

**DRAFT**  
**Annual Meeting of the Bad Medicine Lake Area Association**  
**Saturday, June 12, 2021 at Bad Medicine Resort**

**Board Members Present:** Scott Bentson, Matt Hanson, Marge Lorentzsen, Linda Bentson, and Justin Johnson

**Attendance:** By the count of the secretary, 37 people attended the Annual Meeting, 34 were current members of the Association.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Welcome/Call to Order:** Scott Bentson, President

The purpose of the Association as defined in the bylaws was reviewed. Background on 2020 was reviewed including: cancellation of the 2020 Annual Meeting due to COVID precautions, board meetings were conducted via Zoom throughout the summer, health conditions and mandates forced the board to operate outside the framework of the current bylaws, and ongoing board discussion of the need for amendments to the bylaws that would allow for continued operations in emergency conditions. The intention at this meeting was to review proposed by-law changes for adoption and, additionally, to elect 6 new Directors to re-establish a board depleted by term expirations and other departures. As a quorum was not present at the beginning of the meeting, these matters were moved to the back of the agenda so that late-arriving members might create a quorum and thereby permit a vote on the proposed bylaw changes and the election of new board members.

**Motion to Approve Minutes of 2019 BMLAA Annual Meeting:** Motion, Tim Holzkamm. Second, Karl Altenburg. Approved by voice vote of attending members.

**Motion to Approve the 2020 Annual Report:** Motion, Karl Altenburg. Second, Jim Luttrell. Approved by voice vote of attending members.

**2020-2021 Treasurer's Report:** Marge Lorentzsen, Treasurer

The issue of multiple membership dues paid as a result of the timing of board communication to BMLAA members was discussed. Going forward, the board will request payment of annual dues in the spring of the current year. COLA dues were waived in 2020 due to COVID and are pending for 2021. 2020 total expenses were 2,292.19, including: Veronen's July 4th fireworks show (750.00), MN Lakes & Rivers membership (250.00), 2020 Becker County AIS inspector coverage (216.00) with the balance paid by Forest Township (2,500.00). An information kiosk displaying SEE Committee and BML information has been added to the landing at the public access in 2021. Scott acknowledged the important financial participation of the township in support of AIS inspections on Bad Medicine Lake.

**Motion to Approve the 2020-2021 Treasurer's Report:** Motion, Joe Evans. Second, Bill Herauf. Approved by voice vote of attending members.

**2021 Financial Review:** Scott Bentson

As stipulated in the bylaws, the finances of the Association are reviewed annually and a report presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting. John LaFond completed the 2020 review in May of 2021 and provided his report to the membership. His

findings are summarized as follows: 1) the books of the Association were found to be in order, 2) the board should monitor the ongoing need for AIS funds as there may be need for these funds in 2021 and beyond, and 3) BMLAA membership seems to be on a downward trend. The complete report is available on the BMLAA website. John may be contacted directly by any member who has questions about Association finances.

**Motion to approve the 2021 Financial Review:** Motion, Lynn Lindow. Second, Bill Herauf. Approved by voice vote.

**BMLAA Board Matters:** Scott Bentson

**Virtual Board Meetings:** The Board held its meetings by Zoom throughout 2020. While meeting via Zoom presents obvious advantages, it may have discouraged participation by members who are uncomfortable using electronic means of communication. However, it is expected the Board will continue to hold its meetings via Zoom in 2021 and beyond assuming necessary bylaw amendments are approved. The Board will offer Zoom orientation and training experiences and work to develop alternative ways to accommodate members who may not be comfortable with Zoom technology.

**Guidelines for Communication and Board Meetings:** The Board recognizes that there is a need to improve communication and the timely distribution of information to members. Setting up guidelines that clarify expectations and the process by which those improvements can be made should help. The Board also needs to clarify the process by which the membership can share their views directly with the Board. Finally, it is in the interest of all members of the Association to improve the efficiency of board meetings.

**Directors & Officers Liability Insurance:** In the last few years the Board has found itself in the middle of intense disagreements between opposing segments of the Bad Medicine Lake community on certain issues. As a result, in 2020 the Board of Directors made the decision to purchase Directors & Officers Liability Insurance using personal funds. The recommendation now is that this insurance should be continued and paid for by the BMLAA. D&O liability insurance provides board members security that they are not at personal financial risk by serving on the Board. The annual premium in 2020 was 450.00 for 1.0M liability coverage for 9 board members/officers. It should be noted that no legal action is pending against the Association or the Board of Directors.

**Motion to approve Directors & Officers Liability Insurance:** Motion, Tim Holzkamm. Second, Monette Lundquist. Approved.

**Announcements:**

**The BMLAA website:** [badmedicine.mnlakesandrivers.org](http://badmedicine.mnlakesandrivers.org) provides the most current information about the affairs of the Association. All BMLAA members are encouraged to become familiar with the website for obtaining current and historical information about the Bad Medicine Lake Area Association. In addition there is lots of interesting information about Bad Medicine Lake and the surrounding area as well as links to state, county and area resources.

**Veronen's Resort 75th Anniversary, July 4th Fireworks show:** Donna Waliczek Veronen's 4th of July Fireworks celebration this year will be especially exciting. The program will start about 30 minutes after sunset and last about 40 minutes. The entire fireworks show is set to music and efforts are being made to improve the sound quality over the lake. Donations are needed and very much appreciated.

**Motion to Donate 750.00 to Veronen's 75th Anniversary, July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks show:**  
Motion, Tim Holzkamm. Second, Jerry Prah. Motion approved.

**BMLAA Newsletter:** We're looking for a volunteer to work with the Board to organize and coordinate the publishing of the BMLAA newsletter. The primary need is to facilitate the development of additional content that draws on the expertise and talent of the membership. Layout, graphic design, printing and mailing is handled by the printer in Detroit Lakes. Contact Scott if interested.

**Sunday Services at the Chapel of the Good Creation:** The Chapel of the Good Creation at Bad Medicine Resort will be holding services every Sunday morning at 11:00am between July 3 and September 5. All are welcome.

**Eelpout Research Video Update:** (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nns3VauU6UY>) This You Tube link takes you to a very interesting 30-minute summary of the recent eelpout/burbot research done on Bad Medicine Lake. A related question was raised by Joe Evans as to whether the research equipment placed in the lake has been removed. The question has been passed on to BSU researchers.

#### **2021 Proposed Bylaw Amendments:** Scott Bentson

**Motion to Approve Proposed Bylaw Amendments:** Motion, Tim Holzkamm. Second, Bill Herauf.

**Discussion:** While there was general understanding of the need to amend the Association bylaws, there was active discussion among the members in clarifying and further amending the final language of the amendments proposed by the Board. That discussion involved the following Association members: Tim Holzkamm, Paul Dovre, Joe Evans, Karl Altenburg, Monette Lundquist, Lynn Lindow and Scott Bentson. After discussion and review, changes were made to the language of proposed amendments 1 and 2; proposed amendment 3 was determined to be unnecessary and was, therefore, deleted; and the language of proposed amendment 4 was unchanged. The revised amendments were read to the members in attendance and there was consensus that the revisions were accurate.

The final version of the amendments to the Association bylaws is as follows:

1. Article IV: Membership Meetings, "Section 4: Circumstances. The Board of Directors, at it's discretion, may cancel or reschedule a membership meeting, change the meeting location or modify the meeting format by giving appropriate notice. The board shall have the option to hold membership meetings and conduct Association business by electronic or virtual means."
2. "Article V, Directors, Section 3: Directors Election. . . . "Should the Board of Directors determine that the Annual Meeting can not be held, Directors may be elected by means of an electronic or mail ballot that presents the Nominating Committee's slate of nominees to all voting members of the Association and make provision for nominations from the membership."
3. Article V, Section 8: Meetings. . . . "The Board of Directors may hold meetings and conduct Association business by electronic or virtual means."

**Motion to Approve Proposed Amendments to the bylaws as amended during the Annual Meeting:** A quorum was determined to be present. Motion, Paul Dovre. Second, Dawn Hanson. Approved by voice vote of members in attendance.

As provided in Article IX of the BMLAA bylaws, amendments to the bylaws become effective immediately upon completion of the vote.

## **Election of Directors**

**Report of Nominating Committee:** Linda Bentson

The 4-person Nominating Committee was made up of Association members Barb Christiansen and Carol Peterson and Directors Matt Hanson and Linda Bentson as stipulated in Article V, Section 2 of the bylaws. Because no Directors were elected in 2020, there were 6 open Director positions this year. The nominees for Director positions were Lia Christiansen, Karl Altenburg, Mark Hagen, Marge Lorentzsen, Monette Lundquist and Bill Herauf.

**Motion to Elect the Nominees to the Board of Directors:** A quorum was determined to be present. Motion, Tim Holzkamm. Second, Paul Dovre. Approved by voice vote of members in attendance.

In order to reset the pattern of electing 3 Directors annually to replace an equal number with expiring terms, Lia Christiansen, Karl Altenburg and Mark Hagen will serve 3-year terms while Marge Lorentzsen, Monette Lundquist and Bill Herauf will serve 2-year terms. Matt Hanson, Justin Johnson and Scott Bentson have one year remaining on their terms.

Sincere thanks to departing Directors Dede Krieg, Paul Stadem and Linda Bentson.

## **2021 A.I.S. Summary:** Scott Bentson

AIS inspectors at the BML public access detected two separate incidents of zebra mussels in June of 2020 on boat trailers that had recently been on Detroit Lake. In each case, zebra mussels were detected in mud and vegetation prior to entry to BML. Prior to these incidents, the board had reviewed and substantially increased the total amount of AIS inspection time in 2020. Initially Becker County had budgeted and arranged for Thurs-Sun coverage on BML. The board requested expanded coverage to include Mon-Wed. The additional costs of increased inspection hours for 2020 were covered by the use of BML “banked” funds at Becker County, BMLAA’s AIS account and funds made available through Forest Township for 2020.

For 2021 the Board has once again planned for 7 day per week coverage. Current funds are in place to cover the extra hours of inspection anticipated for 2021. However, funding to maintain this level of inspections over the years to come is unlikely to be available without additional support from BMLAA. The board will be discussing funding options for maintaining this heightened level of coverage, anticipating the need to raise additional funds dedicated to AIS. A funding partnership with Forest Township may also be part of a longer-term funding solution. Starting at the Forest Township Annual Meeting in March of 2022, a joint partnership between BMLAA and Forest Township to fund AIS inspections will be a work in progress.

**2021 BML Fish Stocking Report:** Scott Bentson

12,000 yearling trout were stocked in the spring and 4,000 more will be stocked in the fall. Consistent with the past pattern of walleye stocking in BML, no walleyes will be stocked in Bad Medicine until 2022.

**2021 Fishing Report:**

There were miscellaneous comments from fishermen in attendance. Tim Holzkamm reported “catching” a large crappie that an osprey dropped in his boat last summer. Tom Lorentzsen caught a dinner plate sized crappie this spring. No other fishing reports.

**Bad Medicine Lake Water Quality Research Study:** Scott Bentson

The Board has requested an in-person meeting for presentation of final data from Rick Koch. We would like to include the core sample findings report as well, preferably by one of the core sample scientists. Tim Holzkamm reported there is a draft of the core sample findings that is being circulated and the time is getting close for sharing the findings publicly. Rick Koch is expecting to have a near complete report by mid to late September but may need to push the final presentation into 2022. Analysis of the Bad Medicine data came to a halt as a result of the COVID impact on the BSU lab.

**SEE Committee Report:** Matt Hanson

The purpose of the SEE (Safety, Education, & Etiquette) Committee is to improve boater behavior through educational approaches that emphasize safety, awareness of boating rules and regulations and awareness of the impact of boating behavior on other lake users. In 2020 the committee produced an informational poster shared via e-mail. 2021 discussion has been to re-emphasize the 2020 information. An informational Kiosk has been set up at the public landing with information for boaters new to Bad Medicine Lake. The informational sheet has also been shared with resorts for distribution to guests.

**UMN Healthy Waters Initiative Project Update:** Scott Bentson

A donation of \$1000 was made by BMLAA in 2020 to this research study of boat wakes being conducted by the University of Minnesota’s St. Anthony Falls Laboratory. A letter of update was received shortly before the Annual Meeting. Although no research results have been made public yet, peer-reviewed publication of the findings, conclusions and recommendations is expected within the next 6-9 months. Paul Dovre shared comments and observations of recent wake-boat activity from June of 2021 and expressed safety concerns about jet-skis jumping boat wakes.

**Forest Township:** Lynn Lindow

**Roads** - The township is working on gravel contracts to get improvements made on township roads. Funds have not been allocated for dust control in 2021.

**Dump** - Amnesty Day worked well this year with 4 bins full by 5:00pm. The second amnesty day will be August 28th with 3 dumpsters. One of the township dumpsters is broken and the bears are loving it. This results in unnecessary clean-up by township. Aiming to get this repaired by the 4th of July. An additional bin will be rented for the 4th of July weekend. We’re finding that folks are not consistently closing the lids which attracts the bears. The importance of using the recycling bins is stressed.

**Building Permits** - Must go through Becker County. Building permits beyond 267 ft. of the ordinary high water mark require a township permit as well.

**Fire Danger** – This is an extremely dry time in the Bad Medicine Lake area and the fire danger is very high. The DNR states that fires are allowed only with a variance. The recommendation from the township is to be extremely cautious even with campfires and be especially careful about dumping ash from fireplaces.

**Town Hall** - The Forest Township town hall is now available for future BMLAA meetings if needed.

**Bad Medicine Lake Area Foundation:** Tim Holzkamm

Activity has been diminished due to COVID. The main work of BMLAF has been around lake water quality. A tree-planting project to start the next generation of tall pines on Bad Medicine underway remains under consideration. The thought is to use deer exclosures, intending to plant fewer trees with higher survival rates over time.

**Next Door:** Linda Bentson

The Next Door platform speaks to “neighbors helping neighbors.” Currently there are 147 Next Door members in the Bad Medicine Lake community. Recent examples of communications on Next Door are as follows - notifications of bear sightings, lost and found animals, sale of property on BML, sharing information re. contractors and services, etc. Linda encouraged Next Door users to add a personal photo to their account to help lake neighbors connect names and faces. She can also provide direction re. turning off the ads.

**BMLAA Adopt-A-Highway:** Scott Bentson

The program was started in 2008 by Ray Vlasak, then Chuck Church took over and now John and Karen Lafond are the program organizers. Every spring and fall, a volunteer clean-up crew covers about 5 miles of county Hwy 37. Although sometimes short of volunteers, the community has enjoyed the cleanup project together. Enthusiasm was high among volunteers in the spring of 2021 and we completed the task in record time while having a great time. See you again in the fall!

**Members Comments, Questions, & Concerns:**

**Monette Lundquist** expressed concern about the number of vehicles and boat trailers parked along Hwy 113 during peak usage of the public access. The possibility of limiting the number of users allowed to launch when the parking lot is full was raised. This would likely require direct involvement or active cooperation of law enforcement to enforce. Member feedback indicated such cooperation would be unlikely. **Tim Holzkamm** suggested more careful parking practices in order to accommodate additional fisherman.

**Paul Dovre** expressed appreciation for work contributed by volunteers to BMLAA and other Bad Medicine Lake organizations.

**Motion to Adjourn the Annual Meeting:** Motion, Joe Evans. Second, Karl Altenburg. The motion was approved by voice vote of attending members. The Annual Meeting was adjourned.

Justin Johnson, Acting Secretary

Reviewed and edited by BMLAA Board of Directors