

**BURNETT COUNTY LAKES AND RIVERS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING
MARCH 22, 2024 MINUTES**

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

Absent: S. Johnson, L. McDonald, G. Loufek, S. Wallin.

T. Adair called meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and apologized for forgetting to send out the agenda in advance of the meeting. He promised that error will not be repeated.

Minutes of the 01/19/24 meeting were approved with no changes (Noe/Kipping).

Treasurer's report: B. Baker reported that since the 01/19/24 meeting Ham Lake had renewed their BCLRA membership through a donation by an association member, Maury Miller. Baker had reached out to Miller, a former Ham Lake board member, when the Ham Lake treasurer told him their association had decided they couldn't afford the \$50 annual dues. So, thanks to Maury Miller's generosity, Ham Lake as renewed for 2024. Their \$50 dues payment gives us a total income to date of \$2,500. Our only expenses since the 01/19/24 meeting were \$84.54 for the labels we will use to update the phone numbers in our LakeLife Booklets, and a downpayment of \$300 to Dynamic Signs for our No Power Loading sign order. These two items bring our total expenses to date to \$3,737.64, giving us a total balance of \$3,698.25. Treasurer's report was approved unanimously (Noe/Kipping).

LIAISON UPDATES

Burnett County Land Services: D. Ferris reported that his office is having to adjust to Ann Lane's retirement. Ferris explained that he had written a note dealing the the costs of publishing *LakeLines* that he was considering for the spring issue, but E. Moore cautioned him that it was too strongly worded and suggested that the note should promote our need for money to continue publishing *LakeLines*. Ferris handed out copies of the note to the BCLRA board and asked for feedback to assist him in strengthening it. E. Moore reported that she the Mud Hen and Tabor Lake surface-water grants were approved and will be used to fund their Aquatic Plant Management Plans (APM's). Little Wood Lake will also be getting an APM this year, but with no grant monies will be self-funding the APM costs. Moore reported that Brad Morris will be retiring from teaching biology at Siren High School this spring, so the purple loosestrife beetle cages will be moved from the high school to behind the Government Center in Siren. She indicated that having the cages close by will make things much easier going forward. Moore reported that she had received a 3 year rapid-response grant of \$25,000 to combat yellow-flag iris and will be looking for volunteer cutters and volunteers to help haul bags of cuttings. Moore will be sending out an email about the proposed AIS Ordinance sign asking for input.

G. Loufek and Moore will do summer workshops at Voyager Village and Crooked Lake Park focusing on plants and macrophytes.

Ferris reported that the BCLRA has received approval for a table at Crooked Lake Park for the fishing opener on May 4. M. McDonald and G. Loufek will staff the booth and T. Adair agreed to help at the both for part of the day. Baker will drop off the BCLRA banners with E. Moore next week and McDonald and/or Loufek can pick them up at their convenience.

Natural Resources Committee: R. Noe indicated that at the March NRC meeting, E. Moore made an outstanding presentation about zebra mussels in Burnett County. Apparently last summer the population of zebra mussels on Middle McKenzie had exploded, while on Big McKenzie, the numbers seemed somewhat lower than in previous years. VRBO's were also discussed at the meeting and it appears only three townships in Burnett County are really on top of the VRBO issue. Other townships are way behind.

N.W. Lakes Conference: E. Moore reported that the NW Lakes Conference will be held on June 21 at Spooner High School, but the slate of speakers is in the state of flux. Apparently 4 speakers, who are faculty members at Northland College were invited to make presentations, but with Northland College's recent serious debt issues and possible closure, it is unclear whether or not these speakers will still be willing to make presentations. So Lisa Burns, from the organizing committee, will be checking with each of the Northland faculty and will find substitutes where needed.

OLD BUSINESS

Wake Boats: P. Kipping passed out a copy the Town of Rhine's prohibition of wake boating. The Town of Rhine is located in eastern Wisconsin, near Fond Du Lac. On April 8, Kipping will be meeting with Burnett County's Town of Scott to introduce the same wake boat ordinances that were passed by the Town of Rhine and ask the town board to pass a similar ordinance. T. Adair agreed to join Kipping at the meeting on April 8.

LakeLife Pocketbooks: The stickers with corrected contact numbers are all printed. T. Adair agreed to stick them on 40 or 50 LakeLike booklets so that they can be available on the BCLRA table at the fishing opener At Crooked Lake Park.

BCLRA Website: No action had been taken to see if Tom Schneiberg 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. G. Younkers will reach out to Schneiberg in the next few days to find out his wishes.

No Power Loading Signs: Baker explained that the order for 40 signs has been placed with Dynamic Signs and should be available in the next several weeks. He will be sending out invoices/purchase orders with a letter asking the groups if they would consider increasing their payment by \$10 to \$20 to help us balance our expenses. Baker will send the letter to E. Moore and G. Younker for their input before sending them out. The letter will indicate that signs may be picked up at the Government Center and that payment can be made either at the time of pickup or by mail prior to pickup.

4-H Scholarships: Beth Rank was never contacted about attending this meeting to see what her financial needs are for her summer 4-H camps. T. Adair will once again try to contact her about attending our next meeting in April.

NEW BUSINESS

LakeLines: As reported at our 01/19/24 meeting, S. Wallin has already lined up a full slate of sponsors for 2024. UW-Extension has withdrawn funding that supported the LakeLines newsletter, so we will need to come up with alternative methods of paying for the newsletter. After some discussion on how the BCLRA can increase its income stream, it was suggested that when invoices are sent out for 2024 LineLines advertising later this spring, the cover letter should explain that advertising rates will be increasing in 2025 by \$50 or \$100. We will discuss this at our next meeting and arrive at a consensus on what the rates will be in future year. Other possible ways to increase revenue included silent auctions and 50-50 raffles were discussed.

Board Membership: Baker explained that due to some worsening health issues he and his wife are in the process of listing their property on Lipsett Lake and will be moving back to the Cities to be closer to quality medical care. Consequently, he will be resigning from his positions as BCLRA Secretary and Treasurer at the end of the fiscal year at the annual meeting in July. After some discussion, G. Younker generously agreed to assume the treasurer position. Baker was greatly appreciative and said that he would work with Younker over the next several months to make the transition as smooth as possible. P. Kipping indicated that he too will be stepping down from the BCLRA board at the annual meeting in July. E. Moore suggested we consider opening the BCLRA board to more members which might allow for more involvement. Noe mentioned a possible board member, Mary Fomiak, who he thinks would be an outstanding addition to our board. He will invite her to attend the next BCLRA meeting in April. Baker will check our Constitution to see if there are any limits to the size of the BCLRA Board of Directors. (NOTE: Baker checked the BCLRA Constitution and the number of Directors has a minimum number of members (4), but there is no maximum number. So, increasing the size of the Board is not prohibited by our Constitution).

Other Items: R. Noe showed the group a ten year old list of the BCLRA Board of Directors that included contact information. Clearly Board membership has changed significantly in the last decade and Noe suggested it is time to make the list more up to date. G. Younker agreed to make an update effort and will report back at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 (Noe/Baker).

The next BCLRA meeting will be on Friday, April 19, at the Siren Government Center.