

**BURNETT COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 MINUTES**

Attendance: B. Baker, T. Adair, S. Wallin, D. Ferris, and E. Moore.

Absent: R. Noe, P. Kipping, L. McDonald, M. McDonald, G. Loufek and S. Johnson.

Guests: Patty Rowell (Lake 26), Terry Schwartz (Round-Trade Lake Improvement District), and Greg Younker (Round-Trade Lake Improvement District).

T. Adair called meeting to order at 9:30 a.m and apologized for not getting the agenda sent out to the board members. He said that he just got married and things have been chaotic, to say the least. D. Ferris pointed out that without a quorum we could discuss issues, but not take any votes to approve items that we discussed.

Minutes of the 05/12/23 annual meeting were recorded, but not voted upon.

Treasurer's report: B. Baker reported that 2024 BCLRA dues invoices and a letter offering associations the opportunity to purchase Power Loading Prohibited signs were mailed around August 1. To date 21 associations have renewed their BCLRA memberships for 2024 and 16 Power Loading signs have been ordered. In the next week or so, Baker indicated that he would mail out second invoices to any associations that have not yet renewed their BCLRA memberships.

Our income since our 07/12/23 meeting was \$1,250 in association dues and a \$50 donation from Green Lake for a total income of \$1,300. Our only expense was \$66 for a roll of stamps. This gives us a current total balance of \$6,169.89.

Baker mentioned that we will need to figure out how lakes can pick up their Power Loading Prohibited signs. Ferris said it might be possible to make them available for pickup at the Land Services Office in the winter/spring of 2024. Baker also pointed out that somehow the BCLRA had neglected to give Land Services our annual donation for AIS intern scholarships in 2022. So, he would be writing a check for \$1,000 and T. Adair could make a formal presentation to Ferris after the end of today's meeting. Treasurer's report was acknowledged by those in attendance.

LIAISON UPDATES

Burnett County Land Services: D. Ferris suggested that T. Adair and B. Baker write up a short article for the fall *LakeLines* newsletter explaining what the BCLRA actually does. He suggested we mention the lead we have taken on things like the Burnett County decontamination ordinance, power loading, and wake boats. He said that he will need the article by the first of

October. Baker volunteered to write a draft of the article to share with T. Adair for his editing before sending it to Ferris.

Ferris mentioned that the groundwater inventory is ramping up and will be a main focus in 2024. He mentioned that he and E. Moore are in the process of submitting about half a dozen grant applications. Moore mentioned that she has agreed to partner with other counties on a grant for uniform signage listing all county ordinances. The deadline for submission is November 15 and if the grant is successful, Burnett County and the other participating counties would receive \$8,000 each. Moore mentioned that she has been back on the job from maternity leave for only 4 days, and is working hard to get caught up. She said her daughter is thriving and doing great. Moore said that the interns left for school in late August and that one of their major projects this summer was contacting 1,000 people at 29 lakes regarding Clean Boats, Clean Waters at the landings. She explained that yellow flag iris was cut and sprayed at 11 sites on Loon Lake and 8 sites on Big Bear Lake. Big McGraw Lake was successful in receiving a rapid-response grant to combat their huge problem with yellow flag iris. Moore indicated that she would have additional information on Big McGraw Lake at a future meeting. The Minerva dam reconstruction project is almost done. Ferris thinks that may add a fishing peer to satisfy lake users. Clam dam reconstruction will begin next year and Ferris thinks it will also likely include a peer.

Moore and her interns had treated 7 Japanese knotweed sites in 2022 and when revisited this summer, all sites showed reduced/stressed knotweed. She mentioned that Japanese knotweed is especially hard to eradicate, so it appears that their treatment technique seems to be effective. Moore was pleased to report successful overwintering of beetles that consume purple loosestrife. Baker reported that on Lipsett Lake they have been cutting and spraying purple loosestrife for close to 20 years and that for the past 3 seasons, no purple loosestrife was found anywhere around the lake.

Natural Resources Committee: D. Ferris said that the Forest and Parks Department will probably begin the Devil's Lake Phase 2 project next year.

N.W. Lakes Conference: E. Moore reported that the first NW Lakes Conference will be held in October. She will have something to report on the 2024 conference after that meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Lake Landing Interactive Workshops: Baker reported that G. Loufek ran workshops at Lipsett, Big McKenzie, Des Moines Lakes, and a repeat at Lipsett on Labor Day weekend. The first 2 workshops were not well attended, perhaps due to the short time between announcing the workshops and when they actually occurred. The Des Moines workshop had approximately 60 participants and was very well received. The repeat workshop at Lipsett had good participation from both children and adults. Baker said he thinks G. Loufek will continue interactive workshops in 2024, but may want to find a way for lakes to invite him for a workshop, rather than have him pick the lake and date. We can discuss this at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

BCLRA Brochure: S. Wallin and T. Adair both thought the current brochure looks fine. Baker pointed out that perhaps some of our new initiatives, like taking the lead on the power loading problem, wake boats, and G. Loufek's interactive workshops might be included in the bullet list of BCLRA accomplishments. This might involve deleting a few of the older bullets, such as the 2011 chancellor's award. Baker agreed to draft some editorial changes and bring it to the next meeting.

Decontamination Station Issues: Baker reported that the Lipsett decontamination station experienced theft of the pressure washer wand in July. The surveillance camera footage that should have recorded the theft was, unfortunately, deleted before being reviewed, so action could be taken against the culprit.

LakeLines advertisers: S. Wallin announced that North Country Canvass has become a *LakeLines* sponsor. Their ad will appear in the Fall issue, but they will be billed for \$150 in 2024.

BCLRA Website: T. Adair explained that Tom Schneiberg has moved back to the Cities due to health reasons and will not longer be able to serve as our webmaster. G. Younker said he has some experience with web design and would be happy to help with our website. T. Adair said he would follow up on this offer and possibly put Younker and Schneiberg in touch with one another to discuss the in's and out's of maintaining the BCLRA website.

Other Issues: P. Rowell from Lake 26 had many questions about decontamination stations which her lake is considering. She also was interested in our comments on CD3 decontamination units, wake boats, and power loading sign placement. She also suggested we consider making our meetings available to the public through Zoom. This generated some discussion and the consensus was that perhaps our annual meetings could be open through Zoom.

T. Schwartz asked about VRBO's and Airbnb's. E. Moore explained that all VRBO and Airbnb rentals must be registered with the county. People can check online to see if a rental on their lake has been properly registered. If not, they can be reported. Ferris suggested that BCLRA might consider writing up a Do's and Don'ts article for a future *LakeLines*. Adair suggested S. Wallin would be the perfect person to write this article and he hoped she would be willing to do so.

G. Younker asked about the alum treatment in Big Doctor Lake. He was particularly concerned that such an expensive project might be destroyed by wake boat and power boat traffic that could stir up the bottom sediments rendering the alum treatment ineffective. This would be a huge waste of a \$400,000 DNR grant. Ferris agreed that in shallow lakes alum treatment is particularly vulnerable to boat-prop stirring. Younker also discussed Eurasian watermilfoil treatment in the Round-Trade system of lakes.

Meeting adjourned at 10:57. The next BCLRA meeting will be held on **Friday, November 10, 2023 at the Siren Government Center.**

