

# **BPLA Membership Meeting**

## **Saturday, May 28, 2022 – 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 9:18am. There was also an option to join the meeting via Zoom. Approximately 60 members present and 2 members present via Zoom.

**2. Introduce board – John**

John introduced the board: John Mueller – co-Chair | Membership; Maria Gobely – Treasurer | Buffer zones; Jim Corbo – Secretary; Dan Frey – co-Chair | Newsletter | July 4th parade; Don Roepke – Projects | Fisheries; Dwight Benoy – Water quality | Roadside Clean-up; Roger Olson – Business Directory | BPLA logo merchandise. All board members were present at the meeting. At large committee members include: Lisa Drake, Ron Redding, Kathy Stevenson. First time attendees were identified and welcomed.

**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 Fall 2021 meeting notes – Jim**

Fall 2021 meeting minutes were presented. Motion to approve by Don (Ron, 2<sup>nd</sup>). Motion passed.

**5. Open board position – John**

An open board position representing Big Pine Lake still exists. BPLA is seeking individuals who care about the lake and its community. Please solicit interested parties for this position.

**6. Treasurer's report – Maria**

The budget and balance sheet were presented. Community giving continues to be great. Thank you. We are on budget for 2022. Maria shared an update on the current plan of investing some of the BPLA balance into various CDs. Given the current market conditions, matured CDs were not renewed (or reinvested); instead, we are holding these funds in cash until the bank rates catch up with current federal interest rate hikes. John talked about the importance of maintaining a "rainy day" if / when major issues arise (ie. aquatic invasive species, dredging the narrows, etc.). Overall, the account is in good health. Motion to approve by Ron / Charlie (Jim, 2<sup>nd</sup>). Motion passed.

**7. Family Pathways thank you**

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed to our local food shelf partners. They are very grateful and a plan is in place to further recognize BPLA and its members in local newspapers, etc. With your help, BPLA was able to donate \$3,120 in 2020, \$4,485 in 2021, and \$3,395 so far in 2022.

**8. Committee reports**

**A. Membership – John**

220 members in 2021. 202 members to date in 2022. For reference, there are 315 units on Big Pine and Pine Lakes. Membership directories and business directories are available at each meeting. The official Ice-Out date was April 28, 2022. There were 4 winners, who will receive a free BPLA membership in 2023.

B. BPLA Website – John

The new website has been up and running and looks really good. It is averaging 15-30 hits per week with most of the interest in water quality subjects. Please check it out: [www.bigpinelakes.org](http://www.bigpinelakes.org)

C. Logo wear – Roger

Logo wear will be made available at all BPLA meetings and events. Special orders can be accommodated. Feel free to reach out with ideas for new items.

D. Fisheries – Don

The drought in 2021 negatively impacted our source's Walleye stock; however, 1,400 fingerlings were stocked in each lake last year. The DNR plans to stock again in 2022 and the Hinckley Fish Department plans to do a fish survey at some point this year. Don also promoted the Get the Lead Out campaign. Please be cognizant of the impact of lead sinkers and lures to loons, fish, and other wildlife. Free lead-free sinkers and other campaign materials were distributed at the meeting (courtesy of Perry's Bait and the MN Pollution Control Agency). A question was asked about the proper way to dispose of lead. The BPLA board will organize a means to collect and dispose of lead products.

E. Projects – Don

Thanks to all the volunteers who have shown up at the various Project Day events. Don reviewed the various projects completed throughout the year (docks in, boat landing clean-up, sign repairs, loon platforms, etc.). This year, a large piece of drift wood was removed from the narrows.

F. July 4<sup>th</sup> Boat Parade & Fireworks | BPLA Picnic – Dan

The parade and BPLA fireworks show will be held on July 3, 2022. Dan shared that BPLA has extended its contract with the fireworks vendor. Registration for the boat parade will be at 4:30pm at Dan Frey's dock on the south lake and Lisa Drake's dock on the north lake. Parade will start at 5:00pm. The theme this year will be: Patriotic or Your Own Imagination. The annual picnic will be held on July 16, 2022 at the picnic area in the narrows.

G. Water Quality Report — Dwight

In 2021, Minnesota approved a 10-year Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy, which seeks to improve and protect 80 watersheds throughout the state. Big Pine and Pine Lakes are part of the Kettle and Upper Saint Croix River watersheds — which are included in this WRAPS report. This vision will help guide future discussions for long term planning for our lakes and how BPLA can support those plans. More information is available through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

John also talked about the continued risk of Aquatic Invasive Species. While Big Pine and Pine Lakes are fortunate to be free of Zebra Mussels, Asian Milfoil, etc., it only takes one dirty boat or contaminated live well to cause a massive spread. Please take time to clean boats, drain live wells and other water tanks before transporting boats to different lakes. Be especially aware when hosting guests who bring boats to the lake. Keep in mind the same risk exists when purchasing used docks from someone on a different lake. Follow DNR recommended procedures for letting boats / docks dry before putting them back in the water.

H. Buffer Zone projects –Maria

In 2021, \$19,841 was spent on buffer zone projects. This included \$11,195 in state funded grants and \$8,646 of in-kind labor. Thank you to all the volunteers. If interested in volunteering or to get on the list for a project, please contact Maria.

9. **Presentation on shoreline erosion and the success of buffer zones throughout the state of MN – Shelley Larson, Laura Mendoza (Pine County)**

Special thanks for the excellent presentation.

10. **Old Business – John**

None.

11. **New Business – John**

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

- A. Happy Birthday to Don Makala.
- B. Please be mindful when using personal fireworks.
- C. There have been several sightings of a bear in the area. Watch bird feeders, etc.
- D. The All-Finlayson Garage sale would be held on June 4, 2022.

12. **Adjournment – John**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21am.