

Bad Medicine Lake Area Association 2017 Annual Meeting

Forest Township Town Hall

Saturday, June 24

9-11am

Board Member Present: Mary Lindstrom, Steve Lindow, Monette Lundquist, Paul Lundquist, Linda Anderson, Mary Follett, John LaFond, Howie Anderson

Attendance: 67 people were in attendance by the count of the secretary

Board Members Not Present: Ryan Sederquist, Barry Bennett

Call to Order: Mary Lindstrom, President

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to approve the agenda: Motion-John LaFond, second Linda Anderson. Carried.

Motion to approve the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting: Motion-Scott Bentson, second Rose Andersen. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: Monette Lundquist. Monette answered questions about balances and the AIS funds. Rose Andersen urged the Board to consider spending down the balance of Association funds for the betterment of the lake, including increasing the amount given to the research project.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report: Motion, John LaFond, second Mary Follett. Carried.

Retiring Members: Steve Lindow, John LaFond, Paul Lundquist and Barry Bennett were thanked for their service to the Association.

New Members: Many were asked to serve and Marc Shannon agreed to serve. Nominations from the floor were invited. Linda Anderson nominated Linda Bentson and Linda Bentson accepted.

Motion to close nominations: Motion, Linda Anderson, second Craig Lindstrom. Carried.

Motion to accept nominees Marc Shannon and Linda Bentson by acclamation: Motion John LaFond, second, Linda Anderson. Carried.

Tom Lorentzen asked who would be attending the COLA (Coalition of Lake Associations) on our behalf with Steve Lindow leaving the Board. Linda and Howie Anderson and Mary Lindstrom have agreed to serve in that capacity.

A.I.S. Report : Steve Lindow (Written Report is in the June Newsletter)

Steve said we can access our Bad Medicine Area website at www.badmedicine.mnlakesandrivers.org. Linda Anderson thanked Jim Eisele for continuing to serve as our webmaster.

Steve checked 110 boats in and out on fishing opener. Seven Boats had to be decontaminated. The complete report can be accessed in our June newsletter. Steve suggested that we place white pvc pipe underwater on our docks and check periodically to see if there are zebra mussels attached. To date there are none. Steve pointed out that people have been finding a green “jelly” like substance on their fishing lines. This is fresh water sponge, which only occurs in pristine lakes. Steve is willing to continue to be our A.I.S. liaison and if Association members find anything unusual in the lake, to gather it, let Steve know, and he will have it analyzed and shared with our BSU research team.

Fishing Report: Steve Lindow (Written Report is in the June Newsletter)

Steve reported that the trout were biting well until the May fly hatch, and several present shared that some 23” and bigger trout have been caught. Small mouth bass have been biting and Steve urged those fishing to keep the smaller fish, which are good eating, and, which we believe are eating all the walleye fry being stocked by the DNR. A 29 pound northern pike was caught this winter. No walleyes have been reported as people left the lake.

Water Quality Report: (Written Report is in the June Newsletter)

COLA: Steve Lindow

Steve reported that the Coalition of Lake Associations is a lobbying group that helps all the lakes to be protected and that we should continue to be a part of it.

Forest Township Report: Lynn Lindow, township supervisor

Amnesty day at the recycling center on May 27 went well. The next Amnesty day is on August 26th. Illegal dumping has been somewhat better since a security camera has been installed. Lynn noted that the small shed next to the Town Hall has a receptacle for burned out light bulbs and fluorescents. Your gate key will give you access.

Roads have been in better shape than many recent springs and calcium chloride as laid on two miles of East Bad Medicine Lake Road from 129 to Sunset Drive. A question was asked how the Township Board decides which roads to treat. Tim Holzkamm, a township supervisor said the purpose of treating the roads is to preserve the gravel surface. Calcium chloride costs about \$2,500 per mile, and if there is a rainy summer, the treated roads can get muddy. Also, the treating of Red Top Road where the costs were shared by residents was resisted by some due to the cost, and others have worried about the chemicals finding their way into the lake.

Lynn has been doing weed spraying and mowing will be completed next week. The Verizon cell tower has been approved by the county, but no construction has begun yet because the county is seeking an easement from the state to run the electrical power lines to the tower site. Verizon has until October to complete the construction. If they do not, other companies can lease from the county for a tower. One member spoke of his concern about the 300 foot tower's aviation strobe lights adding light and visual pollution to our area. Roger Olsen noted that in Fargo, a shield was put on the tower that blocked the strobe light from the ground but not aircraft. The only recourse for those opposed to the tower may be to complain to Verizon.

Tree work is being done on Black Bear Beach Road to widen it to allow for easier plowing and grading.

All are invited to monthly meetings of the Township Board, the second Tuesday of every month at the Town Hall, and to the Township Annual Meeting the second Tuesday of March.

Lynn reminded everyone that in order to build in the township you need to get a permit from Becker County. If you are seeking to build within 267 feet of water you also need a township permit.

Paul Stadum said that because of inaccurate GPS maps, it took the Becker County Sheriff two hours to reach his home which had been broken into. The GPS maps still have Shangri-La road accessible from the north. Paul asked "what if that had been a request for a medical emergency?" The Association will need to explore how the maps can be corrected.

Next Door: Linda Bentson

This is an on-line app which allows lake residents to share important information such as "a bear was spotted on Red Top Road," safety information or to offer a boat for sale or other information of community concern. No names will be sold and only residents can use it.

Road Clean Up: John LaFond

Spring clean up in April was well attended and 12 large garbage bags were collected. The Fall clean up on County 37, which the Association has adopted, is slated for Saturday, September 16. We will gather at Red Top Road and 37 at 10am.

North Country Trail: Ray Vlasak

Ray invited everyone to hike the NCT and provided a list of upcoming events for trail hikes. He also stated that help is needed to maintain the trails.

Featured Speaker:

Dr. Rick Koch, Bemidji State University and research team leader

(A written report on the nature of the project is in the June Newsletter.)

Rick noted that they are two months into the project and the research confirms what a remarkable lake this is. The long, narrow and deep nature of the lake avoids wind driven mixing so there are two distinct layers, one deep and one surface which have quite different chemical, temperature and "creatures." They are finding a lower

oxygen level in the bottom 15 feet of the water column but even there the oxygen levels are ok and above that the oxygen levels are very rich. The cold, oxygen rich depths allow fish to thrive. One amazing element of the lake is that algae can thrive at very deep levels because of the water clarity allowing light to reach the depths, including even the 95 foot depth.

Next summer they will be monitoring surface phosphorous run off in various areas, mapping vegetation and looking for invasive species.

Non-fish zooplankton will be studied, as the zooplankton eat the algae and the small and young fish eat the zooplankton so they are key to the lakes health.

The initial research will be dividing the lake into three research areas: the north basin, which runs to 65-70 feet in depth; the middle basin, which is the deepest part of the lake reaching perhaps 97 feet in depth; and the south basin which runs to 65 feet in depth.

The north basin is somewhat different chemically, has less oxygen and water clarity and more organic matter on the bottom. It is still a stellar part of the lake, just different from the other two basins.

One side experiment will look at the zooplankton that appear to remain in the depths during the day to avoid fish predation and rise in the evenings to feed on the algae closer to the surface.

The lake has been deeply impacted in every way by the rise in the lake level and the researchers will look for trends and the impact of the changes. One goal of the project is to make lake management recommendations so that any negative changes in water quality can be headed off before they become severe. The AIS work is really excellent and at best will keep out invasive species and certainly reduce their impact should any occur. In response to a question, Rick said once invasive species enter the lake they cannot be eradicated but can be controlled.

A question was asked about the impact of the irrigation on the neighboring prairie on our lake, which is fed by the underground water table. Steve Lindow responded that the water table flow runs from northwest to southeast, so that pumping should not appreciably affect our lake levels for now.

Jim Eisele reminded us that for years we have been testing the lake for phosphorous and nitrates and he hoped that since the project was approved and we stopped doing the sampling that the project would keep doing so. Rick said they are and asked for the lab results from the beginning of the process by Jim Eisele and others. Roger Olsen asked if some the bays experiencing development would also be a part of the research and Rick said they would be. Roger pleaded with all of us to avoid using fertilizer which might leach into the lake.

Carole Olsen asked if this research project was unique, and Rick said there are a few other lakes being researched to this extent in Minnesota, but very few.

Randy Johnson expressed concern about advertisements for "lake friendly" fertilizers. Rick said there really are not any "lake friendly" fertilizers. All can have bad effects if they reach the water.

Steve Lindow added that the project will help us determine what might be threatening our water clarity. He pointed out that the 50 feet closest to the lake are very vulnerable and should be left natural. If you already have lawns close to the lake he suggested planning indigenous plants to protect from run off.

Linda Bentson asked if Rick could recommend ways to maintain our water clarity, and Rick replied that in the future they would be doing just that.

Bad Medicine Lake Foundation: Ray Vlasak

Ray began asking us to not use fertilizer at all!

The Foundation was founded in the early part of this century in part as a result of the lake rise, the loss of eight lake homes and FEMA's refusal to help the victims of the lake rise. The lake was split about 50/50 on whether to create an outlet, but the state and the White Earth tribe were both very much against it. The Foundation stepped in to help those who lost homes and lakeshore, and in the process have acquired for protection, 1.8 miles of affected lakeshore. These acquisitions include 28 acres of land appraised at \$2.8 million. Presently, the Foundation is completing the acquisition of land near the public access and signage is being made to note this. Ray pointed out that the Research Project is sponsored by the Lake Association, and that the Foundation agreed to be the fiscal agent, which, in conjunction with the West Central Initiative, allows all gifts to be tax deductible. Ray suggested that appreciated stock and mandatory IRA distributions are good ways to help fund the project. The total cost of the project is \$175,000 for three years. Bemidji State is contributing \$50,000 and \$45,000 has been raised to date. The Foundation hopes to spread out the giving to a larger group of people than have funded the land acquisitions. If each of the 150 property owners gave \$1,000 we'd already be done paying for the project. But that hasn't happened, so the Foundation recommends that members consider pledging \$1,000 a year for three years. Pledge cards are available on the display table. The Foundation feels we are able to raise the needed amount after holding events in Fargo and this past winter for year round lake residents where the giving results were good.

Jim Backes has left the lake and the board, and Mike Slette and Tom Lorentzen have agreed to join the Foundation Board.

Lake Recreation:

Donna Waliczek of the Veronen's Resort Team invited everyone to the July 3 fireworks display. She thanked the Association for helping to fund the fireworks and asked others to contribute as well. There will be a color guard, and boaters are asked to wait until after taps are sounded before starting their engines to leave.

Lake Swim-Linda Bentson and her daughters began the lake swim from the south end to the access 30 years ago. Donna Waliczek has noted all those who have made the swim over the years. The dates this year are August 5-6.

No Pontoon Social has been held the past two years for lack of an organizer. Monette Lundquist urged people to consider taking this project on so it can be held again.

Loons and eagle nests-Both loons nests failed to produce young this year. There are two young eagles ready to fledge in the nest on the mid lake island.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion, Lynn Lindow, second Linda Anderson. Carried.