

**BURNETT COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2024 MINUTES**

Attendance: B. Baker, T. Adair, R. Noe, P. Kipping, D. Ferris, E. Moore, G. Loufek, G. Younker, S. Wallin, L.McDonald (Zoom), M. McDonald (Zoom), and S. Johnson.

Absent: None.

Guests: Ann Lane.

T. Adair called meeting to order at 9:28 a.m.

Minutes of the 11/17/23 meeting were approved with no changes (Kipping/Johnson).

Treasurer's report: B. Baker reported that since the 11/17/23 meeting we received \$250.00 in dues payments, including renewals by North Sand Lake (thank you Roger Noe for twisting some arms) and Yellow Lakes and Rivers giving us a total income to date of \$2,450.00. Baker explained that after 5 attempts to get the Ham Lake Association to renew their membership, he thinks he may gotten things moving. More specifically, he emailed a person who had been a Ham Lake board member 8 years ago and that individual said he had called their treasurer and offered to pay the BCLRA dues himself. Baker is hopeful they will accept his generous offer and renew their membership. Currently, Ham Lake is the only association that has not yet renewed for 2024. Our expenses since our 01/17/23 meeting include \$100 for our River Alliance of Wisconsin membership, \$45.98 for our website domain fee, and \$84.51 for items needed for printing minutes, treasurers reports, and membership billing. Thus our total expenses to date are \$3,357.10 and our current balance is \$4,028.79. Treasurer's report was approved unanimously (Adair/Noe).

LIAISON UPDATES

Burnett County Land Services: D. Ferris reported that the staff gauges on Bass Lake (south of Danbury), North Sand, and DesMoines Lakes indicate that water levels fluctuate significantly and are not predictable. S. Johnson asked whether or not the gauges were electronic and continuously monitoring. Ferris said that they are not electronic and require daily, or near daily, readings by an observer. E. Moore reported that she had submitted 5 DNR grant applications and should know funding decisions sometime in mid to late February. One proposal, a Lake Monitoring grant, is for over \$16,000 and if funded will be used primarily for her purple loosestrife program and weekend workshops. Moore reported that she met with the Yellow River Conservancy which is now dealing with a possible hybrid cattail that is causing a serious narrowing of the river channel between Gaslyn Road and Hwy H. Moore said the samples they brought could not be definitively identified as hybrid cattails, so fieldwork will be needed this spring/summer for proper identification. R. Noe pointed out that a narrowing of the river channel could have a negative impact on the spring sturgeon spawning, so keeping the channel open is vital for sturgeon reproduction.

Moore reported that she will be changing the CBCW workshop format somewhat this spring and asked B. Baker if he would be willing to give a presentation on the pressure washing station on Lipsett Lake. Baker agreed indicating that he already has a PowerPoint presentation about the

Lipsett pressure washing station that could be used. The tentative date is Saturday April 27. P. Kipping pointed out that this might be the date for the annual trash pick up on the roads around Lipsett, Rooney, and the McKenzie Lakes which would be a conflict for Baker. Moore said the date could be moved earlier in April. Kipping will check open the trash pickup date and report back to Moore and Baker. R. Noe mentioned that Devil's Lake has just put in a new boat landing that cost over \$800,000. He suggested that Ferris and Moore should encourage the Devil's Lake Association to invest in a pressure washing station. Baker asked if this new landing is handicapped accessible, pointing out that last summer we discovered that there were no boat ramps anywhere in Burnett County that made it possible for handicapped individuals to enter our lakes. Ferris said that with the large asphalt apron added at Devil's Lake, he is confident that it is now accessible to people with handicaps.

Questions were raised about VRBO's and Airbnb's and Burnett County's loss of taxes. G. Younker pointed out on Trade Lake there are 3 VRBO's that allowed wake boats last summer. So, not only are taxes not being paid, but these rentals allow boats that do damage to our lakes. Moore said that the County is starting to take rental licensing more seriously and that this source of revenue will be definitely increasing in the near future.

Natural Resources Committee: R. Noe indicated that the NRC has discussed the Governor's Fishing Opener that will be May 4 on Yellow Lake and that there may be a need for pontoon boats to ferry the Governor's entourage around Yellow Lake. M. McDonald and G. Loufek agreed to meet in the next month or two to plan for a BCLRA table/booth at the opener. Baker agreed to bring the BCLRA banner to our March meeting for their table. E. Moore handed out a Clean Water Resolution that she had written and indicated that she would attend the NRC meeting on February 8 to get signatures endorsing the resolution from all NRC committee members. The resolution supports our right to clean water to protect human health and requests that the Governor and the Wisconsin Legislature financially support programs and staff in Burnett County involved in protecting the quality of surface and groundwater for current and future generations.

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 is still reaching out to speakers for their confirmation. She indicated that the committee still needs to make certain that Spooner High School is available on June 21. T. Adair asked if the BCLRA would be having a booth again this year. Baker said he would make certain we sign up for a booth when registration for the meeting opens.

OLD BUSINESS

Invasive Species: In regard to the possibility of hybrid cattails encroaching on the Yellow River, R. Noe asked about the Yellow River Conservancy. He mentioned that when first formed, this group seemed disorganized and lacked focus, but now they are purchasing parcels of land along the river. Noe was curious where their funding for these endeavors came from. Ferris said a benefactor funded their initial land purchase and after establishing easements, they can sell the parcel and they can use the proceeds to purchase additional buffer land adjacent to the river.

Wake Boats: In December M. McDonald sent a position paper to Representative Sapik and Senator Quinn, the two state legislators who represent Burnett County, saying that the BCLRA opposes Wakesports Bill LRB-3518 as it is currently written. The paper outlined four major adverse consequences that would likely occur if LRB-3518 is passed without modification. Neither T. Adair or M. McDonald has received any reply from these two legislators to date. McDonald said he would follow up to make certain our position paper was received by Rep. Sapik and Senator Quinn. Ferris suggested McDonald coordinate with Wisconsin Lakes to reinforce the opposition to LRB-3518. McDonald will look into a linkup with Wisconsin Lakes.

LakeLife Pocketbooks: S. Wallin reported that she still has approximately 1500 pocketbooks left from our last printing about 5 years ago. The problem is that the pocketbooks have a number of incorrect emergency contact phone numbers. T. Adair, R. Noe, and P. Kipping agreed to work on assembling a correct list on contact numbers. Adair will set the date for the meeting. L. McDonald suggested that when the correct numbers are available, we should consider printing them on small sticky labels and placing them over the incorrect information in the booklets. A. Lane did a quick test of this suggestion with a label available in her office, and reported that the process was simple and easy. After some discussion it was decided that the BCLRA should buy the labels and A. Lane will type up a templet with the correct phone numbers (Wallin/Kipping). Estimated cost would be about \$100 for two boxes of labels. Adair suggested we could spend perhaps a half hour at the end of a future meeting to insert the labels in the booklets as a group project.

LakeLines Sponsors: S. Wallin has all the sponsors already lined up for the 2024 *LakeLines Newsletters* but would like to retire after handling recruitment of sponsors for the last 25 years. She said many sponsors tell her to simply assume they will continue their sponsorship in future years, so whoever takes over for her won't have to start from scratch. R. Noe asked about whether or not it would be possible to have more than one sponsor from similar organizations or businesses. Wallin thought that would be acceptable as long as the two businesses were not located too close to one another geographically. Noe volunteered to take over the *LakeLines* sponsors from Wallin starting in 2025. Wallin indicated she would get current sponsor contact information to Noe and would be available if any questions come up when he starts lining up 2025 sponsors.

BCLRA Website: T. Adair agreed to check with Tom Schneiberg to see if he is willing to continue as the BCLRA webmaster, or if he would prefer to step down and have G. Younker take over. With the health issues he has been dealing with, we want to make certain Schneiberg feels comfortable about continuing the webmaster duties.

No Power Loading Signs: E. Moore reported that 41 signs have now been ordered by lake associations. Moore said she had recently talked to the sign maker in Rice Lake and was pleased he agreed to make the signs without requiring a down or prepayment. After some discussion, Johnson/Noe moved that BCLRA pay for sign printing, with reimbursement coming before or at the time lake associations pick up their signs at the Government Center in Siren. When Moore gives Baker the final order number, Baker will contact the sign maker and get the printing process started. He will make arrangements to pay for the signs from the BCLRA checking account.

4-H Scholarships: Baker explained that he noticed that for the past 3 years the BCLRA has not provided any scholarship monies for needy campers. In checking through our old minutes, he

discovered that the last time Beth Rank attended one of our meetings was 03/06/2020. At that meeting Rank explained that she was going to have to move the 4-H camp from Camp Burnett to Luther Park on Lake 26 or Trails End Camp on the Namekagon. At that meeting we agreed to provide Rank \$500 to help defray the costs for this move, rather than fund camping scholarships that summer. Our records show that we never provided that stipend to Rank and she has not contacted us since that meeting. After some discussion, T. Adair agreed to invite B. Rank to attend our next meeting on March 22.

NEW BUSINESS

Lake Landing Interactive Workshops: G. Loufek and E. Moore will join forces with a table at Kilkare Lodge in Voyager Village on May 18 from 10:00-noon. A second event is scheduled for June 28. Loufek will compose a writeup for the Spring *LakeLines Newsletter* and encourage lake associations to contact him if they would be interested in hosting one of his interactive workshops. Baker agreed to send Loufek photos of the worship he conducted on Lipsett Lake last July for possible use in his *LineLines* article.

BCLRA Brochure: Baker handed out copies of the current BCLRA brochure. He suggested that it be revised by substitution of much of the information in the “Who we are and what we do” article he and A. Lane wrote for the upcoming issue of *LakeLines*. A question was raised about one of the bullets in the article that indicated 3,500 *LakeLines Newsletters* are printed and distributed twice each year. S. Wallin thought the number is closer to 8,000. Baker will check and make certain the correct number its used in the brochure revision. Noe/Kipping moved that Baker move forward with the revision and printing process. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Items: Both S. Wallin and R. Noe asked about the boxes of BCLRA “stuff” they had accumulated over the years. Clearly things like old minutes, agendas, brochures, and handouts can be recycled. But things like plaques and awards perhaps should be saved and possibly displayed someplace in the Government Center. Ferris was not optimistic about finding space in the Government Center for displaying BCLRA awards, but suggested T. Adair look into it. Noe also suggested that we might consider emulating the Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association and have a standing article in the Fall issue of *LakeLines* that focuses on what the BCLRA did over the summer to let lake and river property owners in Burnett County know what we have been doing on their behalf.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15.

The next BCLRA meeting will be on Friday, March 22, at the Siren Government Center.