

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

Attendance: B. Baker, T. Adair, S. Wallin, D. Ferris, P. Kipping, L. McDonald, M. McDonald, G. Loufek and S. Johnson.

Absent: R. Noe and E. Moore

Guests: Grace Wondra, Olivia Hansing, and A.J. Flatten (Land and Water AIS Interns).

T. Adair called meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. D. Ferris was pleased to announce that Emily Moore delivered a baby girl last week, two weeks early, and that mom and daughter both are doing fine. All agreed this is wonderful news. Congratulations Emily!!

Minutes of the 07/15/22 annual meeting were approved unanimously (Kipping/Johnson) with no changes.

Treasurer's report: B. Baker reported that since our 05/12/23 meeting all of our sponsors have paid for their ads in *LakeLines*. This year only three sponsors needed to be sent a second invoice for their advertisements and all three paid quickly after receiving the invoice. Baker thanked S. Wallin for her success in lining up such a responsive list of sponsors. This brings our total income for the fiscal year to \$4,475.00.

Our only expense since 05/15/23 was \$153.13 for our new banner that was used at the NW Lakes Conference. This brings our total expenses for the fiscal year to \$4,633.28 which gives us a total balance of \$4,935.89 as we close out our fiscal year. Baker pointed out that our balance is only about \$160 less than we had at the end of the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously (M. McDonald/Kipping).

LIAISON UPDATES

Land and Water AIS Inter Report: Olivia, Grace, and A.J. explained the invasive work they do which includes visiting public access points on Burnett County lakes to look for aquatic invasives, yellow-flag iris removal and control, purple loosestrife removal with beetle control, and Japanese knotweed removal. Grace explained how beetles that feed exclusively on purple loosestrife leaves have been very effective. She mentioned that this year Emily was able to overwinter loosestrife beetles successfully for the first time. S. Johnson asked whether Rodeo is preferred for invasive control over Roundup. Grace and D. Ferris indicated Rodeo is the aquatic version of Roundup and is designed for the aquatic environment. The interns will be doing early detection surveys on Des Moines Lake, Lake 26, Tabor Lake, and Dunham Lake. They will be a detailed aquatic plant survey with pressed samples on Des Moines Lake as a part of their aquatic plant management plan. They indicated that their Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) work has been going well.

Burnett County Land Services: D. Ferris said he has not gotten any response from the DNR concerning the letter he wrote expressing our concern about wake boats. The groundwater survey is moving forward with Emily still lining up participants. Ferris wants to make sure the sampled wells cover the entire county with no large gaps. All samples will be sent by the landowners to the water lab at UW-Stevens Point for analyses. Ferris mentioned that he has been hamstrung by serious vehicle breakdown problems this season and has to be careful with scheduling due to the limited number of vehicles available.

Ferris reported that Big McKenzie and Devil's Lake both experienced serious blue-green algae blooms in June, which is very early for such an occurrence. B. Baker mentioned that he was surprised to hear about the bloom on Big McKenzie because he had always assumed that since zebra mussels are filter feeders, they would keep the algae concentrations low. Ferris said that zebra mussels do indeed remove algae from the water column, but as the numbers of zebra mussels increase in lakes, so does the quantity of fecal matter the excrete, which can basically "fertilize" algal growth.

Big Doctor Lake received a \$400,000 DNR lake management grant for alum treatment to combat the high phosphorus levels in bottom sediments. Ferris mentioned that Big Doctor is a small lake of only about 200 acres and perhaps 25 developed properties. Apparently the Town of Siren contributed part of the DNR's required match. T. Adair asked about the changes in DNR funding distribution of surface water monies. Ferris said the change where counties now get similar amounts of funding dollars, regardless of the number of lakes in the county, has made acquiring adequate funding a serious challenge for him and E. Moore.

Power Loading: Intern A.J. Flatten had been tasked with developing a sign for boat landings in Burnett County reminding boaters that power loading is illegal. A.J. had a spreadsheet showing the cost for 11"x17" and 12"x18" power-loading signs from three different vendors. After some discussion the Board voted (Kipping/M. McDonald) to order 44 11"x17" signs made of aluminum composite material at a cost of \$25.68/sign from Dynamic Signs Design. Johnson/Adair moved that the BCLRA charge \$30/sign. Baker will include a separate letter asking lake associations if they are interested in purchasing a power-loading sign when he mails out dues notices and invoices for 2024 BCLRA dues sometime in August. The letter will include an image showing the sign. These should reach lake associations before their Labor Day weekend meetings. The plan is to make certain all lakes that order power loading signs receive them in time to have them in place for the 2024 fishing season.

Natural Resources Committee: D. Ferris said not much has happened. The livestock siting ordinance is moving forward, but won't be ready until this fall, most likely.

N.W. Lakes Conference: B. Baker reported that the conference was attended by at least 175 people, with 150 preregistered and 25 or more walk-ins. He passed around the program from this year's conference and pointed out that with concurrent sessions, there are ample interesting and informative talks and encouraged BCLRA board members to make an effort to attend in 2024.

OLD BUSINESS

Lake landing interactive workshops: G. Loufek explained what he plans to do at his interactive benthic invertebrate workshops for youngsters. He was thinking of focussing on maybe 3 or 4 lakes: Devils, Des Moines, Big McKenzie, and possibly Lipsett. Garry agreed to contact association presidents when he determines locations, dates, and times for workshops. It is hoped that by giving lake associations a heads-up, a significant number of young girls and boys will participate.

NEW BUSINESS

BCLRA Brochure: B. Baker passed out copies of the current BCLRA Brochure pointing out that it was revised 2 years ago, but we are running low on copies. He asked all board members to read through the brochure carefully and be prepared to make suggestions for editorial changes at on next meeting in October.

LakeLife Pocketbooks: T. Adair pointed out that many of the contact phone numbers are now incorrect. S. Wallin said that we still have a large box of perhaps 1000 copies left from our last reprinting about 5 years ago. After some discussion, it was decided to continue handing out the pocketbooks and revise them when the supply starts running low, perhaps during the winter and potentially have the new booklets ready for the 2024 season.

Courtesy Codes: D. Ferris mentioned that Courtesy Codes can be reprinted at the Government Center. M.McDonald/Wallin moved to have Ferris reprint another 500 copies of the Courtesy Code. Motion carried unanimously.

Handicap Access on Burnett County Lakes: T. Adair explained how he had been contacted by a person who discovered that Burnett County does not have a single handicapped access on any of its lakes. She said that she recently had a handicapped visitor who was very disappointed not to be able to go boating while visiting. After some discussion, Adair agreed to ask R. Noe to bring this issue up at the next Natural Resources Committee meeting. Perhaps they can make a recommendation to resolve this problem.

Wake-boat problems: Since the county can not enact an ordinance restricting wake boat usage, but townships have the ability to do this, S. Johnson said he would draft a letter for townships encouraging them to develop wake-boat ordinances. Ferris pointed out that to be successful, the petition needed a mechanism for enforcement. Johnson said he would work in several suggestions for enforcing the ordinance if enacted by a township.

The next BCLRA meeting will be held on **Friday, September 15, 2023 at the Siren Government Center.**

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m. (Kipping/M.McDonald).