

**BURNETT COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MAY 12, 2023 MINUTES**

Attendance: B. Baker, T. Adair, D. Ferris, E. Moore, S. Johnson, P. Kipping, and R. Noe.

Absent: G. Loufek, M. McDonald, S. Wallin, and L. McDonald.

T. Adair called meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. and spoke highly of Mike and Lynn McDonald's wake boat presentation to the Natural Resources Committee (NRC) yesterday morning.

Minutes of the 03/10/23 meeting were approved unanimously (Kipping/Noe) with no changes, although E. Moore pointed out that the minutes that were handed out by B. Baker had errors related to the groundwater survey. Baker explained that all board members had received an electronic copy of the amended minutes that included these corrections and that he must have inadvertently printed the wrong version of the minutes.

Treasurer's report: B. Baker mentioned that after our 03/10 meeting, he had sent out invoices to our 14 *LakeLines* advertisers and is pleased to report that to date 11 sponsors have already paid, giving us an income of \$1,200 since our last meeting and a total income of \$4,075 thus far in the fiscal year. Our recent expenses include \$1,952.79 for our *LakeLines* printing cost share and \$25 to the State of Wisconsin for our licensing fee giving us total expenses of \$4,480.00. This gives us a current checking account balance of \$4,689.02.

The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously (Johnson/Kipping).

LIAISON UPDATES

Burnett County Land Services: Dave Ferris reported about the NRC meeting from the previous day. A significant outcome is that Ferris will help write a letter that the NRC will be sending to the Wisconsin DNR, the State Natural Resources Board, and local legislators pointing out the problems created by wake boats and encouraging them to take action before irreparable damage is done to our lakes. He mentioned that lake associations do not have the authority to enact an ordinance controlling wake-boat usage, but lake districts, like the newly formed Round and Eagle Lake Districts might have that authority. Ferris, said that while he is uncertain about whether or not lake districts can enact wake-boat ordinances, he is certain that townships have that authority to do so. Thus, for instance, the several townships that have established restrictions on things like water skiing could add wake boat restrictions and contract with the Village of Siren to assist with enforcement. P.Kipping and R. Noe suggested that perhaps some of the revenue from vacation rentals could be used to defray the cost of contracting enforcement through the villages of Siren, or possibly Webb Lake.

Ferris said he and E. Moore have hired 2.5 summer interns who will begin working this Monday, May 15. He also mentioned that many drainage lakes are experiencing very high water levels. Clam Lake, for instance, is up over 4 feet causing significant shoreline cabin flooding. E. Moore

mentioned that due to a call for volunteers in *LakeLines*, she now has over 300 volunteers for well-water testing. She indicated that county-wide, 500-600 wells will be sampled over the next 2 years. University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point will do all analyses that will include parameters such as gas heavy metals, iron, alkalinity, and hardness, among others. Moore will do some data comparisons between shallow, sand-point wells and deeper drilled wells to look for differences in, for instance, nitrates. R. Noe asked if they will be testing for perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) which are now being detected in groundwater in Minnesota and Wisconsin and are proven carcinogens. Ferris said that to date there are no sources for PFAS in Burnett County and Moore indicated that the water chemistry analyses would not include PFAS. Moore explained that her purple loosestrife program is getting going for the season. She said that purple loosestrife rootstock over-wintered well and will be fed to her beetles before she releases them in areas with a heavy abundance of purple loosestrife in 2022. Japanese knotweed is proving particularly difficult to eradicate. One site that was cut and sprayed in 2022 has new sprouts emerging. Moore will retreat this area this season.

Big McGraw Lake has a yellow-flag iris problem with about 200 yards of shoreline covered with these colorful invasives. Moore explained that she is applying for a grant to treat/remove the iris, but the grant application requires cost sharing and, unfortunately, McGraw Lake does not have a lake association. Noe/Johnson moved that the BCLRA donate \$500 to help Moore with the cost share if the grant is approved. Motion carried unanimously.

N.W. Lakes Conference: E. Moore reported that the conference will be held at Spooner High School, Friday June 23. Baker mentioned that he had sent a check for \$100 for BCLRA sponsorship and has signed us up for a display table. Baker said he hopes a few BCLRA board members will attend the NW Lakes Conference and will assist him in staffing the BCLRA table. He mentioned that last year he was the only board member that attended the conference and hopes that won't be the case again this year. Baker handed out copies of the BCLRA Brochure that was revised in 2021. He explained that 500 had been printed and were added to the box of pamphlets and handouts he had borrowed from Susan Wallin for the 2022 NW Lakes Conference. He assumes her box of give-aways will be available again this year for the 2023 conference. Baker mentioned that the new BCLRA banner for the table at the conference has been ordered and should be available soon.

Natural Resources Committee: R. Noe discussed a Wisconsin Public Radio (NPR) interview with the new DNR Secretary Adam Payne and the problems with the DNR allowing wetlands to be filled on North Sand Lake for a new decontamination station. He said that he would contact Secretary Payne to alert him of concerns regarding wetland infilling and other issues. Noe also mentioned that next spring, the Governor's Fishing Opener is scheduled to be in Burnett County on Yellow Lake and that the BCLRA should make certain we are represented, perhaps with a display table. All thought this is an excellent suggestion. T. Adair will follow up to find out how we can be involved.

OLD BUSINESS

LakeLife Booklets: T. Adair explained that checking phone numbers in the booklet turned out not to be a simple task. Ferris suggested Adair bring copies to our next meeting and we could collectively go through the numbers and probably make changes fairly rapidly. Adair thought this is an excellent suggestion and will add this to the agenda at the next meeting.

BCLRA website: B.Baker mentioned that the minutes from each meeting are sent to Tom Schneiberg, who has been quick to get the minutes and important dates posted. Baker suggested we all check our personal information to make sure it is accurate. T. Adair explained that T. Schneiberg has developed some serious health issues and may not be able to continue as our webmaster. All expressed concern and wish him speedy and complete recovery.

NEW BUSINESS

Wake Boat issues: P.Kipping mentioned that Outdoor News has recently run a number of articles about wake boats and the problems they cause. E. Moore mentioned that Hayward Township in Sawyer County recently passed a wake boat ordinance. S. Johnson said we should check with the Town of Hayward and see how they are enforcing the new ordinance. Johnson suggested that we develop a strategy for approaching townships that might be friendly toward wake-boat restrictions and perhaps we could approach those lakes/towns that already have boating restrictions, such as no water skiing after a specific time. T. Adair will put this on the agenda for our next meeting and E. Moore will send out the new Hayward Township ordinance as well as the boating ordinances currently in place in Burnett County.

The next BCLRA meeting will be held on **Friday, July 14 12, 2023, at 9:30, at the Siren Government Center.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m. (Kipping/Noe).