

BPLA Membership Meeting
Saturday, May 22, 2021 – 9:15 AM
Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order; Pledge of Allegiance – John

The meeting, held in person at the Finlayson Community Center, was called to order at 9:15am. There was also an option to join the meeting via Zoom.

2. Introduce board – John

John introduced the board: John Mueller – co-Chair | Membership; Maria Gobely – Treasurer | Buffer zones; Jim Corbo – Secretary; Ron Redding – co-Chair | Projects | Picnic; Dan Frey - Newsletter | July 4th parade; Don Roepke – Fisheries | Logo-wear; Dwight Benoy – Water quality. All board members were present at the meeting except Dwight Benoy.

3. Review agenda – John

The agenda was presented and briefly reviewed. Hand-outs were noted and the raffle ticket process was discussed.

4. Approval of 2020 Fall meeting notes – Jim

The 2020 Fall meeting minutes were presented. Motion to approve (Mike M.). Passed.

5. Treasurer's report – Maria

The budget and balance sheet were presented. Community giving over the past year was great. Expenses and membership levels both lower in 2020 as a result of COVID; however, we are on target for 2021. Overall, BPLA has maintained a healthy balance over the last 5 years. Maria shared the current plan of investing some of the BPLA balance into various CDs to gain a slightly better interest rate than letting the cash sit in the checking account. Most of the CDs are held at Northview Bank. One CD currently held at Members Credit Union. Motion to approve (Jim S.). Passed.

6. Committee reports

A. Membership – John

196 members in 2020. 206 members to-date in 2021. John presented an updated membership directory. The official ICE-OUT Date was Tuesday, March 30, 2021. There were 282 submissions and 5 families selected the correct date. They will win a 2022 BPLA membership.

B. Fisheries | Logo-wear – Don

All logo-wear will be available at the Picnic or via contacting Don. Special orders can be made if needed. In 2016, the MN DNR decided to stock lakes every other year. The amount of fish is determined in pounds; not the actual number of fish (ie. the larger the fingerlings, the smaller the actual number of them). The DNR did stock our lakes in 2020. BPLA will pay \$2,500 to stock in 2021. It has been noticed that sucker fish are coming up over the dam. Good to see some variety in the lake.

C. Roadside clean up | Projects | Picnic – Ron

Roadside cleanup was held on April 24, 2021. Thanks to the 12 individuals who showed up to help despite the bad weather. Next one was scheduled for Saturday, September 18, 2021 at 9:00am; however, that date will most likely be changed due to the re-scheduling of St. Uhro's Day Celebration. Next project day will be on Saturday, June 26, 2021. The BPLA picnic will be hosted on Saturday, July 17, 2021 from 12:00pm-2:00pm at the picnic area in the narrows. BPLA will provide main entrees, soft drinks, and water. Bring a dish to share.

D. July 4th Boat Parade & Fireworks – Dan

Special thanks to the Makalas, Jim Stevenson, and everyone who donated to the fireworks fund. The boat parade will be held on Sunday, July 4, 2021. Drake's dock on the north lake. Frey's dock on the south lake (location changed). 4:30 registration; 5:00 parade. All participants will be given a gift bag and the top 3 boats on each lake will receive a special prize based on enthusiasm and creativity. Your Theme of Choice or Red White and Blue. Fireworks will be held on Saturday, July 3, 2021 at 10:00pm. Same location.

E. Water Quality Projects – John

Overall, our lake quality continues to improve. Phosphorus levels decreasing; Chlorophyll A levels fluctuating but trending down; Nitrogen levels steady; Secci (clarity) levels slightly degrading but depends on when readings were taken. As other levels continue to drop, we expect the Secci levels to increase. BPLA received grant money to be used for signage to educate lake users about invasive species. Those signs will be placed at each boat landing. It is very important that everyone educates themselves and their guests about cleaning, draining, and drying their boats before launching in our lakes or taking them to other lakes.

F. Buffer Zone projects –Maria

Site visits for 2021 projects are taking place. 5 projects (picnic area included) planned in Aitkin County and 3 in Pine County for 2021. Between grant money and in-kind labor, nearly \$29,000 has been invested in these projects in 2020. If interested in volunteering or to get on the list for a project, please contact Maria.

7. Old Business – John

None.

8. New Business – John

The following questions were asked either from in-person participants or from zoom participants.

A. Broadband updates in the area. No updates; however, Pine/Aitkin counties are seeking feedback regarding internet. Please look at their associated websites.

B. Boat landing monitors. Big Pine and Pine Lakes do not have enough traffic for the DNR to provide monitors. BPLA has no plans to fund/provide them either at this time.

C. Dues increase? It has been many years since we have seen a dues increase. Our balance sheet is strong and BPLA has no plans to entertain a dues increase in the near term.

D. The narrows (south lake) is getting shallow. BPLA will look into that.

- E. Recognition of our donations to the local food shelf. It was suggested that we take a picture of the check presentation as a means to show all our members where our donations go.*
- F. Buoys for the loon nest on the north lake. Not currently being used because it was determined that too much attention was drawn to the nesting area with the buoys present. It was further suggested that the buoys be placed once the loon comes off its nest.*
- G. Use caution at the south lake boat launch as there is a large pile of rocks right in the path of launch. This pile has accumulated as a result of power loading. A buoy is currently in place and BPLA is working with the DNR on a plan to have them removed and possibly extend the concrete slab.*
- H. Concern exists over vehicle break-ins at our launches. The south lake launch has been cleaned and a lot of brush was removed to increase visibility. Please be vigilant.*

9. Adjournment – John

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54am.

There were approximately 55 attendees and 7 zoom participants.