

Bad Medicine Lake Area Association Board Meeting
August 11, 2017

Board Members Present: Scott Bentson, Mary Lindstrom, Monette Lundquist, Howie Anderson, Linda Anderson, Linda Bentson, Paul Stadem, Marc Shannon, Mary Follett

Others Present: Steve Lindow, Matt Anderson, Glen Follett, Jerry Beck, Rolf Christiansen, Mark Veronen, Kurt Withnell

President Scott Bentson called the meeting to order.

Minutes from the July meeting were approved as amended. Motion by Mary Follett second Linda Anderson. Carried.

Treasurer's Report by Monette Lundquist, who reported that dues income were down from 2016. There are 157 paid compared to 2016 when there were 217. Monette is going to send out a dues notice by email. Motion to receive the report by Linda Bentson second Mary Lindstrom. Carried. (Report is attached)

August 10 Becker County COLA Meeting.

Howie and Linda Anderson attended. They reported:
Lake levels across the county are down by 15" to 20"
Loon chicks have been killed by eagles on a number of lakes.
AIS checks are taking place on most of the county lakes.

Gabe Dretsch, Becker County Shoreline Technician made a presentation on shoreline preservation and outlined the services his department offers. They offer site visits and a plan for your shore for a nominal fee. Rain gardens are a popular way to prevent run off from reaching the lake and the Shoreline team builds them planting native plants with deep roots. Often, cost sharing of up to 50% is available.

Karl Koenig, AIS Coordinator for Becker County reported that on August 5th, an event was held at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Research Center called "Starry Trek," exploring the dangers of starry stonewort spread. Out of the event four teams for Becker County were formed and 16 lakes were examined, including Bad Medicine. Luckily, no starry stonewort was found in our area. It is spreading in lakes to the south and north of us however.

On September 6th, 9am until noon, at Minnesota Technical College in Detroit Lakes a presentation on Governor Dayton's clean water initiative, "25 by 25" (improving

Minnesota's water quality by 25% by 2025) will be held. Members were urged by Karl to attend.

Karl reported that over 17,000 inspections took place in the county during 2016 and said that the AIS work in the county is among the most comprehensive in the nation. Zebra mussels are spreading in the county so inspections are essential. Karl reported that starry stonewort and zebra mussels thrive in high calcium lakes like most in the county.

On September 13 there will be a Research Showcase at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Research Center in St. Paul which will explain the efforts being made to control invasive species, including zebra mussels, which once in a lake can only be controlled, not eradicated. He pointed out that is why early detection is so important.

COLA members praised our own Steve Lindow for his expertise and hard work water quality and AIS efforts.

Township Report by Mary Follett

Mary reported that there was a discussion of Becker County/Forest Township permits and violations. The Association will stay in touch with the Township about these issues that affect the lake and surrounding land.

Request for Support Letter for a Slalom Course to be Left Out Overnight

Scott Bentson outlined the history of Kurt Withnell's request for a letter of support. Kurt made a presentation on the course, its history, technology and safety, pointing out that while last year's permit allowed him to have it in the water overnight for a month, he removed it in three weeks as the Board had requested.

The issue of liability was discussed. Kurt and Board members had contacted insurance professionals and it was decided that "hold blameless" language should shield the Board from most liability issues. It was suggested by the Board that Kurt speak to the Wiest family in person and he said he would be willing to accommodate any neighbors' issues with the course within reason.

Other guests made comments supportive of Kurt's request.

Motion by Mary Follett, seconded by Linda Bentson "to approve a permanent policy to issue a letter of support to the Becker County Sheriff for Kurt Withnell to keep a slalom course in the water overnight with annual review of the letter of support."

Scott Bentson proposed an amendment to strike "permanent" from the motion as the letter will be discussed year by year. The motion as amended, carried.

Scott committed to writing the letter of support before the close of business at the Becker County Sheriff's office.

Steve Lindow on the Research Project with Bemidji State

Steve reported that the fund raising for the project is going well, with \$48,000 of the \$102,000 already pledged. The cost for 2017 is \$22,000. There is much support for the project from the lake residents and the goal in fund raising is to expand the base of giving for lake related projects beyond the 75 households that traditionally give, to 100 households. Dave Wiest and Paul Dovre held fund raising meetings at their homes and another was held in Fargo. Mike Slette agreed to hold one on Sunset Drive.

The first year of the project is well underway with a BSU graduate student and an undergrad, all supervised by the project manager from BSU, Dr. Rick Koch. Steve will disseminate the result of the first year sometime after Christmas, when the researchers will have completed evaluating all the samples from the three areas of the lake, the north bowl, the south bowl and the middle. We can report these results in the spring newsletter. The most valuable information will come at the end of the three year project, so patterns and processes across several years and seasons can be compared. Steve responded to a question about a slimy algae and said that he has encountered it too and BSU is evaluating it.

The DNR Netting results- Steve Lindow

Steve said that the DNR does these netting processes every five years. Bass are the predominant fish in part because the nets do not work well for the trout. Walleye average per net was 6. One net skewed the number higher so a better estimate would be closer to 3 per net similar to five years ago. The good news is a larger number of smaller walleye were netted so maybe a hint at better fishing in the near future. Crappies, sunfish and perch numbers were very low, with only one perch per net when 20 would be a healthy number. Eelpout were also numerous.

Fall Newsletter

Steve agree to write an article on the progress in the research project and AIS. Monette will forward articles to editor Ryan Sederquist and to Jim Eisele for the website. The Board agreed to complete articles no later than our September 8th meeting. Paul Lindquist will be asked to write the fishing report. Linda Anderson will write an article on "Civility," including such items as fireworks, driving sensibly on township roads and etiquette on jet skis and boats. Linda Bentson will write an article on the "Next Door" website and extend that service to Bass Lake residents. Scott will write the "President's Article" and address a number of the issues that we covered at this meeting.

By-Laws Review and Revision

Scott asked members to bring proposed updating or changes in the by-laws to our September meeting. These will be given to a subcommittee who will prepare any changes for the 2018 annual meeting, where by-laws changes must be approved.

New Board Members

Paul Stadum was welcomed and a motion by Linda Anderson, seconded by Mary Follett to appoint Marge Lorentzen to fill the final two years of Barry Bennett's term. Carried.

Use of Association Funds

In response to the Annual Meeting members who urged the Board to use excess funds to support the health of the lake, Linda Anderson made a motion, seconded by Linda Bentson to increase the \$800 pledge to the research project for 2018 to \$2,500. Carried.

Monette noted that Bass Lake residents feel left out of the work of the Association. Linda and Scott Bentson went door to door at Bass Lake and found the same concern. The Bentsons agreed to go to Bass Lake residents again ask how BMLAA could be more relevant and useful to Bass Lake residents.

Next Meetings

Friday, September 8th at 8:30 am at the Town Hall.

Friday, October 13th, at 8:30 at the Town Hall.

Proposed Agenda Items for the September Meeting

By-Laws revision

Newletter articles

Motion by Linda Bentson, seconded by Mary Lindstrom to adjourn.
Carried.