

**Meeting of the Bad Medicine Lake Area Association
Thursday, Aug 19, 2021 (Zoom)**

Board Members Present: Scott Bentson, Matt Hanson, Marge Lorentzsen, Bill Herauf, Lia Christiansen, Karl Altenburg, and Justin Johnson

Attendance: 9 members in attendance (including board members)

Board Members Not Present: Mark Hagen & Monette Lundquist

Board Reviewed Meeting Minutes from July 15, 2021. Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes: Motion, Bill Herauf. Second, Scott Bentson. Approved by voice vote of attending members.

Open Forum:

Dark Skies and Dark Shores Initiative: Jon Wanzek

Jon has researched counties and lake associations in WI, finding resources he'd like to share with BMLAA and it's members. If we take time to notice, there are lights and light poles with around the lake that may be producing unnecessary light or light at times that may not be required. Jon would be recommending education of neighbors about light shielding. Board members commented on the educational piece from WI, it provided examples of how to adjust your lighting. Some lights stay on around the clock. Matt suggested working on something for the Fall 2021 newsletter to bring awareness, as well as, considering a 1-piece handout for the Spring of 2022. Focus would be on education in an effort to keep the lake natural and pristine.

Dark Sky Initiative & Friends of Itasca Park: Tim Holzkamm

Tim expressed his appreciation for dark skies and shores in the evening. Tim recommended getting in touch with Eric Haugland from Itasca State Park. Additionally, Karl Altenburg's son has background in light pollution studies from NDSU and may serve as a resource to those looking to learn and be further educated.

Treasurer's Report: Marg Lorentzsen

Marge Lorentzsen provided an update on the BMLAA checking account and finances. The checking account balance as of August 19, 2021 is \$9,657.12. Of these funds, \$7,139.24 have been set aside for AIS initiatives/inspection and \$2,517.88 are being held in our general fund. Cola dues of 300.00 were paid, 450.00 of insurance premium (D&O Insurance) was paid. There are no outstanding bills. Discussion regarding authorized signers was entertained by the board. Currently Marg Lorentzsen and Scott Bentson are listed as authorized signers. For checks issued in excess of \$1,000.00, dual signatures are required. The board agreed to leave the authorized signers as is for now, with a plan to update the checking account at the end of Scott Bentson's term as Vice President.

Discussion was had with respect to "accepting" or "approving" the treasurer's report. Each year, an audit of BMLAA finances is conducted and a report presented to the board for review. This serves to keep the BMLAA financial condition balanced and transparent. The board agreed to vote to "accept" the Treasurer's report from here on out. **Motion to Accept the Treasurer's Report:** Motion, Bill Herauf. Second, Scott Bentson. Approved by voice vote of attending members.

Membership Update: Marg Lorentzsen

Marg reported the addition of 2 new members since our July 2021 meeting. We are not expecting any additional new members for the remainder of 2021. We agreed to call for membership dues in the spring of each year, which resulted in fewer duplicate membership due payments for 2021. Matt inquired about matching memberships to actual property owners on the lake, with a concern for not missing the opportunity to invite new owners/residents to the lake. Jon Wanzek will have his administrative assistant update her list constructed using the Becker County website (GIS Property Searches) and match the current members with property addresses surrounding Bad Medicine Lake. This may also serve as an insert for the next member directory that is published in 2022.

See Committee Report: Matt Hanson

KIOSK has been updated. Pamphlets have been disappearing. We may be looking into options for posting a simple graphic or sign at Bad Medicine Lake resort landings, simply as a friendly way to remind and educate visitors about the AIS-free status of our lake.

Waterski Course: Justin Johnson & Tim Holzkamm

Justin reported on the installation and removal of the waterski slalom course in accordance with the signed 2021 agreement. The course was enjoyed by waterski enthusiasts during the permitted 10-day period beginning July 30th and ending August 8th. Tim Holzkamm provided comments and feedback, which recognized the efforts made by the waterski community to be considerate and respectful of their lake neighbors. As a directly impacted lake resident, Tim found the course usage to be tolerable for the 10-day period and explained that it was “not a problem” based upon his experience this year. Additionally, Curt Halbakken (not present for the meeting) shared the following points with Matt Hanson to be shared with the board. Curt was pleased to have received no calls of complaint this season, he observed course usage and found nothing of concern, and would call this year’s experience a general success.

AIS Update: Scott Bentson

Scott provided updates with regard to AIS and Inspection coverage. Karl Koenig (Becker County) has shared, on short notice, preliminary 2021 data with the board for review the data shared with us from 2021. Complete 2021 data will be produced very close to the last week of coverage (mid-sept). The data from 2021 lines up in many respects to 2020 numbers. There were gaps in coverage shown on the 2021 data, which is a little confusing given that we had understood 2021 coverage to be 7 days per week. Mon-Wed are generally lower activity days at the access. Karl has a problem with hiring inspectors. We had two college kids who stayed at High Pines for the summer and did most of the inspector work this summer. Most days of coverage were 10-hour days. The busiest days were on the weekends, Friday-Sunday. 6:00am is the earliest that inspectors start. They then finish their inspection hours at 4:00pm. Therefore, we have a lot of hours during the day that our landing/access is not covered by AIS inspectors.

What would make an optimum inspection plan? Karl Koenig is willing to join our Sept 2021 meeting to share in our discussions with respect to a plan for the future. Karl points out a concern he has with the purchase and transport of docks and lifts from lakes other than Bad Medicine. Rules (ie. 3 weeks out of the water for drying out) are often not followed when transporting used equipment between lakes. This poses a higher risk of getting zebra mussels in Bad Medicine Lake. Scott proposes that we get the rest of the data for 2021 and then spend some time in Sept at our meeting to consider the elements of an optimum AIS inspection plan for Bad Medicine Lake. What would that plan cost? How would we aim to fund this initiative? Would we consider donations from residents as a plan for funding?

Adopt a Tree Program (BMLAF): Tim Holzkamm

Seedlings are about \$0.50 per tree. Total costs w/ fencing will cost about \$20 per tree. Tim reports a 90% success rate for seedlings when trees are planted and protected with fencing. We have talked about planting a mix of red and white pines, as well as some spruce. Spruce are not as visually appealing on the shoreline, but are not as well liked by the deer. Tim believes the BMLAF would not be able to pay for the costs of fencing material for deer exclosures. We could ask for donations. Seedlings must be ordered in October for a Spring 2022 delivery. 500 trees would be the minimal order size. Tim suggested the following numbers as consideration for ordering; 100-200 red pine, 100 white pine, and 100-200 spruce pines. When asked about the white flag toppers for keeping deer away, we've learned that the paper doesn't really help to keep the deer away. Marg Lorentzen wondered if the foundation could assemble fencing kits that folks could buy when they pick up their seedlings. Matt suggested sending out an email survey to members to solicit interest in trees or tree kits, the Adopt-A-Tree Program. Lia Christiansen mentioned that there are some forestry programs that may view the fencing of newly planted trees as a project to build their portfolio during their college studies.

Water Quality Study: Scott Bentson

Rick Cook has offered to present a progress report to Bad Medicine Lake via Zoom on Saturday, Sept 25th. The report would not be complete and final, but would provide lake residents with an update on progress made. Rick's presentation would be recorded and posted on the BMLAA website for others to view at their own convenience. Scott will post an announcement to the BMLAA of the Sept 25th Zoom presentation by Rick Cook.

Fall BMLAA Newsletter: Scott Bentson

In 2020, the newsletter was printed around the middle of September and mailed very near to the 1st of October. Scott has visited with folks who really enjoy having a newsletter to hold in their hands, a hardcopy version. For 2021, we've decided to print a paper copy for mailing and to send an electronic copy to the BMLAA members. As folks tell us they no longer want the hardcopy, we can transition to electronic distribution only. We are short on volunteers for writing articles for the newsletter. Matt suggested articles to be written for the 2021 newsletter – Dark Shores, Waterski Course, Tree Planting, Rick Cook, Roadside, etc...Deadlines for this year's articles need to be submitted to Scott Bentson no later than Sept 15th. Scott will work on format and getting this to the publisher.

BMLAA Member Directory: Preference is for a paper copy. More discussion will be had at future meetings to plan and prepare for our publishing of our next member directory.

Sept 2021 BMLAA Board Meeting: Thursday, Sept 23rd at 7:00pm via Zoom

Motion to Adjourn the Annual Meeting: Motion, Marg Lorentzen. Second, Scott Bentson. Approved by voice vote of attending members.

Justin Johnson, Acting Secretary

Reviewed and edited by the Board of Directors