunately, will cause serious flooding and have little effect on groundwater levels. All hoped the spring melt will be gradual.

S. Wallin mentioned that the BCLRA brochure needs to be updated and is quite out-of-date. Baker pointed out that the brochure had been revised in 2021 and 500 copies were printed and distributed to the BCLRA Board. He said he would send Wallin an electronic copy of the brochure and that she should review it and make suggestions for revision, if needed. Getting another printing should be a simple task.

The next BCLRA meeting will be held on **Friday, May 12, 2023, at 9:30, at the Siren Government Center.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m. (L.McDonald/Loufek).