

**BURNETT COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL (Zoom) MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2023 MINUTES**

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

Absent: S. Wallin and L. McDonald.

Guests: Ann Lane.

T. Adair called meeting to order at 9:43 a.m and apologized for having difficulty logging into Zoom

Minutes of the 09/15/23 meeting were approved with no changes (Adair/M.McDonald).

Treasurer's report: B. Baker reported that since the 09/15/23 meeting second dues notices were sent to the 19 associations that had not yet renewed their BCLRA membership for 2024. He was pleased that as of today only 3 associations were still not renewed. Those associations are the Ham Lake, North Sand Lake and Yellow Lakes and River Associations. R. Noe said he would contact the treasurer of the North Sand Lake Association and see if he could motivate him to pay their dues. Baker was appreciative. In the next week or so, Baker indicated that he would mail out third invoices to any of the three associations that still are unrenewed. To date our income is \$2,100.00 in association dues and \$100 in donations, including a \$50 one recently received from Rooney Lake, giving us a total income of \$2,200.00. Our expenses since our 09/15/23 meeting include \$1,985.61 for our LakeLines printing cost share, \$1,000.00 for our AIS internship scholarship, and \$75.00 to Wisconsin Lakes for LakeKit, our website annual fee. This gives us a current total balance of \$4,009.28. Treasurer's report was approved unanimously (Kipping/Loufek). **NOTE:** After the meeting Roger Noe called to tell me he had spoken to the North Sand Lake Association treasurer and their dues check would be put in the mail immediately. Thanks Roger!

LIAISON UPDATES

Burnett County Land Services: D. Ferris reported that the staff gauges on Bass Lake (south of Danbury), North Sand, and DesMoines Lakes were just removed for the winter, but had gathered some very interesting water-level data from these lakes. He will be analyzing the data during the winter season. T. Adair asked if lake-level cycles are predictable. Ferris and E. Moore said such prediction is very difficult due to the variability in rain events, groundwater recharge rates, and surface temperatures and humidity, all of which can effect lake levels. Moore reported that she is still in the process of getting caught up on AIS data after taking a maternity leave for a portion of the summer. Moore just sent out drafts of the aquatic plant management plans (APM's) to Lipsett and DesMoines lakes. She hopes to have them ratified by those associations before the 2024 summer season. Moore will be sending our 400 requests to home/cabin owners to determine if they are interested in participating her well-water sampling project. She hopes to have 600 participants in 2024.

Natural Resources Committee: D. Ferris said that livestock siting is currently being discussed and that timber sales occurred last month. He indicated that the NR Committee has been forced to meet off-site due to a backlog of court cases. The Forest and Parks Department will probably begin the Devil's Lake Phase 2 project next year. Ferris said a new mountain biking trail is being developed at Timberland Hills and should be completed and open for use early next biking season. And, finally, the 2024 Governor's Fishing Opener will be held on Yellow Lake from May 2-5. T.Adair asked if it would be possible for the BCLRA to have a table or booth for the Opener. G. Loufek and M.McDonald agreed to set up a mini workshop/demonstration similar to the workshops they ran in 2023.. Baker will make sure Loufek/M.McDonald have the BCLRA banner for their table. He will bring it to the next BCLRA meeting.

N.W. Lakes Conference: E. Moore reported that the NW Lakes Conference will be held on June 21 at Spooner High School. She said that the planning committee met to choose potential speakers and topics. They are now in the process of inviting speakers to fill out the program.

OLD BUSINESS

No Power Loading Signs: Baker reported that 23 signs have been ordered, but that E.Moore is in the process of checking with lakes that are not BCLRA members to see if they might want to order signs. She will have more information on orders in the next month or so. Moore said she had checked with the sign maker that had quoted us a price/sign last summer and they would be willing to print the signs at no additional cost and would not require that we pay a deposit for the order. Moore thought the simplest way to distribute the signs would be to have lake association representatives pick them up at the Government Center. Baker will send Moore a listing of the sign orders he has received in early December.

Lake Landing Interactive Workshops: G. Loufek will check his schedule for the 2024 summer season and come up with several blocks of days when workshops could be held. E. Moore would like to join forces and if things could be coordinated, she will share part of the table(s) and bring samples of invasive species to educate people on how to recognize and keep a vigilant lookout for. Perhaps by describing the interactive workshops in *LakeLines* and giving dates lakes can invite him for a workshop, rather than have him pick the lake and date.

BCLRA Brochure: Baker explained that he wrote up a description of who the BCLRA is and what we do and that Ann Lane made a number of significant improvements. Ferris will make sure this is published in the Spring edition of the *LakeLines* newsletter. Baker thinks that the information in this writeup could make the basis for a revised BCLRA brochure. He will type up a draft and send it out either with the minutes of this meeting or shortly afterwards.

Wake Boat Letter: M. McDonald agreed to draft a letter about the weaknesses in the wake-boat legislation currently under consideration. D. Ferris and E. Moore agreed to assist McDonald in making the letter as strong as possible. McDonald will send out a draft shortly after Thanksgiving. P.Kipping mentioned an organization called Lakes at Stake who has hired a lobbyist to attempt to get action against the harmful effects of wake boats and wake surfing. E.Moore pointed out this group was written up in a Milwaukee Sentinel article Baker sent out to the BCLRA Board last month. S. Johnson asked D. Ferris if the proposed wake boat state legislation was trying to limit/stop township control over any local wake-boat ordinances and T. Adair asked who controls

boat landings in Burnett County. Ferris said some landings are private, some are owned by townships, and some are owned by the state. He said while townships and the state can control on-water activities, such as wake boating, the counties can not. Kipping pointed out that at the Town of Scott meeting this passed Monday representatives from Rooney, Fish and the McKenzie Lakes attended and petitioned the Town of Scott to develop a wake-boating ordinance. The township was receptive and will be working on an ordinance. Moore pointed out that having lake representatives attend town meetings is the quickest way to get ordinances passed that control wake boating/surfing.

BCLRA Website: T. Adair explained that Tom Schneiberg has moved back to the Cities due to health reasons and he is not sure if Schneiberg will be able to continue serving as our webmaster. After some discussion, Adair agreed to call Schneiberg to see what his preference is. Greg Younker, who attended our last meeting, had indicated that 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 if Schneiberg feels the need to step down as our webmaster.

Other Issues: Both Moore and Ferris indicated that they thought Greg Younker would make an outstanding addition to our Board of Directors. Baker said he would check out by-laws to see if there were restrictions on the number of board members that can serve at any onetime. Adair said that he would call or email Younkers depending on what the by-laws allow and if Baker would provide contact information for Younkers. **NOTE:** After the meeting Baker checked the by-laws and while the minimum number of board members is set at 4, there is no limit on the total number that can serve. Baker emailed T. Adair the phone number and email address for G. Younker so that Adair can reach out about possible service to the BCLRA.

Meeting adjourned at 10:28.

The next BCLRA meeting will be on Friday, January 19, at the Siren Government Center (hopefully).