

DRAFT MINUTES

BMLAA Board of Directors Meeting

June 22, 2024

Attending BMLAA Board Members

Matt Hanson, Monette Lundquist, Karl Altenburg, Justin Johnson, Mark Hagen, Zeb Haney, and Pat Sweeney.

Welcome and Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda

Karl Altenburg made a motion to approve the agenda for the June 2024 BMLAA Annual Meeting. Kurt Altenburg seconded the motion. The agenda was approved by a unanimous voice vote of the membership.

Review and Approve Minutes of 2023 Annual Meeting

Karl Altenburg made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 2023 BMLAA Annual Meeting. Mark Hagen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a unanimous voice vote of the membership.

Member Forum

Veronen's 2024 Fireworks Show – Donna Waliczek shared details for this year's 4th of July celebrations. The show will be held on Thursday, July 4th beginning at sun down (approximately 9:30pm). In the event of a rain delay, the show will be postponed until Friday, July 5th. Donna stressed safety and an encouragement for folks to travel carefully to and from the show. This year, the show will feature the Bemidji Veterans of Foreign War and will last about 40 minutes in duration. Donna has asked guests to stick around until the flag comes down and the "Taps" are played. Finally, please share the word, guests can tune into the program on FM 87.9. Donna and Veronen's Resort are grateful for any and all support from BMLAA members. It's your support helps make this fun event happen each and every year!

Treasurer's Report – Monette Lundquist

Monette Lundquist, serving as treasurer, reported a checking account balance of \$7,139.01. Of this balance, \$2,621.77 serves as General Account Funds and \$4,517.24 represents the total Invasive Species Donation balance remaining.

By comparison to 2023, the BMLAA balances are down a bit in 2024. Not all of the memberships have been paid in full and membership dues are still coming in.

Monette provided a brief budget, reflecting historical activity, for the associations General Fund and AIS Donations Balance. She expressed some concern about having enough funds for AIS inspections at the landing in 2024 and beyond. She reported that the Forest Township has agreed to increase their support of the AIS inspections in 2024.

Matt thanked Monette for her service in this role supporting the BMLAA board.

Membership Report – Monette Lundquist

102 paid members YTD for 2024

Veronen's Fireworks Donation

Monette made a motion for the board to consider a contribution in the amount of \$1,000 as donation in support of Veronen's Resorts 2024 fireworks show. Karl Altenburg seconded the motion and opened the floor for discussion. The contribution was approved by a unanimous voice vote of the membership.

Nomination/Election of New Board Members

There will be no current members coming off the board in 2024. In 2025, there will be three open seats on the board, as Monette Lundquist, Matt Hanson, and Justin Johnson will be concluding the third year of each of their terms.

Land Transfer Update & Brief Q&A – Craig Hall of Becker County Planning Commission

Craig Hall from Jugler Lake

Sheriff Todd Glander – life long resident of Becker County, elected sheriff in 2014, thanked BMLAA for the support of the sheriff's office, acknowledged how special Bad Medicine Lake is in Becker County, introduced Deputy Nick Daniel – boat and water deputy, had been a member of the White Earth police department, Nick brought the new Sheriff's boat today which had been paid for by a MN grant and 1/3rd of the funds from Becker County general budget, Becker County has 6 total boats,

Donation from BTD in Detroit Lakes, water rescue kit, serve to rescue folks who are off shore a ways, life jacket, throw stick and rope really helps,

5 Rules of boater safety – life jackets, stay sober, weather, tell someone you're going, boat smart, the reason we have a deputy like Nick is because folks don't follow these 5 rules, shared a story of a 20-year old young man who recently drowned on Big Detroit Lake, encouraged us all to follow these 5 rules

Goal with Boat and Water – educate and keep people safe, supporting a safe and enjoyable time

Tickets to Warnings – 300 warnings for every ticket, aiming to educate folks first, if education doesn't work then it moves to a citation, most common cause of warnings would be not having safety gear on a boat, anyone under the age of 10 can have a

Personal watercraft – always with life jacket

Under 25 horsepower – anyone can drive

Over 25 horsepower – watercraft operator's permit, online course on the DNR website,

No speed limits on the lake

Dive Team is a separate entity (501 C3)

Wed of last week, a crop duster dumped it's load in Bad Medicine Lake, this has been moved to the DNR for investigation, it is not known who dropped the load from a yellow crop duster in the south end of the lake, folks from the BMLAA observed this happening

Discussed jurisdiction on Becker County – co-jurisdiction on tribal land, all serious crimes will include the Becker County Sheriff's department, tribal officers are post-licensed also – same arresting and investigative powers as the sheriff's office, the sheriff's office in Becker County must respond to a call, the tribal police can choose whether or not they will respond to a call

Discussed the jurisdiction between Becker County and DNR – safety related issues on the water is the responsibility of the sheriff's office, primary focus of the DNR is fish and game but also has jurisdiction over water safety, primary focus of the sheriff's office is water safety – but also has jurisdiction over licensing and fish and game,

Discussed trends on organized crime – fentanyl continues to be a problem, these drugs are coming from the US/Mexican border, main focus of the sheriff's office is dealing with the folks up here who are distributing the drugs, human trafficking is thankfully a very small issue across the county

Thankful that we're not experiencing small meth factories in Becker county, each deputy has 2 does of Narcan on them (75.00 per dose)

Land Transfer Update – Craig Hall

Helping folks to be up to speed with respect to the land transfer issue – locally, state-wide, and on the tribe

Shared a map of white earth state forest – includes the land surrounding Bad Medicine Lake, tribe is looking to take back the land, back into 160,000 acres of ground back into the reservation – eliminating the white

Why did the legislation not go through – many folks stepped up to spread the word of the bill in the House (HF4304), Sent 3480, both failed to gain momentum to get out of committee, but they will return

Elements to pay attention to – look up Fond du Lac tribe in WI as a reference – about 24 homes on the lake, in WI the federal governor backed the tribe, folks still have their personal property, but

access to this property has been given to the tribe, now the only way folks can access their property is across the water or across the ice, the tribe is then asking for an unreasonable amount of money to access these properties,

Accessing the property or recreational activities may go away for all of us,

Any sale of tax forfeited land would be first offered to the tribe – right of first refusal

Water rights is another issue in the discussion, it's NOT just the DNR that has rights over water in the county, but the tribe will be able to dictate rights to the water and handling of fertilizers,

Encouragement is to get the facts and get the word out to, non-residents won't be able to vote, but our voice will matter, voice your opinion to the legislators in Minneapolis, the more folks that our legislators hear from the better, pick up the phone and call these folks, or better yet – stop in and meet with the legislators in person, more effective than sending an e-mail that is easy to delete, the only way we win is through effective education and

Steve Green – our legislator from this area

County boards in the area are strongly against the legislation,

Approach was to pass the legislation and then figure it out later,

Questions – who is they? The tribe and the legislators who are introducing the bills

H2Land.org – encouraged all to look up this website, started originally due to a water issue and water rights impacting farmers, then with the support of the Biden Administration the tribe has stepped up their activity

Discussed the Omnibus Bill – which allows for the transfer of tax forfeited land by a sale of the county

Potlach Land – now the conservation fund, N on 37/39, the land is still posted for a few years, on the conservation fund website – notes that the land can be sold or gifted to a government entity,

Right now we all have access to this land – without regard for race or

Key – having folks on the ground in Minneapolis to keep tabs on what's going on, responding quickly to the new bills, sticking together and being on the same page, get involved and back H2Land.org

1985 White Earth Bill – we should review this as a reference, isn't there language that prevents the reservation from coming back to request or take back these funds

It's about power and buying votes, folks from Minneapolis-St. Paul that are pushing this legislation and it's about a power struggle, it's about money and power

Question – Why does this matter to the Sheriff's office of Becker County?

Complications with getting access to emergency situations – might take us too long when accesses are blocked by tribally owned land, not experiencing reciprocal cooperation from the tribe on working through these issues

Question – where are the funds coming from to support the Tribe and the purchase of this land?

Question – Is the BMLAA the appropriate platform to address these concerns and organize voices of opposition?

Question – Is this supported by the governor's office?

Department heads are seeing how ludicrous this all is, but don't

BMLAA – Review of the Mission

Association has a mandate to keep BMLAA members informed, Karl recommended that a separate entity be consider for efforts to lobby or support a particular point of view in favor of or opposition to this legislation

Proposal from Paul Lundquist – BMLAA e-mail with contact information of who to contact, this information has already been posted to the BMLAA website

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Karl Altenburg and seconded by Zeb Haney. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote of the membership.

Justin Johnson
Acting Secretary