

**Meeting of the Bad Medicine Lake Area Association
Thursday, Sept 23, 2021 (Zoom)**

Board Members Present: Scott Bentson, Matt Hanson, Marge Lorentzsen, Bill Herauf, Karl Altenburg, Mark Hagen, Monette Lundquist, and Justin Johnson

Board Members Not Present: Lia Christiansen

Attendance: 8 members in attendance

Welcome & Call to Order

Approval of Agenda: Motion to Approve the Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda by Bill Herauf, seconded by Scott Bentson and approved by voice vote of attending members.

AIS Inspection Planning for Summer 2022 – Karl Koenig & AIS Team

Karl Koenig is the AIS Coordinator for Becker County. Each year, \$10.0M is allocated by the State of MN for programs that protect lakes from AIS and invasive species. Approximately \$340,000 of these state funds are allocated to Becker County. These funds which were based on new AIS programs the DNR had been using for boat inspections. About 70% of state funds go directly to the hiring of inspectors for public landings. The funds are allocated based upon specific risks to lakes that correlate to boat traffic. AISExplorer.com (Univ of MN website) provides some data, though to a certain extent out of date, ranking lakes by risk. In addition to providing for boat inspectors, the Becker County AIS program allocates funds for the purposes of outreach and education.

Scott Bentson expressed the association's desire to design an optimal program to protect Bad Medicine from AIS. We are looking to improve upon what we are already doing at this time. The board discussed some of the following challenges to Bad Medicine Lake. The program is reliant upon part-time, summer labor and employment standards for the county make it difficult to provide any additional financial incentives to folks that may be interested. Additionally, inspection is only provided at the public landing at this time, leaving gaps in protection at points of private lake access.

Karl believes the biggest risk to Bad Medicine Lake is from in-bound fishing boats that travel between multiple lakes and launch early in the morning. On Bad Medicine, he's much less concerned about boats entering the lake in the afternoon or evening hours. Additionally, there seems to be a correlation between AIS and lakes with higher amounts of shoreline infrastructure, ie. docks and lifts. Karl expressed concern about the potential for the purchase and placement of used docks and lifts without adhering to the legal requirement of a 3-week drying time before placement. Regarding invasive aquatic plants, Bad Medicine doesn't present a very good habitat for these aquatic plants to grow although continued vigilance is required.

Bill Herauf inquired about the level of personal responsibility expected of boat operators. AIS inspectors enter a legal agreement with the DNR. Inspectors are given authority to stop a boat operator, take pictures of zebra mussels, report findings to the State of MN, which results in a follow-up from MN state conservation officers. At this time, there is very little consequence for folks that are caught with zebra mussels on equipment.

Board Considerations: Help to source interested candidates for hire for inspector positions on Bad Medicine. Provide additional funds to Becker County for purposes of hiring additional inspectors to cover higher risk gaps in coverage. Provide additional education regarding AIS risks to lake the lake. Distribute an informational postcard, in partnership with Becker County, to reach additional folks on the lake. Consider inviting Karl Koenig to present to the BMLAA membership at the 2022 annual meeting. The board could consider low cost traffic counters to get even stronger data of boat landing traffic on Bad Medicine. This could inform us as to when additional inspection coverage is most needed. Education/information efforts for private access points on Bad Medicine could be of considered, as well. We could reach out to folks who own these private access points in order to bring additional awareness.

AIS Notes: 2021 summer inspector coverage hours fell just under the 700 hours allocated to Bad Medicine from Becker County. The board will consider a proposal to partner with the township on funding future year's coverage, over and above the state funded hours.

Board Reviewed Meeting Minutes from Aug 19th, 2021: Motion to approve by Bill Herauf, seconded by Marge Lorentzsen and approved by voice vote of attending members.

Treasurer's Report: Marge Lorentzsen

Marge provided an update on the BMLAA checking account and finances. The checking account balance as of Sept 23, 2021 is \$10,202.24. Of these funds, \$7,139.24 have been set aside for AIS initiatives/inspection and \$2563.29 are being held in our general fund. Expecting a bill for membership in MN Lakes and Rivers.

Motion to Accept the Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept by Justin Johnson, seconded by Bill Herauf and approved by voice vote of attending members.

Discussion on AIS Funds: Money has been sitting in the AIS fund. Perhaps we ought to consider ways to put these funds to work on education, data collection/monitoring, and/or additional inspection hours. Thinking through additional inspection coverage that would fill some of the early morning gaps in coverage.

Membership Update: Marge Lorentzsen

Marge reported 141 members.

Adopt a Tree Program (BMLAF): Matt Hanson

Currently, only 59 trees were requested. \$25 per tree feels expensive and therefore we didn't get much interest from surveyed BMLAA members. We were way short of the 500 trees per order. John LaFond came up with an estimated cost of \$15-20 per tree for planting. Cost is still prohibitive for this project. Scott raised the possibility that the Bad Medicine Lake Foundation might absorb some of cost to make the project more affordable. This could be presented to the foundation at some point in the future.

Off-Season Planning/Projects:

- Ideas for Summer 2022 – The board discussed options for increasing community engagement in 2022
 - Boat Parade for July 4th
 - Kayak or 5k Race
 - Paddle with Your Neighbors
 - Greeting Committee - New Residents Welcome
- Considered options for posting of pictures (FaceBook)
- BMLAA Member Directory for 2022
 - Discussed the need to get going on planning
 - Working on ways to get updated contact information for the new directory

Announcements:

- Wayne Gudmundson provided Scott with multiple copies of the photo book “Bad Medicine, at the Lake” for the association to use in whatever way we determine
- Board discussed proposed dates for next board meeting in 2022, likely to fall in the month of February

Motion to Adjourn the September Meeting: Motion to adjourn by Marge Lorentzsen, seconded by Bill Herauf and approved by voice vote of attending members.

Justin Johnson, Acting Secretary

Reviewed and edited by the Board of Directors